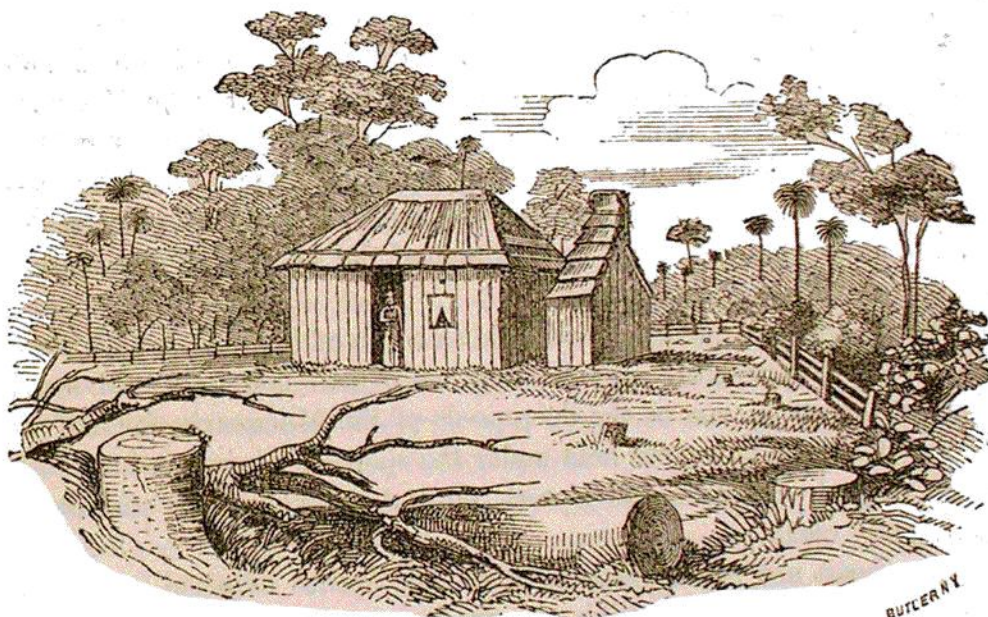


The stopping-places for the next two days were the huts of stockmen, and dwellings of settlers, all of which resembled each other in their construction. The sides were made of slabs of wood placed upright in the earth, and were sometimes fastened to a frame; the roof was composed of strips of the bark of the gum tree. In the better sort of houses there were chimneys of brick, and glazed windows; but these were comparatively few; and in the others an elevated hearth of clay, in a recess of the hut, supplied the former, the smoke escaping through the roof. A cupboard, a camp bedstead, a rude table, with a few stools, supplied the want of furniture. In houses of this description, were living gentlemen of education and refined habits, who were submitting to a few years of hardship and banishment from social life, in hopes of realizing rapid fortunes,



SETTLER'S COTTAGE, N. S. WALES.

On the 18th, Wellington Valley was reached. It is a beautiful plain, about four miles square, bounded by low hills, and watered in seasons of freshet by the Bell river, which winds through it, and falls into the Macquarie about two miles below the station. During the season of Mr. Hale's visit the channel was dry.

The buildings at Wellington consist of a dozen small brick houses, erected formerly as barracks for soldiers, and having undergone some slight alteration and repair, they are now inhabited by the missiona-