

Sheparding

We made poor progress for a mile or so when we came back and took our boat that night the port was in sight and we were glad enough for we were hungry ^{morning} we had a good supper and night rest then took our breakfast we took the pilot down to the schooner in his own boat we got the schooner in all safe discharged our cargo and took in sand ballast ready to sail for Melbourne the owner himself went with us to Melbourne we stopped at the ~~for~~ hents group to see if there was any passengers left there that was put on board from a schooner called the fiddler she had been wrecked there we found that all of the crew and passengers had been taken off so we began our way for Melbourne and arrived there all safe the captain left and all hands but my self I stayed by the schooner the new captain came aboard told me that the schooner was going to run regular between Melbourne and Port Albert I went with him a couple of trips but the old man would not let me stop I wanted to travel again so my self and a Dutch man went and got to full discharge made out to certify that we were old shepard I bought a sheep dog that knew more than I did about sheep we went and hired our selves out for six months to go sheparding 300 miles up the ~~the~~ country on the Murey river we

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started with our dogs and 2 teams of provisions for the place we were bound to the first day we traveled 20 miles we could not go fast for the roads were bad and bullocks slow horses at night we sleep under the dogs the

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The cattle we herded at night so that they would not stray of we all ways found them some days we would not go more than 5 miles the weather was too hot for the cattle one day the driver and me was speaking about a short cut to the station that we were going to be pointed to the Eastward telling me if he could go that way and make a straight course he could get there in a day but he says impossible to go that way for water and swamps he says a man could not walk it I began to think that I would try it I got one of the others to go with me the first 2 miles I got on pretty well till we came to a small lake it was too deep to wade and too long to walk around my friend could not swim so he concluded to go back to the road I gave him my shoes to take back then in to the water I went my dog followed me but after getting across the lake I got into a swamp with high reeds higher than my head and they were so thick that I had a job to get through them the water was too deep for my dog to walk and the reeds too close for him to swim so I had to carry him on my back the sand was getting low and I had to make all speed and steer my course by the sand I had no sooner got through the reeds than I came to a river and it was pretty wide but I had to swim it then in to another swamp then a creek and then a swamp again these swamps are full of snakes and they are dead leg passion but I did not know it at the time I have seen them bite a sheep