they occupy, the dividing ridge between the rivers which flow eastward to the ocean, and those which, with a west­erly, and afterwards a southerly course, and a larger and broader stream, terminate in the Southern Ocean, chiefly in the Murray river, at Encounter Bay. To the first class belongs the Hawkesbury, which is a continuation of the Nepean river, after the junction of the latter with a considerable stream called the Grose, and issues from a re­markable cleft in the Blue Mountains, in the vicinity of the town of Richmond, about forty miles from Sydney. It is apt to overflow its banks, from the sudden swelling of the mountain torrents by which it is fed ; and in one instance rose, near the town of Windsor, ninety-seven feet above its ordinary level. It falls into Broken Bay, fourteen miles to the north of Port Jackson, where it forms an excellent harbour. Hunter’s river, about seventy miles to the north of Port Jackson, falls into the sea at the harbour of New­castle. It is sufficiently safe and capacious for vessels of 300 tons burden, and navigable for small craft of thirty or forty tons burden for fifty miles above Newcastle. Man­ning river, still farther to the north, enters the sea by se­veral mouths, in about latitude 31° 25' south. Hastings river enters the sea at the large harbour of Port Macquar­rie, 220 miles north-east of Port Jackson ; it rises in south latitude 33½°, and 150° east longitude. Brisbane river falls into Moreton Bay, in latitude 27° 1' south, longitude 153° 26' east. It was discovered in 1823. Its source is in the mountain ranges to the north, and its course is through a large extent of fine country. Among the rivers that take their rise on the western ridge of the Blue Moun­tains is the Darling, which has its rise between the pa­rallels of 27° and 33½°, and of which the course has been traced for about forty miles through a level country, and is supposed, as already stated, to be the same river which unites its waters with the Murray and Morrumbidgee, on the southern coast, though this is not certain. The Macquarrie river has likewise its origin in the torrents which descend the western ridges of the mountains. It has a winding course to the north-west, in some places deep, broad, and navigable for large boats, in others rapid, and obstructed by falls. It was seen by Mr Oxley to expand over the adjacent country, which had the appearance of a sea, but which was found in 1829, by Captain Sturt, after three years drought, to be converted into a vast expanse of arid soil. Its termination has not been distinctly traced, but it is supposed to be a tributary of the Darling. There are numerous streams which rise in the northern mountains, and which all terminate, as is most probable, in the main trunk, whether of the Darling or any other river which conveys the waters of this valley to their termination in Encounter Bay. The Lachlan river has its origin on the borders of Argyle county, between 34° and 35° of south latitude. Like the Macquarrie, it loses itself in a marsh, from which it emerges to join the Morrumbidgee in 34½° south latitude. The Morrumbidgee river has its origin in the Warragong range, 200 miles south-west of Sydney, in latitude 35° south, and about eighty miles from the eastern coast. It pursues a westerly course, and joins the Murray in latitude 34° 15' south, and longitude 141° east, after pur­suing a tortuous course of 800 or 1000 miles. The Mur­ray is the central channel through which are conveyed to the ocean all the various streams which descend the western declivity of the great chain of mountains that runs along the coast. It has not been traced to its source, but it receives, as already stated, another river, supposed to be the Darling, and a second considerable stream which enters its left bank from the south-east. Mr Cunningham is of opinion that it is formed by the Hume and the Ovens streams, which take their rise in the Warragong Moun­tains, and flow west..

New Holland being situated in the southern hemisphere, its seasons are exactly the reverse of those in Britain. July is the middle of winter, and January of summer. The festivities of Christmas and of the new year are celebrated here, not, as in the old country, with doors and windows shut, and a cheerful fire to dispel the winter cold, but amid the oppression and heat of summer, with doors and windows thrown open to invite the refreshing breeze. We no longer hear in this Australian climate of the “ gentle south wind,” nor of “ rude Boreas, blustering railer.” The north is here the region of heat, as the south is of cold. Every thing is changed. Nature no longer wears a European dress, and poetry must conform and reverse its images. The summer extends from the 1st of December to the 1st of March. The mean heat during the three months of De­cember, January, and February, is about 80° at noon. This great heat is tempered along the sea-coast by a regular sea-breeze, that sets in regularly about nine o’clock in the morning, and blows with considerable force till about six or seven o’clock in the evening, when it is succeeded by a land- breeze from the mountains, which varies from west-south- west to west. In very hot days the breeze often veers round to the north, and blows a gale. The hot winds to which the country is exposed, especially in the interior, three or four times every summer, blow from the north-west, like a cur­rent of air issuing from a heated furnace, raising the ther­mometer to 100° in the shade, and to 125° when exposed to their influence. They imbibe their heat from the tro­pical regions of the north, which they traverse, and which, like certain portions of Africa, are probably arid deserts. They are generally succeeded by a cold southerly squall, and by a thunder-storm and rain, which cools the air. The spring months are September, October, and November. In the beginning of September the nights are cold, but the days clear and pleasant. The thermometer varies from 60° to 70° towards the end of the month ; and light showers oc­casionally prevail, with thunder and lightning. The days become gradually warmer, and in October the hot and blighting winds from the north begin to be apprehended. The three autumn months are March, April, and May. The first is rainy, and more fertile in floods than any other in the year. Towards the end of April the weather be­comes perfectly clear and serene. The thermometer varies from 72° at noon to 60°, and in the mornings is as low as 52°. During May the thermometer varies from 50° at sun­rise to 60° at noon, with a perfectly cloudless sky. During the three winter months of June, July, and August, the mornings and evenings are cold ; hoar frosts are frequent, and become more severe in advancing into the interior. At Sydney the thermometer is rarely below 40° ; at Paramatta it is frequently as low as 27° in the course of the winter. As the land rises from the ocean, the temperature declines. The winter at Bathurst, where snow falls in its season, is much colder than on the sea-shore. On the loftiest hills heavy falls of snow take place during the winter, and it re­mains for many days on their summits ; and some high ranges penetrate the level of perpetual snow. In the valleys how­ever the snow' does not lie. The greatest defect in the climate is the prevalence of periodical droughts, during which the vegetation is parched for want of moisture, a general failure of the crops follows, and numbers of the cattle perish. Although in general a large quantity of rain falls throughout the year, yet the colony has hitherto been subject to severe drought every twelve years. A drought took place in 1826, which continued to 1829 ; and more re­cently, in 1839, another severe drought took place, which occasioned general distress in the colony. The climate is however on the whole highly salubrious and agreeable. Out of a community of 1200 persons, it has been known that only five or six have been sick at a time ; and at some of the military stations,' seven years have elapsed without the loss of a man.