

and coves, Major Mitchell remarks, that they generally have a direction either from north-northeast to south-southwest, or from west-northwest to east-southeast. Our geologist observed a coincidence of the fissures of the sandstone rock with the same points of the compass. This double and intersecting direction of the fissures, gives to portions of the rock which are bare, the appearance of an artificial pavement of enormous blocks. This appearance is well marked, and can be readily observed in the variegated layers of the sandstone cliffs near the Heads of Port Jackson.

Earthquakes are occasionally felt in New South Wales. The recorded accounts of these are necessarily imperfect; they, however, show that within the last fifty years, six are known to have occurred, viz., on the 22d of January, 1785, the 17th January, 1801, the 7th May, 1804, the 24th September, 1806, the 28th November, 1823, and the 2d August, 1837. That of 28th November, 1823, was also felt at Laurie's Town, Van Diemen's Land.

As far as could be learnt, these earthquakes did no material damage. It may, however, be inferred from the nature of the country, that violent commotions have taken place in former times. Major Mitchell has stated, and the fact was confirmed by the personal examination of our geologist, Mr. Dana, that an alteration in the relative level of the sea is abundantly evident on the cliffs of the coast.

The Burning Mountain of Wingen is something analogous to a crater, which it was not in the power of any of our parties to reach. According to Major Mitchell, it appears to be the same kind of phenomenon as that described by Professor Buckland and Mr. De la Beche, caused by the action of rain-water on iron pyrites, which sets fire to the bituminous shale. The combustion of Wingen extends over an area of about two miles in extent, and occurs near the summit of a group of hills, forming part of a low chain which divides the valley of Kingdom Ponds from that of Page's river. Blue smoke ascends from rents and cracks; the breadth of the widest of which measures about three feet. A red heat appears at the depth of about four fathoms, and no marks of any extensive change appear on the surface near these burning fissures, although the growth of large trees in old cracks on the opposite slope where ignition had ceased, shows that this fire had continued for a very considerable time. The height of this crater is about fifteen hundred feet above the level of the sea.

The trade of Australia is greatly on the increase. Nearly all of it centres in Sydney; and this will account for the rapid rise of that city, which not only has the finest port, but the most central position as respects the east coast. By a reference to the official documents in