

SYDNEY-MAURITIUS NOTEBOOK
CARRIED BY DARWIN DURING HIS VISIT TO AUSTRALIA
BETWEEN JANUARY AND MARCH 1836

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RECORD: 'Sydney Mauritius' (1-4.1836). *Beagle* field notebook. EH1.3 [English Heritage 88202323]

REVISION HISTORY: Transcribed by Gordon Chancellor, transcription typed and checked against the microfilm by Kees Rookmaaker, corrections by Chancellor 4.2007. Edited by John van Wyhe. Corrected against the manuscript by Chancellor 15.11.2007. RN3

The *Beagle* field notebook transcriptions are a work-in-progress as editing and annotations continue towards their final publication by Cambridge University Press.

NOTE: This 9 x 7.5 cm notebook is bound in black leather with the border blind embossed: the hinge of the brass clasp is missing. The pages are not yellow edged. The front of the notebook has a 6 x 3 cm label of cream-coloured paper with 'Sydney Mauritius' written in ink and 'LTV 15' written in pencil.

There are 100 pages in the notebook, the text is written in two sequences. One covering 92 pages from the front cover, the other 8 pages from the back cover. The notebook covers dates from 12 January 1836 to 30 April 1836.

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[front cover]

Sydney
Mauritius

LT/V/
15

[inside front cover]

[Barlow number] 1.3.

[English Heritage number] 88202323
Bathurst 2232

Waimate
Dr Jennesett
Pitt St
Quamby

[encircled] 14

[page 1a]

16th = [January 1836] *Saturday*

Left Sydney — soon entered country — excellent roads, *turnpike*: Pothouses
too much woodland — some fine trees, all peculiar — rails instead of Hedges: many Carts
Gigs — Phaetons & Horses

[from] garrison soldiers

[page 2a]

Lunched. nice little Public House. — pleasant distinction of Ranks — Napoleon & Dan —
[O'Connel]

Rode on to ~~Emu~~ Emu ferry on the Nepean: a broad river still as a pool, small body of running
water. —

Poor pasture land; but

[page 3a]

here & there *Farm Houses*: on the Nepean pretty scene, escarpment of Blue mountains,
contemptible edge of great plain.

cultivated land:

Party of black men, beautiful precision. in throwing darts: speak English — Merry

[page 4a]

fellows: distance about 100 y^{ds} Caps at about 30 — curious throwing stick: painted white like Fuegians going to fight some other people: not nearly so degraded a set, as I expected. all clothed: Prisoners constable & soldiers

Sandstone: frequently ~~many~~ laminated Shale beds at top of Clays with

[page 5a]

much Clay Iron Stone

slight irregularities in the stratification?

Sandstone generally moderately hard; thinly stratified, on coast dip inwards — near the Nepean first meet pebbles of [*illegible*] Granitic Trappean rock & [*siliceous*] sandstones

[page 6a]

Appears to descend to valley by steps: plain at base composed of fine alluvial [*strongly*] sandy soil stratified, lying on a coarse conglomerate of above pebbles; great escarpement of Blue Mountains

Black men. see marks of Oppossum's feet. —
chief food: no home: —

[page 7a]

Sunday 17th — [January 1836]

Started 6 o'clock — ferry. ascent of Blue Mountains. great fine woods. — Then plain, uneven, many valleys; gradually rises
great deception, when the elevation is considered of nearly 3000 ft
[Barren] woods: poles pale & peculiar green

[page 8a]

Singularly uniform tint, in bushes the vertical leaves

singular effect: pretty birds, magnificent parrots: baited at the Weatherboard; walked mile & 1/2 to see Cascade: most magnificent. astounding & unique view, small valley
not lead to expect such scene: rill of water,

[page 9a]

[*ranubor*] fluttering: semicircular; cliff white or reddish, so vertical that pitch a stone over perhaps 800 ft, quartz wall, about 2000 ft, grand valley, sea of forest; necessary to go 16 miles to reach base of fall

[page 10a]

certainly most stupendous cliffs I have ever seen,
some stand in middle like Island. Stratum 3000 ft thick cracked, cracks enlarged —
Rode on to Gardners
occasionally glimpse of part of same valley

[page 11a]

called Clwyd from the wooded plain, could not see the bottom;
Reached Black Heath, comfortable as Welsh Inn,
old soldier — 15 beds, in a barren mountain ~~70~~ 60 miles from Sydney.
Waggon with Wool.
Bullocks —

[page 12a]

Edge of Blue Mountains

Strata ~~appears~~ to dip to plain; I believe owing to deposition from thickness of strata

[small sketch]

thin structure excessively common, all the planes well developed, dip to various points:

[page 13a]

On a grand scale as seen from Cascade

Horizontal strata & sandstone

grains of quartz & much ferruginous matter, plates, hollow balls, & Claystone

Iron — line of small Quartz pebbles; rare at edge of Blue Mountains, common

[page 14a]

at Cascade & even Inch long [as before]

Blackheath: At edge of B. Mountains in Sandstone, patch of Shale

[small sketch]

like Mica Slate in Gneiss at Rio —

Grand Sandstone planes slopes to East,

[page 15a]

valleys, most extraordinary

[sketch]

heads like arm of sea, appears quite out of proportion to little streams in great fissures cleared by the sea —

It is an immense Sandstone formation: —

[page 16a]

Monday 18th — [January 1836]

Early in morning went to East side about 2 & 1/2 miles to Govetts Leap — the same absolute \perp° precipices in form of cones not affected by streams; horizontal strata; grand valley full of blue mist from rising sun:

Descended Mt Victory: an *extraordinary undertaking*. —

Old soldier who had travelled

account of the women of Blackheath

[page 17a]

Mr Brown men, very sensitive Scotchman, bad account of men, not reformation, or punishment, not happy but do not quarrel, excepting when drunk, — quite impossible to reform. — In Vale of Clwyd — Granite 2500 ft
country improves, trees parklike scattered, then covering of pasture, green

[page 18a]

Sheep-down: whole country one aspect: white Cooatoos & Crows: wild dogs tamed copulate *freely*: M^r Brownes farm, fine wheat fields harvest time just concluded 7000 sheep shearing — harvest, possess 15000 — 80 convicts, no women — miserable although from scene ought to be happy. —

[page 19a]

Sydney — poor country; to be improved but limited: no canals or rivers — not comparable to N. America:

M. Victoria Sandstone, with thin lines of quartz pebbles; some even inch long — ferruginous plates Quartz (Feldspar? & Mica decomposed?)
Some shaly red marl, *white* soft aluminous

[page 20a]

fine grained sandstone: In whole great plain no pebbles of Granite, hence no debacles, any small ones would be decomposed:

Vale of Clwyd Granite

porph. with large Cysts: of Feldspar. concentric structure (scenery hills surmounted by balls)
3 or 4 large dykes

[page 21a]

of decomposing greenstone spec (1) = Veins of Quartzose Granite = & paps of reddish Granite. with large Crystals of Hornblende; — This is superimposed by the Sandstone cliffs, as is one of the great valleys —
Perhaps at Weatherboard Sandstone 2000 ft thick

[page 22a]

towards M^r Brownes. [Siliceous] & Erratic rock containing grains of Quartz & scales of Mica, at distance cliffs of Sandstone & in neighbourhood Sandstone conglomerate with the pebbles of Siliceous rocks & Eurites — Granite of Vale of Clwyd about

[page 23a]

2500 ft above sea. —

Valleys most extraordinary expand with great depression surrounded by absolutely \perp° cliffs — The Chart will give correct idea of peninsula & Islands of the grand plain: in Crust or points of plains

[sketch]

notches at head

[page 24a]

of opposite valleys: not present causes: forms that of marine bays.

Sea could not excavate?

Sand banks, mem current cleavage & stratification edge of Blue Mountains? Cracks too

large?
Elevation

[page 25a]

acted upon by sea?

Tuesday 19th [January 1836]

Staid at M^f Browne's: Kangeroo hunting on the barren slopes country can be galloped over in all parts — thin turf — peculiar character
shadeless: — did not see one — open forest park. My usual ill luck: killed Kangeroo

[page 26a]

Rat. — In the evening walked up Cox's river. chain of pools, so dry a country. — Saw several Ornithorynch: like water rats, in movements & habits: — Shot one. —
Wild dog trap. — Already pushing sheep [nearly] into remote interior:

[page 27a]

decidedly a sterile country: Forgery or gambling — /always/ attempt a sporting character.

- (1) Greenstone. Vale of Clwyd
- (2) & 3 White Sandstone white cement
- (4) Bluish (Calc?) clay slate
- (5) Black Carbonaceous do.
- (6) Coal
- (7) Coal other locality
- (8) Blue Calc. Clay S. [vegetable]

[page 28a]

Close to house, coarse Granite — Mica imperfect.
the sandstone conglomerate reposes on this —
At Wolgan: grand valley surrounded by cliffs of Sandstone: with ~~much~~ a good deal of shale & Clay Slate: Section of one part gave a whitish or ferruginous Sandstone

[page 29a]

soft [brittle] grain of quartz cemented by white aluminous matter (2 3) covering a Bluish (Calc?) Clay Slate. (4) this alternates with black (5) carbonaceous slate, coal (6) & sandstone & [muddy] shale. [Many lines]
One layer of coal nearly a foot thick. —
In other parts of country

[page 30a]

there was the Blue Slate with impressions of leaves (8) & in another good stratum of coals as before (7): —
Also Conglomerates sandst. & the ordinary sandstones. —
Strata all nearly = tal:
Valley of Wolgan: Large

[page 31a]

ordinary form like a bay with arms: so precipitous, then with great [labor] in one spot a cattle track has been [cut] down, generally vertical walls, many hundred feet high: sides perpendicular reaching to general

[page 32a]

level of country, about 7 miles long, & 1/2 one miles broad — appears to have all been removed & form modelled by water: yet exit of the valley, is by a narrow crack a few hundred yards wide, with stupendous vertical sides. no cattle

[page 33a]

can pass [out] & twice the Surveyors have attempted to pass down the head of the small river but have failed
Caperter is said to have same structure, but hollow [on] valley far more extensive
In Wolgan Cattle can

[page 34a]

never be lost: It is impossible water could have removed the whole mass of rock, & [nearly] hollow a crevice at its exit — Spaces of the crust have not been elevated: being detached by fissures from surrounding country: sea occupying

[page 35a]

them hollows would [model] & give vertical sides:
(Interesting to reflect on forms of lower hypogene rocks) ~~rivers~~ after sea, the lake saw the exit:
[holes] then rivers
— Shale far more abundant than near the coast.
Granite centre supports

[page 36a]

[Pages here tied by string.]

luxuriant vegetation & [hard] sandy soil: [countless] time to form so much coal & sandstone
—

Wednesday 20th [January 1836]

To Bathurst
Squatters Huts. = Crawlers =
The flat-bottomed valley: path through bushes: found high road — hot wind clouds of dust.
— Down of Bathurst: undulating

[page 37a]

[encircled] 110

2560-3000 ft. Willow trees brown. — Scattered hovels in groups & here & there a good house, whole plain divided by rails into fields. thin crops of grain & still thinner pastures river chain of pools

R. Macquarie just flowing

Was told not to form too high an opinion of Australia

[page 38a]

from this & not too low from Road — my opinion stamped — Dividing ridge — nothing: waters into vast interior

several gentlemen's houses about 5 miles apart from one from other — chapel Soldiers &c &c

[page 39a]

(9) Limestone

(10) Primitive Greenstone

(11) Glossy Clay Slate

(12) Hornblendic Greenstone

Dividing range low, 20 ft covered with Sandstone:

In close neighbourhood & [doubtless] foundation rock is a reddish compact Quartz rock, or siliceous

[page 40a]

Sandstone & a white Cryst. Limestone (9) which I am assured is the same as at Mudgee & Wellington (doubtless bones to be found)

On West slope — coarse granitic Porph with Quartz & Feldspar, & very little mica. further on compact Clay Slates & much Trappean rocks, siliceous rocks, which have the character of those

[page 41a]

called Primitive granites. — (9)

Beyond the Green Man there is a considerable formation of a glossy Clay Slate, cleavage nearly vertical (East dip) running N & S (Mem. Capt King Mica Slate) Slate has [variety] in its beds in direction

[page 42a]

of laminae (11) is one of the more glossy kind

In many parts of road, when cleavage was not developed, could not tell this slate from that in the Sandstone Carboniferous series: — Very many large snow white Quartz veins hence pebbles of do. & form

[page 43a]

Mica slate.

Crossing the slate, came to Granite, where only Quartz & Feldspar are present. — Again beyond this a Hornblendic Greenstone (12) — There are on the borders of Bathurst downs which are elevated

[page 44a]

2 & 3000 ft. Consist of Granite & Primitive rocks smoothed over with shingle & Diluvial (as would be called) matter —

I imagine land to West which is higher from form is similarly constituted — Hence two grand

[page 45a]

formations are seen:

The Primitive one, although to appearance is low where crossed must be high because much more elevated than Bathurst

Flag Post which being 2560 this land is probably higher than the Sandstone plains

[page 46a]

which front the sea of the older formation —

(21st) — [January 1836]

Rode about Bathurst — saw nothing — pleasant mess party —

(22nd) [January 1836]

O'Connel Plains —

[small sketch]

gravel terrace.

same class of country to Cox's river. — Open woodland. almost all

[page 47a]

Granite & [those] Quartz & Feldspar — which passes into a reddish Porphyry & a white Euritic one, in several parts some darker coloured Trappean rocks — ~~Red~~ Much quartz rock — essentially at spot where we

[page 48a]

bathed at Midday.

2 years from England

pretty daughter at evening great fires: —

43 miles, hilly road —

general civility

23rd [January 1836]

to Weatherboard

last night horrid filth, in morning

[page 49a]

raging fire. — arrived soon walked to Cascade,

Sandstone almost composed of Quartz — pebbles —

extraordinary figures: the soft sandstone may almost be described as forming irregular balls in

the harder kinds
Granite of yesterday with angular dark fragments

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I do not perceive any difference in manners at the Inns from England

24th [January 1836]

Ill in Bed

25th [January 1836]

Quiet drizzly rain: all still dripping from caves, undulating woodland horizon if lost in thin mist —
cold — great contrast

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with former weather:
Perhaps good for me —
Jobs — comfort nice
[girl] rain for three weeks

26th [January 1836]

Capt King —
Edge of Blue Mountain
dip to sea; from irregular thinning. I think current deposition on

[page 52a]

banks, not elevation:
above plain to Paramatta which is inconsiderable —
Sandstone plain higher than granitic country NO = granite (much Quartz rock South of Bathurst — King)
Sandstone of Blue 4000 ft Blackheath Mountain [either] grains of quartz, fine cemented by

[page 53a]

ferruginous matter or white powder: included pieces of shale □²
[small sketch]
Diluvium 200-300 ft above Nepean R. —
(Gorge of Nepean river) latter only 9 miles from Tide: pebbly siliceous & many Trappean rocks, one

[page 54a]

curious kinds — Traps hence Siliceous Sandstones.
I think most current cleavage toward Sea Side of great Sandstone plain —

27th [January 1836]

Returned Mac Arthur

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Greater elevation of the coast has thrown drainage into the interior —
Escarpment of B. Mountain not formed by Nepean

[page 56a]

[sketch]
Line Hammer

[page 57a]

Huafo Is^d. named by D'Entrecasteaux

[Rita] de la Beche with cliffs of raised coral
Dillons account of Perouse — Mannicolo perfect encircling reef
SE of [Radack]

[page 58a]

Many reefs

[crossed out sketch]
30-40 60 10

~~P. Journal~~

Craters. Corals on Panama coast = Rodriguez =
Much quartz rock — [Graywacke] & Slate Staten Land

[page 59a]

Sandstone & S. Shetland

Mr. Seales — Museum

Jasper & quartzose rocks
vertical strata of gypsum
Limestone from Sandy Bay

Prosperous Bay Gregories Valley [Voluta & crystallised] Limestones

[page 60a]

Buccinum vel Helix dextra near summit of Flagstaff Hill 1900 [the first 0 has a line through
it] ft. high — Bencoolen plain 1500 ft —
Bone of Diomedea exulans? 3-100 ft below surface Prosperous Bay in a [Quarry] 14 ft deep
egg

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Most of hill quartz veins!
Phonolites & porphyries
Layers of Salt with Sulph. of Lime in Turk's Cap Bay
Limestone principally from Sandy Bay — Oolitic Limestone Flagstaff Hill

[page 62a]

Limestone hills, from Lots wife to the sea
Account of Ascension
Salt & Gypsum incrustations
Limestone — Fernando Noronha — geology
/precious nonsense/

[page 63a]

not truly volcanic because no scoriae !!
(Yet we have seen amygdaloid)

The peak he calls a greenstone composed of Feldspar Quartz & Hornblende !!
is it so? trash!!! the quartz the great /compose/

[page 64a]

embedded siliceous schist !!!!!
/Binary/ granite in the /South/ Shetlands
There are vast blocks of granite in Kemp Bay
appears to be NW & SE traversing from

[page 65a]

the Lion's Head
appearing abundantly in Turk's Bay

[end of Australian section of notebook]

[New sequence from back cover]

[back cover]

[inside back cover]

[Printed label:]

VELVET PAPER

MEMORANDUM BOOK.

So prepared as effectually to secure the writing from erasure; — with a METALLIC PENCIL, the point of which is not liable to break.

The point of the pencil should be kept smoothly scraped flat and in writing it should be held in the manner of a common Pen.

12 of the little /Quires/ from the Captain

Blackheath 3411

No 1

Wolgan

Capita

[page 1b] [excised]

[page 2b] [excised]

[page 3b]

Paper — Chaffers

M^f Dring

[paragraph written upside down] Capt King

Bathurst

Mica Slate

[paragraph written upside down] Trappean Rocks

M^f Bloxland

Van Diemens Land

[page 4b]

[end of Australian section]

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