

has lately increased in an extraordinary degree; in 1836, its population was only two hundred, and in 1839, eight thousand two hundred and fifty, principally owing to the encouragement held out by the funds derived from the sale of lands. Adelaide and Port Lincoln are the two principal points, and the latter, according to the accounts of those interested, "has every advantage under the sun!"

The journey over land from Yass to Adelaide, it is said, can be performed with cattle and sheep in sixty days. The schemers here are as eager and enthusiastic for improvements as with us, and among them much stress is laid upon the difficulties of inland transportation, to overcome which, as the country is too thinly settled for railroads, the introduction of camels from Africa has been proposed; and it is believed that the country is well adapted to them.

The population of New South Wales, by the census of 1841, including 26,967 convicts, was 130,856. A very minute table of the census of the above year will be found in Appendix XIII.

I was not able to obtain any accurate statistical returns of the three other colonies; both North and South Australia are rapidly increasing, particularly the latter: fifteen thousand is believed to be the total amount of their population and that of West Australia.

To return again to the squadron and our occupations. By the 18th December, I had finished my observatory duties, and feeling deeply sensible of the great kindness and attention we had received from not only the Governor, military, and civil officers, but from all the society, I gave a lunch at Fort Macquarie previous to delivering it up, and had the honour of entertaining those who had received us so warmly. Although the weather was unpropitious, many of our friends presented themselves; the affair passed off in great good-fellowship, and we had the satisfaction of seeing our guests retire apparently gratified. Owing to the weather, the number of ladies was not so great as we had hoped, but there were enough to add dancing to the other amusements of the occasion. Many patriotic toasts were exchanged, and an effect seldom witnessed produced on the company by the picture drawn by the Polish Count Strezleski, (well known in our country,) of the reception his destitute countrymen had met with on our shores, and the liberality of our government in providing for them. Those who heard his statement will not soon forget the thrill it produced.

During our stay at Port Jackson, our vessels were much visited by all classes; and a great many inquiries made respecting our accommodations, &c. All seemed disappointed at not being able to see the same complete outfits in our vessels as they had seen described in the published accounts of those of the English expedition commanded by