Wheat, maize, barley, oats, and rye are all grown in the colony of New Holland ; but the two former are most cul­tivated. The heat at Sydney appears to be too great for the common species of barley and oats, though they are produced of a tolerable quality on the poorer soils. What is called the Siberian wheat arrives at very great perfec­tion, and is greatly superior to the common species of barley; but being only used in the breweries, the de­mand is limited. The Indian corn, or maize, is of more general use, being much better adapted for the food of horses, oxen, pigs, and poultry. The produce is also much more abundant than that of barley and oats ; and it has this additional recommendation to the settler, that it may be planted two months later than any other grain. The best months for sowing wheat are April, May, and June, though it may be sown from February to July, and even so late as August if that month happens to be moist. Oats and barley may be best sown in June, though they may be sown in the middle of August with a fair prospect of a crop. Indian corn may be planted from the end of Sep­tember to the middle of December ; but the best month is October. The wheat harvest generally commences partially about the middle of November, and is gene­rally over by Christmas. The maize is not ripe till the end of March, and the gathering is not complete till the end of May. The culinary vegetables in Australia are numerous, and they thrive admirably in the climate. Po­tatoes, cabbages, carrots, parsnips, turnips, pease, beans, cauliflowers, lettuces, cucumbers, and in fact every species of vegetable known in this country, are produced in the colony. Many of them attain to greater perfection than in Europe, as the cauliflower and the brocoli, and the dif­ferent varieties of the pea ; and a few also degenerate, as the bean, for which the climate appears too hot, and the potato, which is not nearly of so good a quality as in this country. The colony is justly famed for the goodness and variety of its fruits. Peaches, apricots, nectarines, oranges, grapes, pears, plums, figs, pomegranates, raspberries, straw­berries, and melons of all sorts, attain the highest degree of maturity in the open air ; and even the pine-apple may be produced in a common hot-house. The climate at Sydney is not however so congenial to the fruits of the northern climate, as the apple, the pear, the currant, the goose­berry, and the cherry, which, though they are produced, do not equal in flavour those produced in this country. To the westward of the Blue Mountains, where the climate is colder, they attain to the same perfection as in Europe. Grapes of the finest quality are produced in New Hol­land ; and some not wholly unsuccessful attempts have been made to manufacture wine, which might in time become a valuable export, and staple of commerce. Oranges, lemons, citrons, guavas, and other fruits, are so abundant that during part of the year swine are fed on peaches and apricots.

The animal kingdom in New Holland is extremely curi­ous and interesting. There are no large animals, such as elephants, lions, tigers, &c. ; and there are few varieties. But the animals of New Holland are peculiar to the coun­try, and are not found in any other quarter of the globe. The most remarkable animal found here is the kangaroo, of which there are very many varieties, from the kangaroo-rat to the forester, which stands from four to five feet high. The kangaroo, from its peculiar structure, the fore legs being so much shorter than those behind, does not run ; but it advances by springs or bounds, the length of which is sometimes prodigious, exceeding twenty paces ; at which rate they will proceed for some time, and outstrip the fleet­est greyhounds. The abdominal pouch which this animal possesses, and into which, as in a burrow or nest, the mother shelters her helpless young, letting them out by day to graze on the tender herbage, or carefully conveying them across rivers and through forests when pursued by enemies, until they are able to provide for their own sustenance and safety, is extremely curious. The kangaroo is very timid, and it is only when it is hard pressed that it turns upon the hunters, when it will set its back against a tree, and boldly awaiting the dogs, will rip them up with its hard claws, or will give them such a hug with its fore-arms as to cause the blood to gush from the hounds’ nostrils ; and sometimes taking to the water, it will drown every dog that comes near it. These animals are fast disappearing Before the progress of civilization ; and it is a saying of the abori­gines, “ where white men sit down, kangaroo go away.”@@\* The opossum tribe are very numerous, and resemble those found in America. They take up their residence in the hol­lows of decayed trees, from which they are chased by the natives. The hyena opossum, or tiger, is very destructive among flocks. He sometimes measures six feet from the snout to the tail. He has a mouth like the wolf, with large jaws opening almost to the ears. The female carries its young in a pouch, like most of the other quadrupeds in the country. The native dog, which, next to the kangaroo and the opossum, is the animal most frequently met with, resembles the Indian jackal. It is about two and a half feet long, two feet high, with a head like a fox, and erect ears, and is of a reddish-brown colour. It preys on the sheep and poultry, making great havock among them ; and is hunted without mercy by the settlers, who are fast extir­pating the breed. The wombat is a kind of badger, weigh­ing forty pounds ; is good eating, and is in consequence quickly disappearing, as is also a species of sloth. The porcupine ant-eater is a small animal. A specimen men­tioned by Mr Martin measured from the snout thirteen inches, the quills two inches long. It preys upon ant-eggs. There are varieties of the flying squirrel, fox, and mouse. The platypus is a singular animal, which it is dif­ficult to know whether to class as a beast or as a bird. It has four legs like a quadruped, and a bill like a duck, and according to general belief lays eggs and suckles its young. It is about fourteen inches in length, and resem­bles an otter, though inferior in size ; is covered with a very thick, soft, and beaver-like fur. It has a small flat head, and short legs terminating in a broad web. It has five claws ; and in the male there is a perforated spur, through which is discharged a poisonous secretion. Of the domestic ani­mals, there are those that are common in Britain, from which they have been imported. The breed of horses has been greatly improved, and is now excellent, insomuch that they are exported to India for the purpose of supplying the East India Company’s cavalry and artillery. The horned cattle are in many instances of a gigantic size ; and in this congenial climate and abundant pasture the sheep have an improved fleece, and are of a delicious flavour. Swine are abundant ; goats are not numerous ; and asses and mules are seldom reared, though a fine breed of the for­mer has been introduced from South America. The camel would be a valuable addition to the domestic animals, as by his patience of thirst and fatigue he would be admirably fitted for long journeys in the interior of the country.

The ornithology of New South Wales is rich and vari­ous. The birds are numerous, and many of them of the most beautiful plumage. The emu, or cassowary, is one of the most remarkable of the feathered race, both for its great size, being six feet in height, and for its singular pro­perties. Its covering is more like hair than feathers ; it cannot fly, and being thus confined to the earth, has little of the character of birds. It is wonderfully fleet, outstrip­ping the swiftest dog, and kicking with such violence as to break a man’s leg. It is easily tamed, and becomes quite

@@@1 History of Australasia, by Montgomery Martin, chap. v.