which gives rather a sombre aspect to the forests ; the eye wandering over the wide expanse every where pre­sented, and in vain seeking relief from any variety of hue. There is a great variety of shrubs, many of which are ex­tremely beautiful, and some of them have very elegant flowers. Among the most valuable plants yet discovered, may be classed the pepper tree, the trunk of which contains many medicinal properties. The tea tree is also deserving of notice, the leaves serving at times as a substitute for those of the Chinese plant, and though the beverage is not equally good. It has the recommendation of being much cheaper.

The island has not yet been sufficiently explored for the discovery of its mineral treasures. Its geology is very varied. Basalt is however supposed to be the principal substratum of the soil, and all along the coast it presents itself in rocky precipitous heights, standing on beautiful columnar pedes­tals. Among these may be mentioned Fluted Cape at Ad­venture Bay. It is so called from the circular columns standing up close together, in the form of the barrels of an organ. Circular Head is another singular specimen of the basaltic formation. It is a curious rock, standing out of the sea, exactly like a huge round tower or fortress, the work of art. Mount Wellington, already mentioned, is composed of this rock, as well as the rocky banks of many of the moun­tain rivers. In some parts, both on the coast and in the in­terior, the columns appear in insulated positions, springing up from the grass or the ocean like obelisks or huge needles. There are several specimens of this curious formation on the south side of Bruné island ; and the rocks on the land stand erect upon their several blocks, gradually diminishing as they rise, so that the force of a well-aimed stone would seem sufficient to drive the uppermost from its precarious base. Limestone is almost the only mineral that has been brought into general use. It has been found in abundance in most parts of the island; and a very fine species of lime, used in the better sort of plastering and stuccoing, is made in considerable quantities, by burning the oyster shells that are found in beds along various parts of the coast. Other calcareous substances occur in different parts of the island. Marble of a white mixed grey colour, susceptible of a good polish, has frequently been found. Around Hobart-Town, strata of soft clayey marl occur, which has been found very useful as a manure. Much of the common limestone is of a yellowish or reddish colour, derived from the oxide of iron with which it is mixed, and which is so generally scattered throughout the island. Of the metallic ores, that of iron abounds, of a red, brown, and black colour. In one or two instances in which it has been analyzed. It has been found to contain eighty per cent. of the pure mineral. It also occurs, though more rarely, and in smaller quantities, under the form of red chalk. Specimens of red and green copper ore, lead, zinc, manganese, and, as some say, silver and gold, have been occasionally met with. Indi­cations of coal have been found all across the island, com­mencing at South Cape, and shewing themselves in various parts; at Satellite island in D’Entrecasteaux’s channel, on the banks of the Huon, at Hobart-Town, New Norfolk, the Coal river, Jerusalem, Jericho; and excellent coal and very rich iron ore have also been discovered in Richmond district and other places. The stratum of the South Cape is situated on the north side of the bay, and extends almost two miles along the coast. This coal has been analyzed, and has been found of a superior quality, and well adapted for the raising of steam. Excellent roof slate appears at a certain spot between Launceston and George-Town ; and in the form of mica in large masses on the rocks round Port Davey, on the southern corner of the island, where, being much exposed to the winds and waves of the southern ocean, they have become so much worn by the weather as to exhibit the appearance of snow. Excellent sand­stone for building is found in almost every part of the island, and most of the houses in Hobart-Town are now built with it, instead of badly made bricks as formerly. A quarry has also been recently discovered at Port Arthur, where the manufacture of filtering-stones is expected to be commenced. Flints are scattered in great plenty upon the hills, especially where basalt abounds. Other rarer stones have been found in different parts of the island, especially in those which appear to have been washed in former times by the ocean, and which have been deposited in certain ranges or linear positions, by the lashing of the waves and the subsiding of the waters; such as hornstone, schistus, wood-opal, bloodstone, jasper, and that other sin­gular species called the cat’s eye, which reflects different rays of light according to its position. Petrified remains of wood and other vegetable productions, entirely converted into siliceous matter, and capable of the finest polish, are occasionally met with in different parts of the island, espe­cially in the Macquarrie district.

The animals resemble those of New South Wales, com­prising the kangaroo, of which there are three different species, the forest, the brush, and the wallapy, the chief difference between them being the size. The hyena, opos­sum, or tiger, measures six feet from the snout to the tail, and is exceedingly destructive among the flocks. It is beautifully striped with black and white on the back, and the belly and sides are of a grey colour. The *dasyurus ur­sinus,* known by the ordinary name of the devil, is another animal of the same species, extremely ugly, the head re­sembling that of the otter, but quite disproportionate to its body. It is very destructive to the flocks, issuing at night from the rocky hills which it frequents, in search of its prey. The native porcupine resembles the common hedge­hog, and is quite harmless. The wombat is a singular anima), and when full grown weighs nearly forty-three pounds. The head, which is large and flattish, forms an equilateral triangle. It has extremely short legs, ears sharp and erect, eyes small and sunken, but lively, and the feet are formed like those of a badger; the tail is an inch in length. The flesh is very delicate. The *platypus* is an animal apparently al­lied to the beaver tribe. The body is about ten inches long, and about as many in circumference. This animal is very shy, and is only found in unfrequented places. Se­veral species of wild cats are found in the woods. One is called the tiger-cat, from its resemblance to that animal; others partake of the character of the weasel. The kan­garoo rat and the kangaroo mouse possess, with the size of these animals, all the characteristics of the kangaroo. There are several species of opossums, all perfectly harm­less. The bandicoot is a small animal, which makes great havoc in the potato grounds when it visits them.

The feathered tribes are numerous, of every description, and many of them of the most beautiful plumage. Among the birds of prey are eagles, hawks of all sorts, kites, ravens, and the common carrion-crow. Among the water-fowl are many varieties of the gull, pelican, the kingfisher, black swans of very majestic appearance, wild ducks, also the musk duck, teal, widgeon, and a variety of others. Among that class which belong neither to birds of prey nor to water-fowl, are emus, black and white and satin cockatoos, parrots and parroquets in great variety, large black mag­pies, the white or the whistling magpie, the laughing jackass, so called from its singular noise ; with many others of smaller size, but of more beautiful appearance. Quails, snipes, and a species of pigeon of a splendid bronze colour, in flavour resembling a partridge, are the chief birds that, in addition to water-fowl, attract the attention of sportsmen.

All the inlets and bays of the coast abound with fish. Among those which may be purchased at Hobart-Town, are the salmon, so called in the colony, but in reality a very poor fish ; perch, rock-cod, bream, mullet, whitings, flat-hearts, leather-jackets, tailors, parrots, guard-fish, cray-fish, near-