

quently occur, when there has been no sign of bad weather on the coast; but storms of rain occur seventy or eighty miles in the interior, which raise the streams thirty or forty feet, doing great damage.

On the way up the Hunter, a steamboat was seen building. The best ship-timber is said to be the flooded gum tree. The steamboat stopped at Green Hill, and they rode to Maitland, about three miles. Maitland is a widely-scattered village, with many neat dwellings, stores, and shops, &c., built of brick and other materials, and much better than could have been anticipated. Near Harper's Hill, a place noted for the fossils which have been found there, a chain-gang was seen at work on the road, with their attendant guard. They were generally young and hearty-looking men.

Some natives were passed who were quite naked, but they did not attempt to approach. There are no wild tribes in this vicinity. These poor creatures are becoming rapidly exterminated by the whites, who are not over-scrupulous as to the means. The natives have now and then committed a murder, but in general they are more sinned against than sinning. It is remarkable that they do not complain of their lands being taken from them, but confine their lamentations to the destruction of the kangaroos by the whites; and they think it very hard that they should be punished for killing the white man's kangaroo, (a sheep or a bullock.)

Mr. Hale made a journey to the Wellington Valley, about two hundred and thirty miles to the northwest of Sydney, and on the frontiers of the colony. It was first occupied, seventeen years ago, as a military post, when several small brick buildings were erected, and some of the land, which is considered the most fertile in the colony, brought into cultivation. It was afterwards converted into a penal station, for a description of convicts called "Specials," or such as were superior in education and social rank.

In 1832, it was granted by government to the Church Missionary Society, in trust for the aborigines, with an annuity of five hundred pounds, in part as the support of a mission establishment on the grant; and ever since, there have been two ministers of the Society resident at the place, employed in endeavouring to convert and civilize the natives.

The only conveyance is the mails, unless a vehicle is purchased, the outlay for which would be about four hundred dollars. The mail was taken in preference to this mode, both as avoiding cost and as less liable to the dangers of journeying alone. On account of the numerous Bush-rangers and runaway convicts, travelling in New South Wales is not considered safe.