

sion of demoniac malice, as though he would have run him through with pleasure ; but he did not speak a word in reply to all that was said to him.

Friday, 13th December, the morning being chilly, the blacks, who are very susceptible to cold, did not make their appearance till some hours after sunrise. At half-past eight our travellers set out in company with a troop of natives, headed by the two whom they had hired. The first of these was named *Jemmy*, the best-natured and most intelligent of all ; the other was Big-headed Blackboy, who had got over his sulks. *Jemmy* refused to start until he had received a couple of shillings, which he forthwith converted into a loaf of bread and a bottle of grog. When about a mile from the town he asked permission to take a drink ; and a cup of bark was produced from a thicket where it had been hidden, whereupon the contents of the bottle as well as the loaf were shared out among the troop. The two guides took no more than an equal portion ; for, according to the custom of the natives, all share alike. The cup was made of a piece of the bark of the tree, which resembles that of the birch, about a foot square. The ends were folded in and tied together, to form a cavity of trough-like shape. Such cups are called by them *taudé*. The path or cart-road they followed, passed through a hilly country covered with forests. The gum trees were the most prevalent, and many of them were of great size, growing close together without any underwood.

The gum tree, of which there are many kinds, is peculiar to New Holland. It has an inner bark of about an inch thick, enclosed by an outer one which is quite thin. The latter is shed every year, which gives their trunks and branches a peculiar appearance of many colours, from pure white, through all the shades of yellow, olive, and red, to a deep brown. These colours, showing through the green foliage, produce a very striking effect on a stranger, and the contrast is heightened by an occasional sight of a black and withered trunk, from which the bark had been stripped by the natives to make canoes, or by settlers to roof their houses.

Ten miles brought them to Lake Macquarie, but on the opposite side to Mr. Threlkeld's house, and they found themselves disappointed in finding a canoe, which they were assured would be met with at a settler's on the banks of the lake. They were thus obliged to walk ten miles further. The guides were here again taken with sullenness, and refused to proceed. They were proof against all promises and abuse, and kept replying, " Me marry (very) tired, bel (not) me want to go." Through the kindness of Mr. Warren, the settler referred to, this obstacle was overcome, by his offering to send his son as guide,