

cumstance is usually ascribed to the many dry pools it has to fill on its route, each of which must be overflowing before there can be any farther current; but this is hardly sufficient to account for the almost sudden disappearance of a body of water sixty feet wide and two feet deep, flowing at the rate of three or four miles per hour. It would seem more probable that water may make its way into some of the vast caverns that are known to exist in this limestone region.

The population beyond the Blue Mountains amounts to ten thousand, and it is supposed that there is little room for its farther increase, as all the stations capable of supporting flocks are now occupied, and as there is little or no chance for the extension of husbandry. Wellington Valley, although it was considered when first discovered, as fitted to be the granary of the district, has disappointed all such expectations; and out of seven harvests which have occurred since the missionaries commenced operations in it, six have wholly or partially failed.

According to Mr. Hale, the number of languages in Australia has been greatly exaggerated, and so far from every tribe having, as has been asserted, a separate language, it appears that within the colony, or from Port Macquarie on the north to Port Philip on the south, and extending one hundred miles beyond Wellington to the west, comprising one-tenth of the whole continent, only six, or at most, eight dialects are spoken, and that these are so similar in words and grammatical construction as to place their identity of origin beyond a doubt. From some vocabularies of the language spoken at Swan river, it appears that this similarity of words extends over the entire breadth of the continent. On the other hand, at Port Essington and Melville Island, on the northern coast, though the distance is not so great, the dialect is represented as quite different, notwithstanding the physical characteristics, habits, and customs, are said to be similar to those of the other aborigines. It is not believed, however, that the difference is as great as has been represented, and farther researches, it is thought, will prove the accounts of it to have been exaggerated. The language differs radically from that of the Malay tribes, being highly artificial in its construction, abounding in consonanted sounds, and remarkable for the number and variety of its grammatical inflexions. The verbal modifications are as numerous and comprehensive as in the American languages, but the manner of inflecting is different: the root or radical verb (which is usually a monosyllable) is placed first, and to this the various inflexions or modifying syllables are attached, until they protract the word to an extraordinary length. Thus, in the word *Būmarœ*, I strike, (*Bū* or *Būm* being the root.) Then comes *bumal-guaim*, I have struck; *bumal-gurani*, I struck yesterday; *bumal*