

of large trees, showing conclusively that these places must have been dry at some former period, and that they had continued so for a long time, giving rise to the opinion that the country must be subject to long periodical alterations of climate.

On the morning of the 16th, Mr. Hale started in the mail-cart for Wellington. For the first twenty miles the road was a mere cart-track, through a piece of hilly country called "the Rocks," which is a repetition of the Blue Mountains on a smaller scale. Beyond, there is a succession of valleys, bounded by ranges of low hills, and covered with open woods, like a continuous orchard. This kind of country continues to Wellington Valley, and for the distance of a hundred miles beyond, when it gradually subsides into a level plain, in which many exploring parties have continued their progress for weeks, without meeting any elevation deserving the name of mountain. These plains stretch away towards the interior of the continent, but of their extent in that direction nothing certain is yet known.

Twenty miles from Bathurst brought them to an inn kept by a man named Luck, which had been, about six weeks before, the scene of a tragical incident. During the absence of the landlord, a party of Bush-rangers entered the house at night, and began to plunder. Although they had taken the precaution to disguise themselves with masks of black crape, the landlady recognised one of them, and was so imprudent as to threaten him with the consequences of his crime, whereupon the robber without hesitation drew his pistol, and shot her dead on the spot. What will add to the illustration of the state of society here, is the fact that the murdered woman, though living with Luck as his wife, was not married to him. The laxity of morals which prevails throughout the interior among the lower orders, can hardly be exaggerated.

The next public house to Luck's was a low tavern, in which it was not unusual for stockmen, sheep-shearers, wagon-drivers, &c., to meet and spend a week in drunkenness and debauchery, dissipating, not unfrequently, the earnings of a year, amounting to twenty or thirty pounds. Another inn was kept by the brother of the proprietor, he having committed some crime for which he had been transported to Norfolk Island. The last of the public houses was kept by a native of the colony, and was the best met with. This was another instance of the good character and general deportment, and temperate habits of this class, who in spite of their unhappy parentage, evil example, and inauspicious connexions, offer a remarkable example of the improvement which education, when aided by a change of condition, may effect in a single generation.