

mulberries, grapes, pine-apples, oranges, &c., growing in the open air. The grounds are in beautiful order, and their reputation deservedly great in the colony.

Liverpool is a small town in this neighbourhood, fifteen miles from Paramatta, to the westward. The government has here a large hospital under the direction of Dr. Hill, to whose kindness and attention Mr. Peale was much indebted. This institution is open to the disabled and sick of all nations; is a large building, and admirably kept.

We are sorry that as much cannot be said for the "Wheelwright Arms," at Liverpool, and other hotels in Campbelltown: a larger supply of spiders, flies, and bed-bugs is seldom seen, than that with which the bed-rooms swarm.

In the neighbourhood of Liverpool, a dam is in progress at the head of the tide-water of Cook's river, which empties into Botany Bay. This is a noble work, and is intended for the purpose of giving Sydney a supply of water, of which it is much in want. The work is performed entirely at the expense of government, and the water is led for a long distance by tunnel.

While at Clifton, Mr. Peale made an excursion along the meandering course of the Nepean river. He was much surprised at the productions of the soil, although these were apparently every where deficient of moisture; and also at the singular notes of the birds, particularly the quaint and varied jargon of the *Dacelo gigantea*, called in the country, the "Laughing Jackass." This is an instance of the ridiculous misapplication of names in this country; for, besides belonging to a different class of the animal kingdom, its notes have little or no resemblance to the braying of an ass, and it feeds upon a very different kind of food, viz.: lizards and serpents. The bird is common in this part of the country, but peculiar to New South Wales.

There are many native magpies, which have somewhat the appearance of a crow. This bird frequents the neighbourhood of houses, and its loud and crow-like note is the matin-call of the country residents. In spite of its hoarse croak, it was spoken of by some as a fine singing bird.

The wallaby, the smallest species of kangaroo, is common here, as well as numerous opossums. On reaching the Wallondilly river, the party stopped to hunt the *Ornithorhynchus*, which once abounded there, and succeeded in obtaining specimens, although with much difficulty. Proceeding on, they reached Strathara, the seat of Achlan M'Alister, Esquire, to whose kind attentions the whole squadron are much indebted.