Notes from a Pocket Journal
A Trip to Lake Hope in 1861.

By
Sir Thomas Elder, B.C.M. S.
1861.

August 31. Left Adelaide in the Lutra for Port Lincoln.

September 1. Arrived at Port Lincoln and spent the day with Captain Bishop.

September 2. Rode at W. Haigh's Station, and saw the Alpacas and Angola goats sent from England by John Hall. Went on to Poowindie and saw the native Institution under charge of Mr. Stannard. Embarked in the evening.

September 3. Reached Port Augusta. Stopped in Mackie's Hotel in company with Major Warburton.

September 4. Left Port Augusta about mid-day with Mr. Brown for Mount Arden. Arrived there in the evening.

September 5. Got our horses here, and started for the North.

September 6. Reached Hunkaleena.

September 10. Saw the Mine, and started in the forenoon, arriving at Mount Deception (Beltana) in the evening.

September 17. Started for Angopina. Stopped at Bobmoorrie, and saw Mr. Sloan who told us that Mr. Burke had been heard of, and that others had passed southwards with his party some days previous. Saw Mount Oates, Mine, and got to Angopina before dark.

September 17. Went to top of Mount Charlie. Started at 2 o'clock after getting Adelaide mail, and reached Adawandena in evening.

Bicksgate
Glenosmond

September 22. Remained at Blenchwater under Mr. Dean's hospitality. Mr. John MacMichaely with his expeditionary party from Adelaide arrived in the forenoon and encamped by water tolie. Opened the afternoon in fishing with nets in the Government boat in Blenchwater. Had a long conversation with MacMichaely regarding his expedition.


September 25. MacMichaely's main party arrived in the evening 9 o'clock. Camped across the creek.

September 26. Started after breakfast for Mannawantinima - Mr. Dick's Station. Reached it at 2 p.m. Had a long discussion with MacMichaely on the way, and strongly urged him to push on an advance party from this place. He does not seem sufficiently alive to the importance of hurrying forward to lose its track. Mr. Hodgekinson, now in command, gave me his own history. The history of Burke's expedition to which he belongs.

September 27. Left Mannawantinima at 9 o'clock a.m. Rode for twenty miles in a severe hot wind, and crossed Lake Lorena. Camped with the horses on a barren plain without water at 5 o'clock, the Camels joining us at 8 p.m. Leaving Mr. MacMichaely to share on the drag.

September 28. MacMichaely's men emptied their canteens yesterday and
as Mr. Hodgkinson would only allow one quart of water each man from the general supply, the most of the men were without tea or liquid of any sort at their breakfast this morning. Started at 6 o'clock and after a short ride reached the margin of Lake Hope at noon - the camels coming in at 3 P.M. No sooner had the advance party - Giles, Stucky, and myself, arrived at the lake, than we were surrounded by 20 or 30 natives, the number increasing towards evening to upwards of 100. They were all very harmless & only one man armed with a boomerang. The natives hung about the encampment till dark, when they all went away, but some of them returned and were only dispersed by Mr. Hodgkinson presenting his gun at them. Mr. Stucky and I spent the afternoon by ourselves, accompanied by two natives, in shooting game and collecting the seeds of wildflowers at two or three miles distance from the camp. During the night a regular watch was set, each man taking his turn of an hour and a half. Left under a large gum tree on the margin of the lake.

December 29: Mr. Hodgkinson & Middleton started on the camels at day-light to carry water & the bullocks. About ten o'clock Mr. Macklin arrived with the bullocks, which he was compelled to bring on for water - leaving the stock in the Sand Hills about 25 miles.