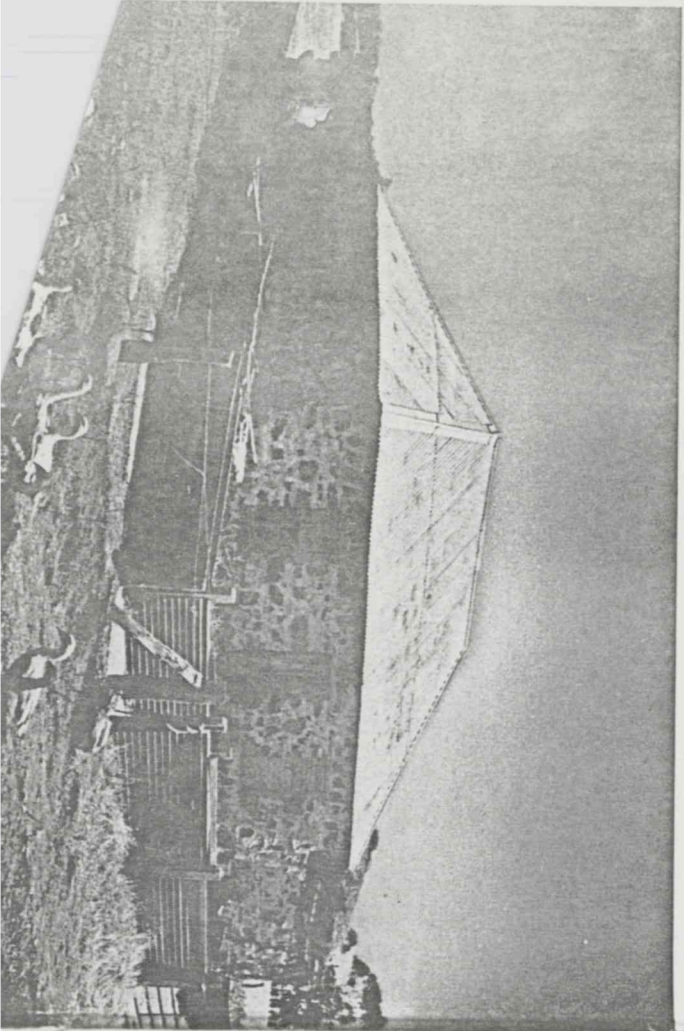


'Moorooroo', house of William Jacob, near Rockland Flat



Miner's Cottage, Wheel Barton, near Truro

CHAPTER XXII

KOORINGA - 1850/51

16 February—The township of Koorlinga,¹ in which the great Burra Burra Mine is situated, is in the county of Stanley, and forms portion of a special survey² of 20,000 acres taken by two companies of proprietors, of whom the South Australian Mining Association³ became the fortunate possessors by lot of the northern half; the southern half falling to the lot of the Princess Royal Company.⁴

This township, scarcely more than four years old (the mining company being only established in 1845), is already thickly populated with persons, almost all dependent on the neighbouring mine and Smelting Works.⁵ It is laid out in a valley through which runs the Burra Creek,⁶ and is separated by the hills from the mine, which lies in another valley, a short distance beyond. Two other villages, or rather collection of dwellings, called Aberdeen and Redruth,⁷ also extend along the creek in question.

¹ Original Number XXI. Koorlinga is now known as Burra.

² 16 October 1845.

³ 10,000 acres in the name of W. Allen and S. Stocks, representing the *South Australian Mining Association*, which was established in March 1845 to enable the colonists to preserve the minerals from speculators overseas. Capital, £2320. Directors: William Allen, Frederick John Beck, Montague Featherstonehaugh, George Strickland Kingston, William Peacock, William Paxton, Christopher Septimus Penny, William Sanders, Thomas Waterhouse. Secretary, Henry Ayers. Chief Mining Captain, Henry Roach.

⁴ *Princess Royal*, 10,000 acres in the names of Charles Harvey Bagot and George Frederick Aston. Established 16 October 1845, on the Southern Moitety of the Burra Creek Special Survey. Capital, £20,000 in 400 shares of £50. Trustees: Captain C. H. Bagot, John Granger, George Tinline. Directors, Capt. C. H. Bagot, C. M. Bagot, W. H. Clark, R. B. Colley, J. Granger, R. Struckey, G. K. Thornhill.

⁵ Patent Copper Company. Formed in England, 1848. Manager, G. S. Walters, Adelaide: Superintendent, T. H. Williams, Burra. See: *Register*, 16 December 1848; *Paradise of Dissem*, D. H. Pike, pp. 337-8.

⁶ Burra Creek rises north of Redruth, flowing south-east to the Murray River, near the North-West Bend.

⁷ Aberdeen and Redruth, east and west of the Burra Creek, now Burra North.

This creek with its habitations *in*, not *on*, the banks on both sides, forms one of the most singular spectacles ever beheld. The miners, in the true spirit of burrowing, to which their habits incline them, have excavated dwellings like rabbit-holes, in lines, as thickly under the banks of the creek as they could be placed; a foot or two only intervening between the several habitations, sometimes merely a mud bank as a division wall. Some have one room, others more; all have one or more chimneys, formed on the bank top, and in most cases of barrels cemented in mud; some are of mud only, a few of wood formed square, and a very few of brick. All these chimneys rise up at intervals like tree stumps in a roadway, and the public path runs along the banks and over the house tops. Sometimes these chimneys protrude before you only just in time to be avoided as you step aside, while their reeking smoke rises into your very nostrils. These rabbit-burrows are also variously constructed; some have mere holes for doors or windows; some have substantial doors and glazed sashes; a few have shingled verandahs, and many are whitewashed outside; while some, in addition, are papered and carpeted within. A person named Magers, in particular, has a carpeted room in his subterraneous dwelling. The sight of the busy industry of the inhabitants of the creek, on each side of the saffron-coloured stream from the mine constantly pouring down, is very curious; washing and hanging out clothes, scouring pots, and other domestic occupations being visible at every frontage.

The population of Koorunga, Aberdeen, and Redruth is about 4300 persons, of whom, it appears, 2600 inhabit the creek—an immense majority. The total population of the locality has been over-rated till the late census returns. The closely-packed portion of the inhabitants occupying the creek is, according to medical authority of experience, unhealthy, as infantile diseases are greatly prevalent; but this system of locating seems too rooted to be easily eradicated; and it would be a revolution, instead, which should enable this mass of mortality to shift its abode; a dislodgment, however, may sooner or later take place under very alarming circumstances. The rise of a heavy flood in the creek, from the winter rains, would submerge this whole subterranean city, wash out all the families, and render the dwellings a waste of

mud, dirt, and copper washings, available only, after a long period, to a renewal of the mania for burrowing in the very same spot. On the actual occasion of such a catastrophe seventy or eighty families were washed out; the goods and money swallowed up to some amount which can never be reclaimed. One person is reported to have lost £300 in specie; but this may be a fable. It was, however, told to us confidently that some of these creek bank burrowers could produce £2000, realized by early workings at the mine. To sum up—there are not fewer than 600 tenements teeming with life, subject to an awful casualty. Fancy the rise of the creek and its consequent effects. Why, it equals the madness of living under Mount Vesuvius, in full reach of the lava, cinders, and ashes. Fire or water—each a miserable master. At all events, it cannot be considered that these creeks have invested their substance in a Savings Bank.⁸

The town itself contains one main and several transverse streets, and abounds with good shops and stores. A great number of small rows of houses had painted numbers on the doors; we observed these higher than one hundred; we were told that they belonged to the Company. The total number of houses is about 430, exclusive of those in the creek. There is a church of the episcopal establishment; the Rev. J. Pollitt⁹ is the incumbent, whose parsonage is about a mile beyond the smelting works.¹⁰ There are also chapels of the Wesleyans, Independents, and Roman Catholics, and schools belonging to each; one of the Sunday Schools was attended by more than one hundred and fifty children. The episcopal church¹¹ can accommodate at least 250 persons.

The trade of this place is conducted with a private circulating bank.¹² May 1851, the Burra Creek flooded, and £2000 of property was destroyed. A large amount of goods were lost by the creek dwellers, who generally hid their money in little holes, in their caverns.¹³ See: *Register*, 'Late Overflow at the Burra', 15 May, 18 May 1851; *The Savings Bank of South Australia*, L. J. Ewens.

⁸ Rev. James Pollitt (1813-81), curate of Koorunga and chaplain to the Smelting Works of Messrs. Schneider & Co. See: *Representative Men of South Australia*, G. E. Loyal, pp. 196-7.

¹⁰ Parsonage is on the far side of the Burra Creek, almost opposite to the present Church.

¹¹ The site of the church was donated by the Burra Copper Mining Company. Worship records commence in 1848.

medium of local promise notes. The Burra Company issues notes; the Copper Company does the same; those of £1 or higher distinguished by colour. The tradesmen, of course, follow the same system, and Boord Brothers¹² and Huchens, storekeepers, issue their respective notes. All are payable in cash in Adelaide. Little other money is current, and silver is scarce; but as the storekeepers' notes (now before us) are as small as ten shillings and seven shillings and sixpence, the want of change is remedied. There is a total absence of every species of cultivation in this singular region. Fruit and vegetables are brought to this place from long distances. Mr Hawkin's¹³ garden at Bungere (20 miles off), furnishes peaches, nectarines, and other fruit. What we saw were not large, and the peaches were clingstones; they were, however, ripe and good; free-stone fruit would hardly bear the carriage. Bethany, as we have noticed in speaking of that village, sends large supplies of peaches, chiefly from Fiedler's market garden, and such other fruit as will stand a journey of more than seventy miles. There is a Local Court for this district, of which Mr Lang¹⁴ is the Stipendiary Magistrate, as well as Commissioner of Police; and one or two legal practitioners reside here, as well as four English medical men, Messrs Chambers,¹⁵ Bull,¹⁶ Hill¹⁷ and Lloyd,¹⁸ and two German practitioners. The town contains four inns, all the property of Mr Paxton,¹⁹ there is a fifth in Aberdeen,

¹² Septimus Boord, Burra.

¹³ Misprint—George Charles Hawker, JP (1818-95), pastoralist and politician. Pastoral run at Bungere, north of Burra. See: *Dictionary of Australian Biography*, P. Serle, pp. 411-2; *Pastoral Pioneers of South Australia*, R. Cockburn, vol. I, pp. 14-5; *Reminiscences of G. C. Hawker*.

¹⁴ W. Lang.

¹⁵ Dr Henry Chambers, JP, surgeon. Arrived 1846, Kingston; 1850—Burra; 1858—Secretary Geelong, Victoria, Medical Association.

¹⁶ Dr George Bull, MD, Registered South Australia 1 July 1845. 'Dr Geo. Bull, MA, MD, Graduate in Medicine of the University of Cambridge, ex-interne of the Hospital de la Charité, Paris, late one of the Hon. Physicians to the Liverpool Dispensaries, England, etc., etc., has commenced at Mt Barker the practice of his profession in all its branches.'—*Adv. South Australian*, 21 March 1845.

¹⁷ Dr William Farr Hill, surgeon. 1850—Koorunga; 1860-65, Encounter Bay. *Encounter Bay*, C. R. Hodge, p. 51.

¹⁸ Dr Charles Lloyd (—1857), surgeon, Burra.

¹⁹ William Paxton (c.1818-93), chemist, founder of the *South Australian Mining Association*. See: *Paradise of Dissent*, D. H. Pike, *Observer*, 9 September 1893, p. 30 (Obit.).

belonging to a different proprietor. The chief of these inns is the Burra Burra Hotel,²⁰ at the entrance to the town from Adelaide. Its appointments are first-rate, and all its arrangements upon the principles of an English inn or high class. This system of admirable hotel management is a novelty in this colony, and cannot as yet be, perhaps, and certainly is not, sufficiently appreciated. We are inclined to think that of the numbers who frequent this inn, few, perhaps, have for a long time past practically known the sterling comforts of so well conducted an establishment. The liberal table and the collateral luxuries, which in England for the essentials of elegant comfort, must of course be expected to be compensated; those who have reluctantly abandoned such comforts may find them here. A very spacious room has recently been attached to the hotel. It is more particularly built for a 'Freemason's Hall', but it is in use for public meetings. Its length is fifty feet, by thirty feet wide, and fifteen feet high, and it is, we believe, the largest room in the colony; in saying this, however, we do not recollect the dimensions of the Adelaide Exchange. We were conducted through the spacious cellars, abounding in a large supply of wine, liquors, and other tavern stores, from the Burra Director's Port, down to a collection of hams, loaf sugar, pewter pots, glass, and crockery.

On the day of our arrival a public meeting had been held in the hall, touching the choice of a representative for Koorunga, but it had adjourned without a decision; Mr Paxton, called on for requisition, had declined to stand, and from the strong feeling here expressed openly against any other Burra director, it will be difficult to predict who is likely to be elected, or, indeed, to come forward with any chance of success. Mr Kingston,²¹ we understand, is spoken of as likely to be in the field; we should suppose him to be a person well qualified.

On the evening of this day (15 February), there was a discharge of the electric fluid in flashes of almost incessant occurrence, more vivid and more intense than any which the oldest

²⁰ Burra Hotel, second floor added.

²¹ Sir George Strickland Kingston (1807-80), elected as Member for Burra, 1851. See: *Foundation and Settlement of South Australia*, A. Grenfell Price; *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. II, pp. 264-65; *Paradise of Dissent*, D. H. Pike.

colonists here (and there were some early ones among us who were standing to view this magnificent spectacle) can remember to have seen. The blaze and the splendour of the coruscations from the south were almost blinding, but very little thunder followed. A smart rain fell briskly for about an hour, but left no marks of its effects in the morning.

Today (Sunday the 16th) we attended divine service in the church which was most respectably filled both morning and evening. The Rev. Mr Pollitt preached two excellent sermons (extempore) well adapted to the nature of his congregation, and the singing was accompanied by a seraphine. All the assembly appeared remarkably orderly and attentive.

The mail to this place comes in every weekday except Monday.

17 February—Of the Burra Burra Mine²²—the world's wonder—it might seem useless for us to attempt any sufficient description, most particulars respecting it being well known to persons taking an interest in such subjects. We however decide, *non obstante*, to record our own impressions on viewing it: which obstinacy may excusably arise from a long sojourn in the colony, a feeling for interests, and a want of opportunity, up to this hour, of personal observation.

We had made a cursory survey of the mine and its situation on the 15th, but on the 17th we went to visit it in detail, and worked our way in and out among the various busy spots, where the ore was extracting from the various shafts, commencing with Captain Roach's. Our companion descended Kingston's old shaft, which was in full work, and ascended by a new shaft, after winding and wading through various passages in this labyrinth of excavations. We next saw the ore crushed, jigged, and washed, and then laid out, to be assayed, weighed and bagged for smelting. We then ascended the engine-house and its various stories to view every part of the steam-engine, which is fifty-three horse-power. The water pumped up here at Roach's Shaft is not good, barely

drinkable; but from some shafts a flow of very sweet and good water is obtained.

The circling whims, with their horses in brisk motion, the buckets alternately racing up and down, the barrows rattling on tramways to deliver the contracted ore, the crushing and the jigging, the engine in motion, and the drays at work or arranging in rows and relieving their horses, of which a hundred were often turned loose together in a large yard, and all looking well fed; the busy employment of the individuals in front of the various houses and scattered dwellings, among others that of Captain Roach, at the end of a row with its neat green palings; the company's offices, where all seemed in a bustle, and the continual passing of men and boys among the piles of ore; altogether formed a scene new and striking to us on this our first visit to the 'Great Burra Burra'. We obtained some lovely specimens, particularly a few splendid ones of malachite which abounds in this mine, and we returned, wondering as well at all these things as at the employment given to nine-hundred persons in these works.

From the mine we proceeded in the afternoon to the Smelting Works; but Mr Williams,²⁴ the Superintendent, was absent, not to return till evening; and as these works are not shown without an order, we left our credentials in the office, and appointed to call on the morrow.

18 February—We set out today to inspect the Smelting Works of the Patent Copper Company,²⁵ and a clerk handed us over to

²⁴ Thomas H. Williams.

²⁵ *Patent Copper Company*—1848, 11 December the foundation-stone was laid by William Giles, Esq. (1791-1862); manager of the South Australian Company; at the Works of Messrs Schneider & Company; Patent Copper Company; *Southern Australian*, 19 December 1848, p. 2.

1849—Fifth Stack or chimney is in course of erection, four being complete. Furnace and furnace house are in course of erection, also mechanics shop, offices, cottages for the workmen, etc. Operations will probably start in April. *Southern Australian*, 20 February 1849, p. 2.

April—At three o'clock, the new furnaces were ready for lighting; and on this occasion—so important to the future prosperity of South Australia—I was invited by Mr Walters (of London) to set fire to the first; and I have since been informed that "Latimer's Candle", as the stack was in jocular contrast named, has not been, and will not be, "put out".

"To give you an idea of the establishment, the smelting house, with six stacks of chimneys, is 210 feet long. It is thought, hereafter, it may be

²² Burra Mine. See: *South Australia and Its Mines*, F. S. Dutton, pp. 288-96; *Mines of South Australia*, J. B. Austin, pp. 18-23; *The Rush That Never Ended*, G. Serle; *Paradise of Dissent*, D. H. Pike.

main lode will be struck. The Kingston mine is situated about 7 miles N.E. of the place, is thought promising; some stones of ore, oxide of copper, tried 34 per cent, while specimens of silver lead have been found on same property. The Karthala of Koorunga on Adelaide road; its produce being principally iron ore, used in smelting the copper ore. The nearest places are Redruth, 1 mile N.W.; Copperhouse, 2 miles W.; Hampton, 1½ mile N. by E.; Sod Hut, 8 miles S. on the Adelaide road. There are no townships of any note nearer than Mintaro and Clare, situated 21 and 25 miles S.W. and W. With these places there is communication by coach (Rousselle's) and from Koorunga to Adelaide being about 99 miles. Koorunga has no benevolent association, but a benevolent association has been in course of active operation for the relief of a poor. There is a hospital belonging to the South Australian mining association, and but accessible to the poorer classes on obtaining permission from the mine authorities. The hotels in Koorunga are, the Burra, Miners' Arms, and the Pig and Whistle. In the township there is a local court, post and money order office, telegraph station, branch of the National bank and of the Adelaide and South Australian insurance companies, a public pound, a Masonic lodge (E. C. No. 585), an Oddfellows' lodge (M.U.O.F. No. 11), and a Foresters' court. The resident magistrates are T. S. Porter, T. H. Mayne, and M. M'Dermott, Esqs. Ranges of hills meet the eye in all directions around Koorunga, with occasional flats; the main road in many directions undulating and hilly, particularly between the Burra and Sod Hut, S. while as far as mount Bryan, in N. direction, distance of 15 or 20 miles, the road is remarkably level and good, and situated on a level between two ranges. The population of Koorunga, Redruth, Aberdeen and Hampton is about 3100 odd, and the number of houses about 460 but 120 of which are inhabited. The want of a corporation here is much felt, and would remedy many existing evils. The approaches to the cemetery here are extremely bad and even dangerous in crossing the creeks and watercourses the remains of the dead have more than once nearly been precipitated to the ground, the road being metalled only as far as the post office. It would be a considerable comfort and advantage to continue the metalled road as far as Redruth, the present road between Koorunga and Redruth being extremely bad. The geological formation of the district consists of blue, grey and brown Arenaceous limestone and sandstone, dipping E. and W. from 20° to vertical.

KOORUNGGA (*Co. Burra*) is a hundred lying in the W. part of the country, on the E. slopes of the main range of hills. It consists almost wholly of purchased land, of which 2 blocks of 20,000 acres each belong respectively to the South Australian mining association and the Princess Royal mining company. This hundred is celebrated for its world-renowned Burra Burra copper mines, which are situated on the land belonging to the former company. The townships of Koorunga, Redruth, Littlehampton, and Copperhouse are in this hundred. The area of this hundred exclusive of towns, is 57,600 acres, of which 427 acres are under cultivation. The population of that portion numbers 437 persons, chiefly miners and agriculturists.

KOOLIVUNGGA RUN (*Co. Stanley*) lease, No. 58; occupier, J. Hope; area, 1 square mile; rental and assessment, £197 18s. 4d. This run lies on the Broughton and Kooly rivers, to the N.N.E. of port Wakefield.

KOONGALETT RUN (*S.E. district*) lease, No. 181; occupier, E. Cameron; area, 36 square miles, including land in the hundreds of Grey, Monbulla, and Penola. The actual area is 12½ square miles; grazing capacity, 1600 sheep, or 133 per square mile. This run is watered from swamps, and lies 250 miles S.S.E. of Adelaide, 75 miles E. by S. of Guichen Bay, and 45 miles N. of Macdonnell bay.

KUTIPPO (*Co. Adelaide*) is a hundred in the S.E. of the country, containing about half its area of purchased land, much of which is cultivated. The remainder is hilly and rugged, and is used for the depasturage of a few sheep and cattle by the neighbouring farmers.

KUZANA RUN (*W. district*) See VENUS BAY RUN.

KUPPARA (*Co. Daly*) is an E. hundred of the country, consisting principally of pastoral land, rich in mineral wealth, and forming part of the Moonita and Walker mining districts. There are some small blocks of purchased land lying in the W. part of the hundred.

KURITA MINE (*Co. Daly*) is one of the Wallaroo mines, lying to the N. of the Kurita mine, and containing some good branches of fine yellow sulphuretted ore.

KYGBOLITE RUN (*S.E. district*) See KIRKBYBOLITE.

LACEPEDE BAY (*Co. Macdonnell*) lies to the N. of Guichen bay on the S.E. coast, and forms the S. part of the extensive bight to the S. of Encounter bay and the Murray mouth. It offers excellent anchorage, as no heavy seas can enter. Fresh water may be had in any quantity by digging in the sand-banks near the beach. At the head of this bay and on port Caroline, an inner harbour is situated, the township of Kingston. Its heads are known as Capes Bernoulli and Morard de Galles. See also CAROLINE BAY. There is an aboriginal station on this bay.

LACEPEDE (*Co. Macdonnell*) is a hundred in the S.W. of the country, and lying on the coast of Laccopede bay. The township of Kingston is in this hundred, the only land being a long narrow tract running N. and S., at the back of the township, and bordering the Murray swamp.

LACYS GROUP (*Finders district W.*) is the name given to 2 rocky islands, and a lashed reef, of which the larger island lies W. by S. 5 miles from Evans island. The island is circular, and about half-a-mile in diameter, and is of considerable elevation. **LAGOON HILL** (*Co. Burra*) is a peak and survey point in the main range, lying about 4 miles S.E. of the township of Aponga.

LAKE EYRE, (*Finders district N.*) In his despatch to Adelaide, of September 1847, Major Warburton, who has been exploring the N.E. part of the colony, in speaking of Lake Eyre, says that the Barcoo river flows into it upon the E. side, and that its waters are boggy, interspersed with deep ravines, and covered with tangled masses of papyrus, forests of gigantic marshmallows and heavy timber. He also reports that the rivers are rank cannibals, frequently eating one another. See also EYRE LAKE.

LAKE HOPE, (*Finders district*) See HOPE LAKE.

LAKE SUNDAY STATION (*Forbes peninsula*) lease, No. 71, is the head station of Messrs. Rogers, Lander, and Stephen, and has an area of 47 square miles; grazing capacity, 7500 sheep, or 160 per square mile; Goyder's valuation, £397 10s., deducting improvements valued at £812 10s. The nearest post towns are port Adelaide, 70 miles W. by E. N.E. across St. Vincent's gulf; or by land, Moonita, 90 miles N., and Elitroo, 100 miles N. by W. This run also includes lease, No. 21, Oyster bay station.

LALEE RUN (*S.E. district*) lease, No. 185; occupier, J. Ellis; area, 5 square miles; grazing capacity, 780 sheep, or 195 per square mile; (Goyder's valuation, £42 per annum, deducting improvements. On this run, and on a purchased section of land in the hundred of Gambier, are 900 sheep, 25 head of cattle, and a few horses. The run lies 270 miles S.S.E. of Adelaide, and 33 miles by road, N.N.E. of port Macdonnell, where the wool is shipped.

LANGHORNE (or LAKHORNE's) CREEK, 35° 18' S. lat., 139° 6' E. long. (*Finders district*) is a postal township in the electoral district of mount Barker, hundred of Bremer, and under the control of the Bremer electoral council. It is situated on the N.E. of the same name, and on the main road from Adelaide to Wellington, 5 or 6 miles N. of the N. shore of lake Alexandrina. The district is an agricultural one, wheat being extensively grown in the neighbourhood. Langhorne has 2 stores, a post office, telegraph station, wheelwrights, blacksmiths, and other shops, and a public pond. The resident magistrate is J. D. Cave, Esq., J.P.; and 1 hotel—the Langhorne's bridge (McCallum's). The nearest places are Milang, about 10 miles S.W.; Strathalbyn, 9 miles W.; Wellington, 20 miles E.; mount Barker, 20 miles N.; there being no direct mail communication except with Strathalbyn and Wellington, with which places, as with Adelaide, 45 miles N.W., there is communication by mail coach four times a week. There are also 4 carriers' waggoners plying to Adelaide and Wellington weekly. The surrounding country is flat; the soil consists of light sandy loam, abounding in limestone, and admirably adapted for the growth of wheat. The population numbers about 100 persons. The townships of Langhorne, Kent town, and Bremerton are generally known as Langhorne, or Langhorne's creek. The number of inhabitants actually in the township is small, but the district around is thickly populated.

LANGTON ISLAND (*Spencer's gulf*) See SIR J. BARKER'S GROUP.

LANNES, (Doubt of the Admiralty charts,) CAPE (*Co. Robe*) is the S. head



FILM 18 VIEW EAST ALONG TIVERS Row
NO 7 NOS 8-18 TRURO ST

BURRA
14-12-78