mestic use. There are the Thames or Lachlan at New Norfolk ; the Plenty, the Styx, Jones’s river, and Russell’s falls, which are also tributaries of the Derwent; the Mac­quarrie and Elizabeth rivers, more in the interior, and which are tributaries of the Esk; Blackman's river, also in the heart of the colony. Farther north is the Lake river passing through Norfolk plains, the Western river, the Isis, and several others of less note. More to the westward are the Mersey, the Meander, the Forth, the Iris, the Leven, the Emu, the Cam, the Inglis, and numerous others, which are spread over all parts of the colony. Around the coast of the island many streams fall into the ocean, having spread fertility over the districts through which they have previously flowed. Among these may be mentioned the Carlton, Prosser’s river, Great Swan Port river, Piper’s river, &c.; also North-west Bay river, a few miles from Hobart-Town. Others again are found in desert situations in the country, where cultivation has made little progress. There are several lakes, generally in the centre of the island among the mountains, of considerable extent, which abound with water-fowl of all descriptions. Great Lake is about ninety miles north-west of Hobart- Town, and eighty feet above the level of the sea. It is twenty miles long and ten broad, with deep bays and in­dentations, and many promontories and peninsulas extending into it. It contains five islands, covered with a species of cedar, and numerous shrubs. Its greatest depth is only three fathoms. Around the coast are numerous bays and harbours that afford secure anchorage. The entrance from the ocean to the Derwent presents two lines of continuous bays or anchorage of unrivalled excellence. The one most commonly used leads through Storm bay, and the other through D’Entrecasteaux’s channel, which is one string of little bays or anchorages for nearly forty miles. On the eastern coast of the island is Oyster bay and Great Swan Port; on the north, Port Dalrymple, or the mouth of the Tamar, Port Sorell, and Circular Head; westward, Mac­quarrie harbour and Port Davey. Besides, there are many of smaller note, capable of affording secure shelter to craft of light burden.

The climate of this island is equally healthy, and more congenial to the constitution of Europeans, than that of Port Jackson, not being subject to any remarkable variations either of beat or cold. Generally speaking, throughout the summer, alternate land and sea-breezes prevail every twenty- four hours; the wind blowing from the land from sun-set till ten or eleven o’clock the following day, when it is suc­ceeded by the sea-breeze, which continues till the evening. Its influence extends many miles inshore, and diffuses a refreshing coolness, even in the hottest days of sum­mer. The average thermometer is 70°, although the heat is occasionally much greater, the mercury rising to 100° or 110°. This sudden heat is occasioned by the north and north-west wind, which is felt at Port Jackson, and here, though not in the same degree, though its effects are seen on the growing crops, producing blight and other injurious consequences. The rain which is almost certain to suc­ceed in a few hours, again cools the atmosphere, and corrects the bad effects of the previous sultriness. Thunder-storms are rare, nor are they ever violent. During spring, which is in the months of September, October, and November, the weather is usually bright and clear, with occasional rain and high winds ; when the average range of the thermometer is between fifty and sixty degrees. The summer, which is in December, January, and February, is generally dry ; during which the vegetable productions arrive at maturity one month earlier than they would in England, namely, in De­cember, which corresponds to June of the northern hemi­sphere. Autumn, which is in March, April, and May, is the pleasantest season in the year ; the air being clear and bright, free from clouds and vapours, and the medium heat

of the day about 65°. The nights are cool and refreshing, which indeed is generally the case in the height of summer. The winter, which is in June, July, and August, is not severe. In the high and exposed situations, the snow falls thick, and lies a good part of the year, and the frosts are severe ; but in the lower valleys and plains, the sun never loses its power during the day, and under its influence, frost and snow quickly disappear ; so that the winter is not re­garded by the inhabitants as the cold and dismal period of the higher latitudes, but as the season of moderate and genial rain, which facilitates the labours of the husbandman in the ensuing spring. The average range of the thermometer is from forty to forty-eight degrees, though sometimes it falls lower, but seldom continues above a day or two.

Van Diemen’s Land abounds in every variety of soil, and with much less of an indifferent quality than is to be found in New Holland. Large tracks of land, perfectly free from timber or underwood, are to be found in all directions, and covered with luxuriant herbage; where the colonist, entering on the possession of the best land, incurs no ex­pense in clearing his farm, but has only to set fire to the grass, in order to prepare his land for immediate tillage. There are other two circumstances which are extremely favourable to the colonist. The rivers have all a sufficient fall to prevent any excessive accumulation of water from hea­vy and continued rains, and are consequently free from those violent and destructive inundations to which the rivers of New Holland are subject ; and here the colonist may set­tle securely without the dread of having his lands sub­merged and his produce swept away by the devouring flood. The seasons are more regular, and not liable to the same inequalities, and to those periodical droughts by which New Holland is visited. In the years 1813, 1814, 1815, and like­wise in 1839, when the whole face of the other colony was burnt up, when vegetation was completely at a stand, and the cattle were perishing for want of rain, there were abun­dant harvests in this more fruitful island, and no want of rains. Within a period of about forty years since the country was settled, the crops have sustained no serious de­triment from the want of rain, and the harvests have in ge­neral been productive ; while the parent colony, since it Has been established, has been repeatedly in the greatest dis­tress from dearth and from inundation. The agricultural products, with some differences arising from the climate, are nearly the same as at Port Jackson. Indian corn or maize is not cultivated here ; but wheat, barley, and oats are raised of a very superior quality. Nor is there such a variety or abundance of fruit ; the finer fruits of those latitudes that are nearer the equator, such as the orange, the lemon, the citron, the pomegranate, &c., which grow in the greatest perfection at Port Jackson, are not known in this island, while the peach, the nectarine, and the grape arrive at an inferior degree of maturity, and can only be raised by artificial means. But on the other hand, all the fruits, such as the apple, the currant, the gooseberry, and all ve­getables and herbs that grow in the northern climate of Eu­rope, thrive equally well in this congenial climate. The ve­getable kingdom is similar to that in New South Wales. The forests abound in woods that are adapted to all the various purposes of life. In many places there is no underwood, the ground being covered with tall ungainly trees, standing at some distance from each other, and rising up to a great height, before they shoot out their branches. Much of the timber is extremely serviceable for the purpose of building; while there are ornamental woods, which are highly esteemed for cabinet work, and for fitting up and embellishing the inte­rior of houses ; and others for their hardness and durability. All the trees are evergreens, and some of them, particularly the mimosas, put forth very rich blossoms in spring. But the colour has been remarked to partake more or less of yellow. The foliage of the trees is generally dark green,