

The north end of Stradbroke is named Amity Point, so called after the brig "Amity," which brought up the first convicts in September, 1824. Here Major Lockyer landed in 1825. In April, 1836, it was visited by Backhouse and Walker, the Quaker missionaries, by McGillivray, the naturalist, and the now famous Professor Huxley, who landed from the "Rattlesnake" on the 18th October, 1847. All these visitors saw the blacks fishing with the porpoises, and described the natives as fine athletic men. There are several small lakes on both islands. On Stradbroke, wallabies and kangaroos are numerous; but no bears or opossums are found on any part of the island. On Morton there was no animal life except snakes and iguanas.

Amity Point has been the favourite dugong fishing station periodically since 1846.

On the Bar, at the entrance, the steamer "Sovereign" was wrecked on the 11th March, 1847, and only ten people saved out of fifty-four.

ST. HELENA.

A small volcanic island in Morton Bay, five miles from the mouth of the Brisbane River. It was proclaimed a penal settlement on the 14th May, 1867. The name was originally given by the officer in charge of the branch penal settlement at Dunwich. A blackfellow whom the whites named "Napoleon," from his supposed resemblance to that emperor, was caught stealing an axe, and forthwith exiled in March, 1828, to the island, which was thenceforth called St. Helena. The native name was "Noógoon." In August, 1799, Flinders landed on this island and pulled round it, going thence in the direction of Fisherman's Islands at the mouth of the Brisbane River, which he narrowly escaped discovering. At that time St. Helena was covered by dense and luxuriant brush growing on the rich red basaltic soil, and timbered down to the water's edge. In January, 1868, John McDonald, the first superintendent, started to clear ten acres to receive cane plants from the Brisbane Botanic Gardens. In the following year he erected a small sugar-mill made in Brisbane for £120. It consisted of three vertical rollers 18 inches diameter and 15 inches high, driven by four horses. This primitive mill was replaced by a superior one in after years, and sugar was successfully grown by the convicts until it was abandoned and the land devoted to potatoes, sweet potatoes, and lucerne.

St. Helena is the principal penal establishment of the colony, the prison to which all long-sentence prisoners are sent. The whole of the island is cleared of the original timber, except a few solitary mangroves. It contains a total area of 220 acres.

BRIBIE ISLAND.

Historically, this is the most interesting island on the south coast. It lies at the north end of Morton Bay, is about twenty miles long and from one mile to three miles wide, consisting chiefly of tea-tree swamp, salt flats, low sea-sand ridges, and slightly raised patches timbered by bloodwood, gray gums, and turpentine. On the low sand-ridges are cypress pines and honeysuckle. There is not an acre of good soil on the whole island. Opossums and kangaroos are numerous. In 16th July, 1799, Flinders landed on the south end of Bribie, and had a skirmish with the natives. On that point, therefore, the first Queensland native was shot by a white man. There Flinders