grants began to resort in great numbers to this country ; and as they brought with them an increase of capital, cultivation was rapidly extended on all sides. A regu­lar trade was begun, distilleries and breweries were erect­ed, the Van Diemen's bank was established, St. David’s church at Hobart-Town was completed, and every thing now indicated the rapid progress of this rising community. According to a census taken in 1821, the inhabitants were found to amount to 7185; the acres in cultivation to 14,940; sheep, to 170,000; cattle, 35,000; and horses, 350. The colony was still dependent on New South Wales, and had no regular civil or criminal courts, occasional sessions being only held by judges who arrived from New South Wales. In 1825 this defect was remedied: Van Diemen’s Land was declared by the king in council independent of the colony of New South Wales ; the chief authority was vest­ed in a lieutenant-governor and council, the latter consist­ing, according to the 9th Geo. IV. c. 83, of fifteen mem­bers ; civil and criminal courts were established ; and the sole dependency of the colony was in future on the mother country.

The prosperity of the colony was long retarded, and the lives and properties of the inhabitants endangered by a ban­ditti of runaway convicts, who took shelter in the woods, and issued in bands from these hiding-places, to plunder the settlements and to murder their proprietors. They were known under the title of bush-rangers ; and they even proceeded so far as to write threatening letters to the magistracy and the lieutenant-governor. A feeling of in­security pervaded the more remote settlements ; and the most respectable farmers, with one accord, betook them­selves to the towns as the only certain refuge from the violence of these wretches, who scrupled not at confla­gration, robbery, and murder. They long continued their depredations with impunity, owing to the insufficiency of the military force, the ample subsistence afforded by the abundance of game, and the superior local knowledge which they acquired in the course of their wandering life. In order to abate this growing evil, Colonel Davey proclaimed the whole island under martial law ; and the military being seconded by the respectable inhabitants, succeeded in apprehending the most daring of these of­fenders, who were executed and hung in chains as a ter­ror to their associates. The proclamation of a general amnesty induced others to surrender. But many of these again escaped into the woods, and renewed their lawless outrages against the persons and properties of the settlers ; and it was not till the year 1817, that, by great exertions of the troops, aided by the settlers, this gang of banditti was rooted out, most of them being apprehended by the activi­ty of the troops, and executed.

Van Diemen’s Land, seen from the coast, has a more agreeable aspect than New Holland. Many fine tracks of land are found on the very borders of the sea; and the interior is almost invariably possessed of a soil admi­rably adapted to all the purposes of civilized man. The is­land is upon the whole decidedly mountainous. In the in­terior it is extremely diversified in its surface ; not so much, however, by continuous ranges of mountains, as by insulated peaks, with intervening tracks of table land, and extensive and fertile valleys. On the south of the island, the country presents a peculiarly bold and rude aspect, hills being piled upon hills, all densely covered with trees to the top, and presenting one impervious forest, except here and there a rocky eminence towering to a majestic height. Farther in­ward the country assumes a less stern and forbidding as­pect, and many fine open spots meet the eye, lightly tim­bered and extending for miles; the prospect, however, being still closed by a background of lofty mountains. Between Hobart-Town and Launceston, towards the north, there is a fine champaign country intersected by streams, and of great extent; and towards the north coast the scenery consists of every variety of hill and dale, woodland and plain, forest and village, that forms the perfection of a rural landscape. The western parts of the island, though they have been im­perfectly explored, are represented as abounding in bold and mountainous scenery, although possessing well watered and fertile plains. Here the ground generally rises to a great elevation, and has consequently a milder climate in winter than the inhabited districts towards the east. Of the mountains there are several which rise to a great height. Mount Wellington, which is only a few miles west from Hobart-Town, is 4000 feet above the level of the sea. It has a magnificent appearance ; and its bold and rugged hills are diversified with occasional spots of sombre foliage. During eight months of the year it is covered with snow ; but so pure is the atmosphere, that its summit is sel­dom obscured with clouds. Being so near Hobart-Town it has frequent visitors in summer. The southern mountains near Port Davey form a long range, which stretches into the interior for several miles, and in some places rises 5000 feet above the sea. They are covered with snow during the greater part of the year. The other principal mountains in the colony are Benlomond, distant about 100 miles from Hobart-Town, and rising 4200 feet ; the Table mountains near Jericho, 3800 feet; Peak of Teneriffe, or Wylede’s Craig, 4500 ; Quamby's Bluff, 3500; Mount Field, 3000 ; St. Paul’s Dome, 2500; with several others, from 1000 to 2000 feet in elevation.

The country is well watered, numerous streams flowing from the mountains ; and on the summits of many of them are large lakes, which are the sources of considerable rivers. The Derwent is a noble and magnificent stream, varying in breadth, from its entrance up to Hobart-Town, from six to twelve miles, having everywhere deep water, without rocks or sand-banks, and navigable at all seasons, even by strangers, with the most perfect ease and safety. The mouth of the Derwent is formed on the right by Brune island and D’Entrecasteaux’s channel, and on the left by Iron Pot island and the South Arm ; the latter presenting for six miles a coast of highly luxuriant appearance, and then abruptly terminating in the centre of the Derwent, where the river, uniting with the waters of Double Bay, extends its width to nearly twelve miles. This river takes its rise in a lake to the westward, and flows with considcr­able rapidity, receiving numerous tributary streams until it reaches New Norfolk, where it is almost as wide as the Thames at Battersea, whence it pursues its course towards the ocean, widening as it goes, with the finest scenery on its banks. The water continues fresh for about six miles be­low New Norfolk. The Huon is nearly of equal magnitude with the Derwent, and runs westerly until it falls into the sea in one of its arms or creeks not many miles from Hobart- Town. Though it be a navigable river. It is however of little value to the colony, the land on its banks being so heavily timbered, that it is neither arable nor fit for pasturage. It is occasionally resorted to by vessels of considerable bur­den for the timber on its shores, which is taken in as bal­last. The Tamar, formed by two rivers, the North and South Esk, is navigable for its whole course, though, on account of a bar and other intricacies of navigation. It re­quires great skill and management on the part of the pilot to take up or down large vessels with safety. Among the rivers of the second class that water fine districts, and are extremely useful, though they are not navigable, may be enumerated the Shannon, the Clyde, and the Jordan, all of which fall into the Derwent, either singly, or having pre­viously united above New Norfolk; the Coal river, which falls into the sea near Richmond; and the two Esks, which join and form the Tamar at Launceston. There is still a numerous class of smaller rivers, which have an abundant supply of water all the year round for mills, cattle, and do-