An Account of Some Geological Specimens from the Coasts of Australia

Fitton William Henry

Title: An Account of Some Geological Specimens from the Coasts of Australia

Author: Fitton William Henry

A. Tiverridge.

AN ACCOUNT

OF SOME

GEOLOGICAL SPECIMENS

FROM THE

COASTS OF AUSTRALIA.

By WILLIAM HENRY FITTON,
M.D., F.R.S., V.P.G.S., &c.

From the Appendix to the "Narrative of a Survey of the Inter-tropical and Western Coasts of Australia," &c., by Captain Phillip Parker King, R.N., vol. ii. p. 566, &c.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY W. CLOWES, NORTHUMBERLAND-COURT.

MDCCCXXVI.

CONTENTS.

An Account of some Geological Specimens, collected by Captain P. P. King, in his Survey of the Coasts of Australia, and by Robert Brown, Esq., on the Shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria, during the Voyage of Captain Flinders.

By WILLIAM HENRY FITTON, M.D., F.R.S., V.P.G.S.

[*Read before the Geological Society of London, 4th November,* 1825.]

The following enumeration of specimens from the coasts of Australia, commences, with the survey of Captain King, on the eastern shore, about the latitude of twenty-two degrees, proceeding northward and westward: and as the shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria, previously surveyed by Captain Flinders, were passed over by Captain King, Mr. Brown, who accompanied the former, has been so good as to allow the specimens collected by himself in that part of New Holland, to supply the chasm which would otherwise have existed in the series. Part of the west and north-western coast, examined by Captain King, having been previously visited by the French voyagers, under Captain Baudin, I was desirous of obtaining such information as could be derived from the specimens collected during that expedition, and now remaining at Paris; although I was aware that the premature death of the principal mineralogist, and other unfavourable circumstances, had probably diminished their value *:—But the collection from New Holland, at the

* M. Depuch, the mineralogist, died during the progress of the voyage, in 1803; and, unfortunately, none of his manuscripts

school of Mines, with a list of which I have been favoured through the kindness of Mr. Brochant de Villiers, relates principally to Van Diemen's Land; and that of the Jardin du Roi, which Mr. Constant Prevost has obliged me with an account of, does not afford the information I had hoped for. I have availed myself of the notices relating to Physical Geography and Geology, which are dispersed through the published accounts of Captain Flinders'*, and Baudin's Voyages †; and these, with the collections above alluded to, form, I believe, the only sources of information at present existing in Europe, respecting the geological structure and productions of the north and western coasts of Australia.

In order to avoid the interruption which would be occasioned by detail, I shall prefix to the list of specimens in Captain King's and Mr. Brown's collections, a general sketch of the coast from whence they come, deduced, principally, from the large charts ‡, and from the narratives of

were preserved. M. Péron, the zoologist, after publishing, in 1807, the first volume of the account of the expedition, died in 1810, before the appearance of the second volume.—Voyage, &c. I, p. 417, 418; and II, p. 163.

* 'A Voyage to Terra Australis, &c., in the years 1801, 1802, and 1803, by Matthew Flinders, Commander of the Investigator.' Two vols. quarto, with an atlas, folio; London, 1814.

† 'Voyage de Découverte aux Terres Australes,' &c.—Tome I., redigé par M. F. Péron, naturaliste de l'Expedition;—Paris, 1807. Tome II., redigé par M. Péron, et M. L. Freycinet; 1816.—A third volume of this work, under the title of "Navigation et Géographie," was published by Capt. Freycinet, in 1815. It contains a brief and clear account of the proceedings of the expedition; and affords some particulars connected with the physical geography of the places described, which are not to be found in the other volumes.

‡ These charts have been published by the Admiralty, for general sale.

Captains Flinders and King,—with a summary of the geological information derived from the specimens. But I have thought it necessary to subjoin a more detailed list of the specimens themselves; on account of the great distance from each other of many of the places where they were found, and of the general interest attached to the productions of a country so very remote, of which the greater part is not likely to be often visited by geologists. The situation of such of the places mentioned, as are not to be found in the reduced chart prefixed to the present publication, will be sufficiently indicated by the names of the adjacent places.

GENERAL SKETCH OF THE COAST.

The north-eastern coast of New South Wales, from the latitude of about 28°, has a direction from south-east to north-west; and ranges of mountains are visible from the sea, with little interruption, as far north as Cape Weymouth, between the latitude of 12° and 13°. From within Cape Palmerston, west of the Northumberland Islands, near the point where Captain King began his surveys, a high and rocky range, of very irregular outline, and apparently composed of primitive rocks, is continued for more than one hundred and fifty miles, without any break; and after a remarkable opening, about the latitude of 21°, is again resumed. Several of the summits, visible from the sea, in the front of this range, are of considerable elevation:—Mount Dryander, on the promontory which terminates in Cape Gloucester, being more than four thousand five hundred feet high. Mount Eliot, with a peaked summit, a little to the south of Cape Cleveland, is visible at twenty-five leagues' distance; and Mount Hinchinbrook, immediately upon the shore, south of Rockingham Bay, is more than two thousand feet high. From the south