

Rlo

> Richard Owen, Esif.
> LLondon
> British Musemun..
:
Eq4H0:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& A \\
& 5 \\
& D(1)
\end{aligned}
$$




KAAWIRN KUUNAWARN
(HISSING SIVAN),
Chief of the Kirve Wuurong,
(BLOOD TIP TRIBE).

# AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES 

the languages and custons of several tribes of abopigines IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

By
JAMES DAWSON


GEORGE ROBERTSON MELBOURNE, SYDNEY, AND ADELAIDE
melbourne :
PRINTED bY WALKER, MAY, aND Co., 9 Mackillop street.

## PREFACE.

A number of years ago there appeared in the columns of the Australasian newspaper a short account of the language of one of the native tribes of the Western District of Victoria, written by my daughter, whose long residence in the Port Fairy district, and intimate acquaintance from infancy with the aboriginal inhabitants of that part of the colony, and with their dialects, induced her to publish that sketch. Some time afterwards our attention was directed to the formation of a vocabulary of dialects spoken by aboriginal natives of Australia, and a request was made that she 'would assist in collecting and illustrating all connected with their history, habits, customs, and languages.' In undertaking so interesting a work, our intention was to publish the additional information in the columns of the Australasian; but, finding it to be too voluminous for that journal, it was resolved to present it to the public in its present shape.

Great care has been taken in this work not to state anything on the word of a white person; and, in obtaining information from the aborigines, suggestive or leading questions have been avoided as much as possible. The natives, in their anxiety to please, are apt to coincide with the questioner, and thus assist him in arriving at wrong conclusions; hence it is of the utmost importance to be able to converse freely with them in their own language. This inspires them with confidence, and prompts them to state facts, and to discard ideas and beliefs obtained from the white people, which in many instances have led to misrepresentations. All the information contained in this book has been obtained from the united testimony of several very intelligent aborigines, and every word was approved of by them before being written down. While co-operating in this arduous task, which they thoroughly comprehended, our sable friends showed the utmost anxiety to impart information, and the most scrupulous honesty in conveying a correct version of their own language, as well
as of the languages of the neighbouring tribes; and so proud and jealous were they of the honour, that, by agreement among themselves, each was allotted a fair proportion of questions to answer and of words to translate; and if levity was shown by any individual present who could not always resist a pun on the word in question, the sedate old chief, Kaawirn Kuunawarn, at once reproved the wag, and restored order and attention to the business on hand.

During this tedious process, occupying several years in its accomplishment, I found my previous good opinion of the natives fell far short of their merits. Their general information and knowledge of several distinct dialects-in some instances four, besides fair English-gratified as well as surprised me, and naturally suggested a comparison between them and the lower classes of white men. Indeed, it is very questionable if even those who belong to what is called the middle class, notwithstanding their advantages of education, know as much of their own laws, of natural history, and of the nomenclature of the heavenly bodies, as the aborigines do of their laws and of natural objects.

In recording my admiration of the general character of the aborigines, no attempt is made to palliate what may appear to us to be objectionable customs common to savages in nearly every part of the globe; but it may be truly said of them, that, with the exception of the low estimate they naturally place on life, their moral character and modesty-all things considered-compare favourably with those of the most highly cultivated communities of Europe. People seeing only the miserable remnants to be met with about the white man's grog-shop may be inclined to doubt this; but if these doubters were to be brought into close communication with the aborigines away from the means of intoxication, and were to listen to their guileless conversation, their humour and wit, and their expressions of honour and affection for one another, those who are disposed to look upon them as scarcely human would be compelled to admit that in general intelligence, common sense, integrity, and the absence of anything repulsive in their conduct, they are at least equal, if not superior, to the general run of white men. It must be borne in mind, also, that many of their present vices were introduced by the white man, whose contact with them has increased their degradation, and will no doubt ultimately lead to their extinction.

And even, in censuring customs and practices which we may regard as repugnant to our notions and usages, we should bear in mind that these may appear right and virtuous from the stand-point of the aborigines, and that they have received the sanction of use and wont for many ages. If our habits,
manners, and morals were investigated and commented upon by an intelligent black, what would be his verdict on them? What would he think of the 'sin of great cities,' of baby-farming, of our gambling hells, of our ' marriage market,' of the universal practice of adulteration, of the frightful revelations made by Mr. Plimsoll's committee with respect to rotten ships freighted and insured on purpose to founder, of the white slavery in all great cities, and of the thousand and one evils incidental to our highly artificial civilization? Living, as we do, in a conservatory constructed of such remarkably fragile materials, we should hesitate before picking up the smallest pebble wherewith to lapidate the despised blackfellow.

To several friends who have assisted me in various ways in the publication of this book my thanks are due: to Professor Strong, of the Melbourne University ; to James Smith, Esq., Melbourne ; to Mr. Goodall, Superintendent of the Aboriginal Station, Framlingham; and especially to the Rev. F. R. M. Wilson, formerly of Camperdown, now of Kew.

To my sable friends who have kindly given us their aid I express my gratitude for their patience and their anxiety to communicate information; especially to the very intelligent chiefess Yaruun Parpur Tarneen, whose knowledge greatly exceeded expectation; as also to Wombeet Tuulawarn, her husband, who assisted her. In return for their friendship and confidence, I trust that this little contribution to the history of an ill-used and interesting people, fast passing away, may lead to a better estimate of their character, and to a more kindly treatment at the hands of their 'Christian brethren' than the aborigines have hitherto received. If so, this volume will attain its chief object, and will confer intense gratification on their sincere friend,

JAMES DAWSON.

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

As it has been found almost impossible to represent the correct sounds of the Australasian languages by adhering to the rules of English orthography, these rules have been necessarily laid aside, together with the signs of accentuation. Double consonants are used to express emphasis, and double vowels to express prolongation of the sound. People who are unacquainted with the difficulty of communicating in writing the pronunciation and sound of foreign words may cavil at the employment of so many double letters, but this mode has been adopted, after very careful consideration, as the most suitable for the purpose.

The following examples will fully illustrate what is meant. The English word 'car' would be 'kaar,' 'can' would be 'kann,' 'rain' would be 'rææn,' 'rainy' would be 'ræænæ,' 'meat' would be 'meet,' 'met' would be 'mett,' 'life' would be 'liif,' 'live' would be 'livv,' 'tome' would be 'toom,' 'tom' would be 'tomm,' ' boot' would be 'buut,' 'cut' would be 'kutt,' 'one' would be 'wunn,' 'magpie would be 'magpii,' 'pussy cat' would be 'puusæ katt.' The k and g which appear before consonants in the syllables of many aboriginal words represent sounds barely perceptible, yet indispensible to right pronunciation. The nasal sound of 'gn' or 'ng' often occurs at the beginning of syllables in the aboriginal languages. As it is found at the beginning of, and only occurs in words like poignant and poignard, derived from a foreign source, it is somewhat difficult for English people to pronounce it. Some sounds which lie beyond the scope of the English alphabet are represented by the letters which come nearest to them, so as to give an approximately correct idea of what is intended to be conveyed.

## CONTENTS.

PAGE
OHAPTER I.-Tribes : their names, boundaries, languages, and dialects ..... 1
OHAPTER II.-Population. ..... 3
CHAPTER III.-Chiefs : their power, dignity, and succession ..... 5
CHAPTER IV.-Property : of the family, laws of, inheritance ... ..... 7
CHAPTER V.-Clothing: men's, women's, at night, adoption of European clothing, rugs-how made .. ..... 8
CHAPTER VI.-Habitations: permanent, temporary ..... 10
CHAPTER VII.-Cleanliness: superstition relative to, the muurong pole, parasites ... ... ... ... ..... 12
CHAPTER VIII.-Domestic Furniture : baskets for carrying and for cooking,
wooden bowl, bark bucket, water bags, water troughs,
CHAPTER VIII.-Domestic Furniture : baskets for carrying and for cooking,
wooden bowl, bark bucket, water bags, water troughs, mortars, means of producing fire14
CHAPTER IX.-Cooring and Food : ovens, roasting, animals eaten, shellfish, roots and vegetables, grubs, grum, manna, drinking water, fruits, division of the spoils of hunting, story of the Selfish Fellow17
CHAPTER X.-TooLs : stone axe, stone chisel, scrapers, rasp, mortar and pestle, bone chisel and bodkin, knives ...24
CHAPTER XI-LLaws of Marriage: tribal, class, origin of classes, other relations, polygamy, rank, re-marriage of widows, consent of chiefs, strictness of laws, betrothal, mothers-in-law, "turn-tongue," initiation into manhood, marriage-dress and ceremonies, first two months, divorce, selection of wives, gifts of wives, dissolution of marriage, spells, treatment of wives26
CHAPTER XII.-Children: birth, nursing, clothing, killing the weak, language, strange law relative to language ..... 38
CHAPTER XIII.-Names of Persons : naming of children, changing names,the effect of death on names, lists of names41
CHAPTER XIV.-Superstitions and Diseases: supernatural beings, celestial,infernal and terrestrial, ghosts, wraiths, shades,haunted cave, witches, dreams, superstitions relativeto animals, etc.; fires, spells, sorcerers, "WhiteLady," doctors, common remedies, supernatural reme-dies, and artifices, sorcery stones, sunstroke, moon-stroke, pulmonary complaints, epidemics, other diseases49

CHAPTER XV.-Deatir and Burial: putting old people to death, suicide, burial, cremation, wakes, death and funeral of a chief, relics, spirits appearing, mourning, eating of human flesh ... ... ... ...
CHAPTER XVI.-Avenging of Deatr : finding out the spell-thrower, modes of destroying him, pææt pææts, executioner's club, revenge a sacred duty
CHAPTER XVII.-Great Meetings: summons, preliminaries, message-stick,
CHAPTER XVII.-Great Meetings: summons, preliminaries, message-stick, Kuuyuut hears of Buckley, public executioner, Pundeet Puulatong, accusations, satisfaction for private wrongs, public wrongs, wild blacks, quarrels between tribes, tournament, trading, necessity to attend meetings, drives of game
CHAPTER XVIII.-AmUSEments: music, songs, korrobore, gala dress, ornamental cicatrices, nose ornaments, dancing, clowns, stalking the emu, wrestling, football, spearthrowing, toy-boomerang, wure whuuitch80

CHAPTER XIX.-Weapons : spear, spear-thrower, light shield, liangle and
heavy shield, clubs and boomerangs ... ...

CHAPTER XX -Animals: dingo, kangaroo, opossum, wombat, native bear,
emu, extinct large bird, turkey bustard, gigantic
CHAPTER XX.-Animals: dingo, kangaroo, opossum, wombat, native bear, crane, water fowl, eagles, fish, eel-fishing, crayfish, etc.; snakes, stories of boas
...
$\begin{array}{ccccc}\text { CHAPTER XXI.-Meteorology, Astronomy, etc.: signs of weather, rain- } \\ \text { making, astronomical knowledge, list of heavenly } \\ \text { bodies, earthquakes, volcanoes } & \ldots & \ldots & 08\end{array}$
CHAPTER XXII.-NATIVE Mounds : their origin, sometimes used for burial
CHAPTER XXIII.-ANECDotes: the first white man, the first ship, the first
CHAPTER XXIII-ANECDOTES: the first white man, the first ship, the first
bullock, the first formation of water-holes, the tortoise and the snake, the blue heron, the native companion and the emu, the bunyip, the ghost, the meteor, Buckley's widow ... ... ...

## CONVEYANCE, by Principal Chiefs to John Batman, of 100,000 Acres of Land, between Geelong and Queenscliff

Vocabularies.-Words; Animals; Relationships; Names of Places;
Grammar and Sentences; Numerals, cardinal and
ordinal ... ... ... ... NOTES to Chaprers XI., XII., XIII., and XIV., by J. D. ... ... ci
NOTE-Reports of Government Inspectors of Aboriginal Schools ... ciii 103

10


YARRUUN PARPUR TARNEEN
(VICTORIOUS),
Chiefess of the Morporr Tribe.

# AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES. 

## CHAPTER I.

TRIBES.
The country belonging to a tribe is generally distinguished by the name or language of that tribe. The names of tribes are taken from some local object, or from some peculiarity in the country where they live, or in their pronunciation; and when an individual is referred to, 'Kuurndit'-meaning 'member of'-is affixed to the tribal name, in the same way as the syllable 'er' is added to London, 'Londoner,' or 'ite' to Melbourne, 'Melbournite.' Thus the Mount Rouse tribe is called 'Kolor,' after the aboriginal name of the mountain; and a member of the tribe is called 'Kolor kuurndit.' The language of the Kolor tribe is called 'Chaap wuurong,' meaning 'soft' or 'broad lip,' in contradistinction to other dialects of harder pronunciation. The Kolor tribe and its language occupy the country commencing near Mount Napier, thence to Germantown, Dunkeld, Wickliffe, Lake Boloke, down the Salt Creek to Hexham, to Caramut, and to starting point.

The Kuurn kopan noot tribe is known by the name of its language, 'Kuurn kopan noot,' meaning 'small lip,' or 'short pronunciation,' with 'Kuurndit' affixed for an individual of the tribe, who is called 'Kuurn kopan noot kuurndit.' Its territory, commencing in the middle of the Tarrone swamp, 'Yaluuk,' extends to Dunmore House dam, Upper Moyne Falls, Buunbatt, Goodwood main cattle camp, Marramok swamp, and round by South Green Hills station to starting point.

The Hopkins tribe is called after its language, 'Pirt kopan noot,' and a member of the tribe 'Pirt pirt wuurong kuurndit;' and its language, which is very slightly different from the 'Chaap wuurong,' is called 'Pirt kopan noot,' meaning 'jump lip.' Its country is bounded by Wickliffe, Lake Boloke, Salt Creek, Hopkins Hill, Ararat, and Mount William.

The Spring Creek tribe is called 'Mopor,' and a member of it 'Mopor kuurndit.' Its language is called 'Kii wuurong,' meaning 'Oh, dear! lip.' Its country, commencing at the swamp Marramok on Minjah station, extends
to Woolsthorpe, to Ballangeich, up Muston's Creek to Burrwidgee, through the centre of Mirrewure swamp to Goodwood House, thence to Buunbatt, and to starting point.

The Port Fairy tribe is called 'Peek whuurong,' and a member of it 'Peek whurrong kuurndit.' Its language, 'Peek whurrong,' 'kelp lip,' is taken from the broad-leafed seaweed so very abundant on the sea shore. Its territory lies along the sea coast, from the mouth of the Hopkins River to nearly half-way between Port Fairy and Portland, thence to Dunmore dam, Tarrone swamp, Kirkstall, Koroit, Woodford, Allansford, Framlingham, and down the Hopkins River to the sea.

The Mount Shadwell tribe and its language are called 'Kirre wuurong,' 'blood lip,' with Kuurndit affixed for a member of the tribe. Its territory commences at the Hopkins Hill sheepwash on the Hopkins River, and extends to Mount Fyans, Mount Elephant, Cloven Hills, Minninguurt, Mount Noorat, Keilambete Lake, Framlingham aboriginal station, and up the east side of the Hopkins River to starting point.

The Camperdown language is called 'Warn talliin,' 'rough language.' The Colac language is 'Kolak gnat,' 'belonging to sand,' and is hard in pronunciation. The Cape Otway language is 'Katubanuut,' 'King Parrot language.' The country between Cape Otway and the Hopkins River is called 'Yarro watch,' 'Forest country,' and the language 'Wirngill gnatt tallinanong,' 'Bear language.'

At the annual great meetings of the associated tribes, where sometimes twenty tribes assembled, there were usually four languages spoken, so distinct from one another that the young people speaking one of them could not understand a word of the other three; and even the middle-aged people had difficulty in ascertaining what was said. These were the Chaap wuurong, Kuurn kopan noot, Wiitya whuurong, and Kolac gnat. The other tongues spoken at the meeting might be termed dialects of these four languages.

The aborigines have a very ready way of distinguishing the ten dialects enumerated above, by the various terms which are employed by each to denote the pronoun 'you,' as Gnuutok, Gnuundook, Winna, Gnæ, Gnii, \&c. The differences of language are also marked by peculiarities of pronunciation, especially by the way in which the end of a sentence is intoned. Natives of Great Britain will remember similar differences between the various counties or towns of their fatherland, which will serve to illustrate the differences of aboriginal pronunciation.

## CHAPTER II.

## POPULATION.

In attempting to ascertain the numbers of individuals in the different tribes, it has been found almost impossible to make the aborigines comprehend or compute very large numbers, or even to obtain, from the very few now alive, an approximate estimate of the aggregate strength of the tribes of the Western district previous to the occupation of the country by the white man. It has been found necessary to ascertain from some of the most intelligent middle-aged persons among them, first, the number of friendly tribes which met annually in midsummer for hunting, feasting, and amusements,-occasions of all others the most likely to draw together the largest gatherings,-and then the average strength of each tribe.

These great meetings were held at Mirræwuæ, a large marsh celebrated for emus and other kinds of game, not many miles to the west of Caramut. This place was selected on account of its being a central position for the meetings of the tribes occupying the districts now known as the Wannon, Hamilton, Dunkeld, Mount William, Mount Rouse, Mount Napier, Lake Condah, Dunmore, Tarrone, Kangatong, Spring Creek, Framlingham, Lake Boloke, Skipton, Flattopped Hill, Mount Shadwell, Darlington, Mount Noorat, Camperdown, Wardy Yallock, and Mount Elephant. None of the sea coast tribes attended the meetings at Mirræwur, as they were afraid of treachery and of an attack on the part of the others. According to the testimony of the intelligent old chief Weeratt Kuyuut, and his equally intelligent daughter Yarruum Parpurr Tarrneen, and her husband, Wombeet Tuulawarn, when two of these tribes fought a pitched battle, each mustered at least thirty men; and for every ablebodied warrior present (and no one durst absent himself on such an occasion under the penalty of death) there would be at least three members absent, as the old men, women, children and invalids were kept at home; thus making an average of one hundred and twenty in each tribe; and, as the twenty-one tribes enumerated were generally present, there must occasionally have been the large gathering of two thousand five hundred and twenty aborigines.

In the estimation of some of the earliest settlers, this calculation of the average strength of each tribe is too low; but, as they could not tell how many tribes or portions of tribes were seen by them at one time, the statements of the natives who attended these great meetings, and of those who remember the accounts given of them by their parents, are the most reliable.

On questioning old Weeratt Kuyuut-who was privileged as a messenger to travel among the tribes between the rivers Leigh and Glenelg-about the population of the Great Plains, which have Mount Elephant as a centre, he said the natives were like flocks of sheep and beyond counting.

At this date, July, 1880, there are only seven aborigines who speak the Chaap wuurong language, three who speak the Kuurn kopan noot language, and four who speak the Peek whuurong language.

## CHAPTER III.

## CHIEFS.

Every tribe has its chief, who is looked upon in the light of a father, and whose authority is supreme. He consults with the best men of the tribe, but when he announces his decision, they dare not contradict or disobey him.

Great respect is paid to the chiefs and their wives and families. They can command the services of everyone belonging to their tribe. As many as six young bachelors are obliged to wait on a chief, and eight young unmarried women on his wife; and, as the children are of superior rank to the common people, they also have a number of attendants to wait on them. No one can address a chief or chiefess without being first spoken to, and then only by their titles as such, and not by personal names, or disrespectfully. Food and water, when brought to the camp, must be offered to them first, and reeds provided for each in the family to drink with; while the common people drink in the usual way. Should they fancy any article of dress, opossum rug, or weapon, it must be given without a murmur.

If a chief leaves home for a short time he is always accompanied by a friend, and on his return is met by two men, who conduct him to his wuurn. At his approach every one rises to receive him, and remains silent till he speaks; they then inquire where he has been, and converse with him freely. When a tribe is moving from one part of the country to another, the chief, accompanied by a friend, precedes it, and obtains permission from the next chief to pass, before his followers cross the boundary. When approaching a friendly camp, the chief walks at the head of his tribe. If he is too old and infirm to take the lead, his nearest male relative or best friend does so. On his arrival with his family at the friendly camp, a comfortable wuurn is immediately erected, and food, firewood, and attendance are provided during his visit. When he goes out to hunt, he and his friends are accompanied by several men to carry their game and protect them from enemies. A strange chief approaching a camp is met at a short distance by the chief, and invited to come and sit down; a fire is made for him, and then he is asked where he has come from, and what is his business.

The succession to the chiefdom is by inheritance. When a chief dies the chiefs of the neighbouring tribes, accompanied by their attendants, assist at the funeral obsequies; and they appoint the best male friend of the deceased to take charge of the tribe until the first great meeting after the expiry of one year, when the succession must be determined by the votes of the assembled chiefs alone. The eldest son is appointed, unless there is some good reason for setting him aside. If there are no sons, the deceased chief's eldest brother is entitled to succeed him, and the inheritance runs in the line of his family. Failing him, the inheritance devolves upon the other brothers and their families in succession.

If the heir is weakly in body, or mentally unfitted to maintain the position of chief,-which requires to be filled by a man of ability and bravery,-and if he has a brother who is more eligible in the opinion of the tribe, or who aspires to the dignity, the elder brother must either yield or fight the younger brother in single combat, at the first great meeting, for the supremacy.

There is an impression among the aborigines that the second son of a chief is generally superior to his elder brother; and, if proved to be so in fight, the latter gives up his claim as a matter of custom, and the tribe accepts the conqueror as its head.

Should the heir be a boy, his nearest male relative is appointed regent till he is initiated into manhood. If there is no heir, the chiefs of the neighbouring tribes elect a successor from the deceased chief's tribe; but if their votes are divided between two candidates, the matter must be decided by these in single combat, which sometimes leads to the whole tribe quarrelling and fighting. As the tribe, however, cannot be divided, the result of the combat is accepted, and all are again friends.

## CHAPTER IV.

## PROPERTY.

The territory belonging to a tribe is divided among its members. Each family has the exclusive right by inheritance to a part of the tribal lands, which is named after its owner; and his family and every child born on it must be named after something on the property. When the boundaries with neighbours meet at lakes or swamps celebrated for game, well-defined portions of these are marked out and any poaching or trespassing is severely punished. No individual of any neighbouring tribe or family can hunt or walk over the property of another without permission from the head of the family owning the land. A stranger found trespassing can legally be put to death.

When the father of a family dies, his landed property is divided equally among his widow and his children of both sexes. Should a child of another family have been born on the estate, it is looked upon as one of the family, and it has an equal right with them to a share of the land, if it has attained the age of six months at the death of the proprietor. This adopted child is called a 'woork', and calls the owner of the property by the same name. Should a family die out without leaving 'flesh relatives' of any degree, the chief divides the land among the contiguous families after the lapse of one year from the death of the last survivor. During that period the name of the property, being the same as the name of its last owner, is never mentioned, but is called 'Yaamp yaamp' in the Chaap wuurong and the other two languages. If, however, there are several claimants, with equal rights to the territory, the chief at once gives each an equal share, irrespective of sex or age. To those who are under age he appoints guardians to look after their property during their minority.

## CHAPTER V.

## CLOTHING.

THe aborigines are very fond of anointing their bodies and their hair with the fat of animals, and toasting themselves before the fire till their skin absorbs it. In order to protect their bodies from the cold, they mix red clay with the oily fat of emus,-which is considered the best,-or with that of water fowls, opossums, grubs, or toasted eel skins, and rub themselves all over with the mixture. Owing to this custom very little clothing is necessary.

During all seasons of the year both sexes walk about very scantily clothed. In warm weather the men wear no covering during the day time except a short apron, not unlike the sporran of the Scotch Highlanders, formed of strips of opossum skins with the fur on, hanging from a skin belt in two bunches, one in front and the other behind. In winter they add a large kangaroo skin, fur side inwards, which hangs over the shoulders and down the back like a mantle or short cloak. This skin is fastened round the neck by the hind legs, and is fixed with a pin made of the small bone of the hind leg of a kangaroo, ground to a fine point. Sometimes a small rug made of a dozen skins of the opossum or young kangaroo is worn in the same way.

Women use the opossum rug at all times, by day as a covering for the back and shoulders, and in cold nights as a blanket. When they are obliged to go out of doors in wet weather, a kangaroo skin is substituted for the rug. A girdle or short kilt of the neck feathers of the emu, tied in little bunches to a skin cord, is fastened round the loins. A band of plaited bark surrounds the head, and pointed pins, made of wood or of the small bones of the hind foot of the kangaroo, are stuck upright at each side of the brow, to keep up the hair, which is divided in front and laid over them.

Beds are made of dry grass laid on the ground; and in summer the body is covered with a thin grass mat, or a sprinkling of loose dry grass, but in cold weather a wallaby or opossum rug is used in addition. In rare instances the rug is made of skins of the ring-tailed opossum.

A departure from this primitive mode of covering, and the adoption of the white man's costume, have weakened the constitution of the aborigines, and rendered them very liable to colds and pulmonary diseases, more particularly as-though they overload themselves with European clothes during the daytime -they seldom sleep under their rugs, excepting in the cold season of the year.

Fur rugs were very scarce and valuable before the white man destroyed the wild dogs, the natural enemies of the opossum and kangaroo, as it took a year to collect opossum kins sufficient to make one. The ring-tailed opossums were more plentiful than the common kind, but the skins were less esteemed. Rugs were also made of the skins of the wallaby and of the brush kangaroo, which are likewise inferior to the common opossum. A good rug is made of from fifty to seventy skins, which are stripped off the opossum, pegged out square or oblong on a sheet of bark, and dried before the fire, then trimmed with a reed knife, and sewn together with the tail sinews of the kangaroo, which are always pulled out of the tail, and carefully dried and saved for thread. Previous to sewing the skins together, diagonal lines, about half-an-inch apart, are scratched across the Hesh side of each with sharpened mussel shells. This is done to make them soft and pliable. The only addition to this kind of ornamentation is occasionally the figure of an emu in the centre skin of the rug. It may be stated that, although many of the opossum rugs of the aborigines are now ornamented with a variety of designs, some of which are coloured, nothing but the simple pattern previously described, with the occasional figure of an emu, was used before the arrival of the white man. The figures of human beings, animals, and things, now drawn by the natives, and represented in works on the aborigines of the colony of Victoria as original, were unknown to the tribes treated of, and are considered by them as of recent introduction by Europeans.

## CHAPTER VI.

## HABITATIONS.

Habitations-vuurns-are of various kinds, and are constructed to suit the seasons. The principal one is the permanent family dwelling, which is made of strong limbs of trees stuck up in dome-shape, high enough to allow a tall man to stand upright underneath them. Small limbs fill up the intermediate spaces, and these are covered with sheets of bark, thatch, sods, and earth till the roof and sides are proof against wind and rain. The doorway is low, and generally faces the morning sun or a sheltering rock. The family wuurn is sufficiently large to accommodate a dozen or more persons; and when the family is grown up the wuurn is partitioned off into apartments, each facing the fire in the centre, One of these is appropriated to the parents and children, one to the young unmarried women and widows, and one to the bachelors and widowers. While travelling or occupying temporary habitations, each of these parties must erect separate wuurns. When several families live together, each builds its wuurn facing one central fire. This fire is not much used for cooking, which is generally done outside. Thus in what appears to be one dwelling, fifty or more persons can be accommodated, when, to use the words of the aborigines, they are 'like bees in a hive.'

These comfortable and healthy habitations are occupied by the owners of the land in the neighbourhood, and are situated on dry spots on the bank of a lake, stream, or healthy swamp, but never near a malarious morass, nor under large trees, which might fall or be struck down by lightning. When it is necessary to abandon them for a season in search of variety of food, or for visiting neighbouring families and tribes, the doorway is closed with sheets of bark or bushes, and, for the information of visitors, a crooked stick is placed above it pointing in the direction which the family intends to go. They then depart, with the remark, 'Muurtee bunna meen,'-'close the door and pull away.'

Temporary habitations are also dome-shaped, and are made of limbs, bark of gum trees, and grass, scarcely rain-proof, and are smaller, opener, and more carelessly erected than the permanent residences. They are only used in summer or for
shelter while travelling, and have a large open side, with the fire in front. In fine warm weather, a few green bushes, placed in a half circle to windward of the fire, suffice for a temporary dwelling.

The men share the labour of making the permanent dwelling, but the women are compelled to erect the smaller ones. Small weapons and personal property are taken inside the habitations; but as it would be inconvenient to have long spears there, they are stuck on end at each side of the doorway, to be at hand and ready for an attack.

In some parts of the country where it is easier to get stones than wood and bark for dwellings, the walls are built of flat stones, and roofed with limbs and thatch. A stony point of land on the south side of a lake near Camperdown is called ' karm karm,' which means 'building of stones,' but no marks or remains are now to be seen indicating the former existence of a building there.

These permanent residences being proof against all kinds of weather, from excessive heat in summer to frost in winter, suit the constitutions of the aborigines very much better than the wooden cottages used at the Government aboriginal stations. In cold weather a fire is kept burning day and night in the centre of the floor; and, the habitations being easily heated, a very small one suffices. To keep up a moderate, steady temperature, the ends only of the sticks meet in the centre of the fire, and, as they bum slowly away, are pushed inwards. Any other method would be a waste of fuel, and would raise too much heat.

In the event of the habitation being buined down by a bush fire, or accidentally-which often occurs in the absence of the inhabitants-the debris are levelled, and a new wuurn erected on the same spot, which is always preferred; but, in other circumstances hereafter described under the head of native mounds, the spot is abandoned for ever as a place of residence.

## CHAPTER VII.

CLEANLINESS。
It is worthy of remark that nothing offensive is ever to be seen near the habitations of the aborigines, or in the neighbourhood of their camps; and although their sanitary laws are apparently attributable to superstition and prejudice, the principles of these laws must have been suggested by experience of the dangers attendant on uncleanness in a warm climate, and more deeply impressed on their minds by faith in supernatural action and sorcery. It is believed that if enemies get possession of anything that has belonged to a person, they can by its means make him ill; hence every uncleanness belonging to adults and half-grown children is buried at a distance from their dwellings. For this purpose they use the muurong pole (yam stick), about six or seven feet long, with which every family is provided. With the sharpened end they remove a circular piece of turf, and dig a hole in the ground, which is immediately used and filled in with earth, and the sod so carefully replaced that no disturbance of the surface can be observed. Children under four or five years of age, not having strength to comply with this wholesome practice, are not required to do so; and their excreta are deposited in one spot, and covered with a sheet of bark, and when dry they are burned. It may be as well to say here, that, besides this sanitary use of the muurang pole, it is indispensable in excavating graves and in digging up roots, and is a powerful weapon of warfare in the hands of the women, who alone use it for fighting.

In every respect the aborigines are as cleanly in their persons and habits as natural circumstances admit; and, although the universal custom of anointing their bodies with oily fat may be repulsive to highly-civilized communities, it is an excellent substitute for cleansing with water, and must have arisen, not only from the comfort it affords to the skin in various ways, but also from the difficulty of obtaining water in most parts of the country, even to satisfy thirst. Neither are they troubled with parasites to such an extent as their habits might lead one to suppose. They say they never saw the common flea till it was introduced by the white man, and the accuracy of this assertion seems to be
vouched for by the fact that they have no name for it. Nor did they ever see the white louse until they came in contact with the white man, previous to which the native louse was black ; but, foretokening the destiny of the aborigines, the latter insect has disappeared, and the white louse is now the only kind amongst them. So rare, however, is even this kind, that in no instance has the writer seen one on a native.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## DOMESTIC FURNITURE.

Every woman carries on her back, outside her rug, a basket made of a tough kind of rush, occasionally ornamented with stitches of various kinds. They also carry in the same way a bag formed of the tough inner bark of the acacia tree. Failing to procure this bark, which is the best for the purpose, they use the inner bark of the messmate or of the stringy-bark tree. This is spun into cord and knitted with the fingers into the required shape. The capacity of these articles is from two to three gallons each, and in them are carried food, sticks and tinder for producing fire, gum for cement, shells, tools, charms, \&c.

The women also make a rougher kind of basket out of the common rush, which is used for cooking food in the ovens.

Domestic utensils are limited in number ; and, as the art of boiling food is not understood, the natives have no pottery or materials capable of resisting fire. Their cookery is consequently confined chiefly to roasting on embers or baking in holes in the ground; but as they consume great quantities of gum and manna dissolved together in hot water, a wooden vessel for that purpose is formed of the excrescence of a tree, which is hollowed out sufficiently large to contain a gallon or two of water. This vessel is placed near enough to the fire to dissolve the contents, but not to burn the wood. It is called 'yuuruum,' and must be valuable, from the difficulty of procuring a suitable knob of wood, and from the great labour of digging it hollow with a chisel made of the thigh bone of a kangaroo.

Another vessel, named 'popærer yun,' is used for carrying water, and is formed of a sheet of fresh acacia bark, about twenty inches long by twelve broad, bent double and sewed up at each side with kangaroo tail sinews, and the seams made water-tight with an excellent cement, composed of wattle gum and wood ashes, mixed in hot water. After the bucket is made it is hung up to dry, and the contraction of the inner bark causes the vessel to assume a circular shape, which it retains ever after. It is carried by means of a band of twisted wattle bark fixed across its mouth.

A small water-bag, called 'paanuung', is formed of the pouch of the kangaroo, which, when fresh, is stuffed with withered grass till it is dry. A strip of skin is fixed across its mouth for a handle.

For carrying water to a distance a bag called 'kowapp' is used. It is made of the skin of a male brush or wallaby kangaron, cut off at the neck and stripped downwards from the body and legs, and made water-tight by ligatures. The neck forms the mouth of the bag. This vessel is carried on the shoulders by the forelegs.

For keeping a supply of water in dry weather, a vessel called 'torrong'-'boat'-is made of a sheet of bark stripped from the bend of a gum tree, about four or five feet long, one foot deep, and one wide, in the shape of a canoe. To prevent dogs drinking from it, it is supported several feet from the ground on forked posts sunk in the earth. A wooden torrong is often used in the same way, and is formed from a bend of a gum tree, hollowed out large enough to hold from five to six gallons. As the water which they use is frequently ill-tasted, they put some cones of the banksia into the torrong, in order to give a pleasant flavour to its contents.

The millstone or mortar, so indispensable to the aborigines of the interior for grinding the nardoo seed, is known, but rarely met with among the natives of the sea coast, because they have not the nardoo, and have very little of any other kind of seed to grind. They depend for food almost entirely on animals and roots, which are more abundant than in the interior, where the seed of the nardoo occasionally forms the chief sustenance of the aborigines.

There are two kinds of millstones, both formed of slabs of grey marble or grey slate, of an oval shape, eighteen inches long by twelve inches broad. One kind is hollowed out, like a shallow basin, to a depth of two inches; the seed is put into it, and ground with a flat stone of the same material as the mortar. The other kind is about the same size, but, instead of being basin-shaped, it is flat, and has two parallel hollows, each one foot long, five inches broad, and one inch deep, in which the seed is placed and reduced to flour by two flat stones, held one in each hand, and rubbed backwards and forwards.

While travelling, the natives always carry burning pieces of the dry thick bark of the eucalyptus tree, to light their fires with, and to show the paths at night; but, as these might be extinguished while they are far from any fire, implements for producing combustion are indispensable. These consist of the thigh bone of a kangaroo, ground to a long fine point, and a piece of the dry
cane of the grass tree, about eighteen inches long. One end of the cane is bored out, and is stuffed with tinder, made by teasing out the dry bark of the messmate tree. The operator sits down and grasps the bone, point upwards, with his feet; he then places the hollow end of the cane, containing the bark, on the point of the bone, and, with both hands, presses downwards, and twirls the upright cane with great rapidity till the friction produces fire. Or, in the absence of the kangaroo bone, a piece of dry grass tree cane, having in its upper side a hole bored to the pith, is held flat on the ground with the feet, and the sharp point of a piece of soft wood is pressed into the hole, and twirled vertically between the palms of the hands till combustion takes place. Some dry stringy-bark fibre having been placed round the hole, the fire is communicated to it by blowing. The writer has seen flame produced by this method in two minutes.

## CHAPTER IX.

COOKING AND FOOD.
Ovens are made outside the dwellings by digging holes in the ground, plastering them with mud, and keeping a fire in them till quite hot, then withdrawing the embers and lining the holes with wet grass. The flesh, fish, or roots are put into baskets, which are placed in the oven and covered with more wet grass, gravel, bot stones, and earth, and kept covered till they are cooked. This is done in the evening; and, when cooking is in common-which is generally the case when many families live together-each family comes next morning and removes its basket of food for breakfast.

Ovens on a greater scale, for cooking large animals, are formed and heated in the same way, with the addition of stones at the bottom of the oven; and emus, wombats, turkeys, or forest kangaroos-sometimes unskinned and entire, and sometimes cut into pieces-are placed in them, and covered with leafy branches, wet grass, a sheet of bark, and embers on the top.

Ordinary cooking, such as roasting opossums, small birds, and eels, is generally done on the embers of the domestic fire. When opossums are killed expressly for food, and not for the skin, the fur is plucked or singed off while the animal is still warm; the entrails are pulled out through an opening in the skin, stripped of their contents, and eaten raw, and their place stuffed with herbs; the body is then toasted and turned slowly before the fire without braking the skin, and, if not immediately required for food, is set aside to cool. Opossum thus prepared will keep and may be carried about much better than if uncooked. In this way the natives make provision for travelling through country where food is scarce. They are very fond of opossum when the animal is in ordinary condition, but dislike it when fat. Kangaroo tails are cooked unskinned, first singeing and scraping off the hair, and then toasting them before the fire till thoroughly done. By this method none of the juices of the meat escape; and what would otherwise be dry food is made savoury and nutritious. As the sinews, however, which are very strong, would render the meat tough, they are all pulled out previous to toasting, and are stretched and dried, and are
kept for sewing rugs and lashing the handles of stone hatchets and butt pieces of spears. Skulls and bones are split up, and the brains and marrow roasted. The brains are considered a great delicacy, and keep for a long time after being cooked. Eels are seldom eaten quite fresh; and, to impart a high flavour to them, they are buried in the ground until slightly tainted, and then roasted.

The aborigines exercise a wise economy in killing animals. It is considered illegal and a waste of food to take the life of any edible creature for pleasure alone, a snake or an eagle excepted. Articles of food are abundant, and of great variety ; for everything not actually poisonous or connected with superstitious beliefs is considered wholesome. The natives never touch putrid flesh, however, except that of the whale, which the Peek whuurong natives bury till quite rotten. They are aware of the danger of inoculation by dead animal matter, and will not eat any animal unless they know how it has lost its life. The kangaroo and the emu they will eat if they have reason to believe that they have been killed by wild dogs, but they will not touch any food which has been partaken of by a stranger. They have no objection to eat tainted flesh or fish. If it is too far gone it is thoroughly roasted to dispel the unpleasant flavour. Fish that have been exposed to the rays of the moon are rejected as poisonous. Maggoty meat is rejected; and to prevent the flies from blowing the meat, it is hung in the smoke of the domestic fire.

Of quadrupeds, they eat the several kinds of kangaroo, the wombat-which is excellent eating-the bear, wild dog, porcupine ant-eater, opossum, flying squirrel, bandicoot, dasyure, platypus, water rat, and many smaller animals. Before the occupation of the great plains by cattle and sheep, there were numerous black and brown quadrupeds, called the yaakar, about the size of the rabbit, and with open pouches like the dasyures. They were herbivorous, and burrowed in mounds, living in communities in the open plains, where they had their nests. They had four or five young ones at a time; and, from what the natives say about the numbers that they dug up, they must have furnished a plentiful supply of food at all times. As these animals are now extinct in the Western District, although the remains of their burrows are still to be seen, it is supposed that they were the jerboa or bilboa, which are still very plentiful and troublesome in the interior of Australia.

The aborigines eat eagles and birds of prey, the emu, turkey bustard, gigantic crane, herons, and swan; geese and ducks in great variety, cormorants, ibis, curlew, coot, water-hen, lapwings, cockatoos, parrots, pigeons, crows, quails,
snipes, and a great many kinds of sea fowls. The pelican and its egg's are considered too fishy to eat.

The tortoise and its eggs are much sought after. Snakes are considered good food, but are not eaten if they have bitten themselves, as the natives believe that the poison, when taken into the stomach, is as deadly as when injected into the blood by a bite. Lizards and frogs of all sorts are cooked and eaten.

Of fish, the eel is the favourite ; but, besides it, there are many varieties of fish in the lakes and rivers, which are eaten by the natives. One in particnlar, called the tuupuurn, is reckoned a very great delicacy. It is caught plentifully, with the aid of long baskets, in the mouths of rivers during its passage to and from the sea, of which migration the natives are well aware.

Vast quantities of mollusca must have been consumed from very remote periods by the natives occupying the country adjoining the sea coast; for opposite every reef of rocks affording shelter to shell fish, immense beds of shells of various sorts are to be seen in the sand-hills, in layers intermixed with pieces of charred wood, ashes, and stones having the marks of fire on them. In some places where the action of the wind and spray has caused the hummocks to slip down into the sea, the layers of shells are exposed to a great depth; and, as they could not have been placed in their present positions by natural means along with pieces of burnt trap-rock, charred wood, and ashes, there is no doubt that they are of similar origin with the aboriginal deposits found on the east coast of Scotland and sea shores of Denmark and Holland, called 'middens' by the Scotch and 'moedens' by the Dutch. These immense mounds of shells being met with only near the sea, and nowhere in the interior, leads to the conclusion that the aborigines who fed on the mollusca and fish, never left the shore during the fishing season; and that, if they came from the interior, they never carried away any shell-fish with them, otherwise sea shells would be found in abundance at their old camping places in the bush, at a distance from the sea. An ancient deposit of marine shells, having every appearance of an aboriginal midden, was some years ago exposed on the east bank of the Yarra-Yarra River, near the Falls Bridge. At this spot a reef of rocks-which has been since partially removed-kept back the tide, and preserved the water sufficiently fresh for domestic purposes. This, no doubt, enabled the natives to camp there for fishing purposes; and hence the large deposit of shells at this spot.

Of roots and vegetables they have plenty. The muurang, which somewhat
resembles a small parsnip, with a flower like a buttercup, grows chiefly on the open plains. It is much esteemed on account of its sweetness, and is dug up by the women with the muurang pole. The roots are washed and put into a rush basket made on purpose, and placed in the oven in the evening to be ready for next morning's breakfast. When several families live near each other and cook their roots together, sometimes the baskets form a pile three feet high. The cooking of the muurang entails a considerable amount of labour on the women, inasmuch as the baskets are made by them; and as these often get burnt, they rarely serve more than twice. The muurang root, when cooked, is called yuwatch. It is often eaten uncooked. The bulbous root, muuyuup, of the common orchis, hinnæhinnitch, and of another named yarrayarupp, are eaten either raw or cooked. The weeakk, resembling a small carrot, is cooked in hot ashes without a basket. The bulb of the clematis, 'taaruuk,' is dug up in winter, cooked in baskets, and kneaded on a small sheet of bark into dough, and eaten under the name of murpit. The root of the native convolvulus, also called taaruuk, is cooked in the same way, and forms the principal vegetable food in winter, when the muurang is out of season. A tuber, called puewan, about the size of a walnut, and resembling the earthnut of Europe, is dug up, and eaten roasted. It has no stalk or leaf to mark its locality, and is discovered from the shallow holes scraped by the bandicoots in search of it, and from a scarcity of herbage in the neighbourhood. A variety of the sedge-the flag of the cooper-has a root of pleasant flavour, resembling celery, which is eaten uncooked as a salad. So also are the salsuginous plant, the mesembryanthemum, or pig's face, and the sow thistle. The latter is eaten to produce sleep. A kind of bread is made of the root of the common fern, roasted in hot ashes, and beaten into paste with a stone.

Mushrooms, and several kinds of fungi, are eaten raw; and a large underground fungus, about the size of an ordinary turnip, called native bread by white people, is eaten uncooked, and is very good.

Large numbers of pupæ, found in the ground at the foot of gum trees, are dug up in winter, and baked in hot ashes. They are the transitional forms of large green processional caterpillars, which crawl in lines on the stems of trees in search of a place to rest during their change into the pupa state. Of this transformation, and of their ultimately becoming moths, the aborigines are well aware. In addition to these there are many delicacies, chiefly collected by the women and children, and cooked in hot ashes, such as grubs, small fish,
frogs, lizards, birds' eggs, lizard and tortoise eggs. The grubs are about the size of the little finger, and are cut out of trees and dead timber, and are eaten alive, while the work of chopping is going on, with as much pleasure as a white man eats a living oyster; but with this difference, that caution is necessary to avoid their powerful mandibles, ever ready to bite the lips or tongue. Roasted on embers, they are delicate and nutty in flavour, varying in quality according to the kind of tree into which they bore, and on which they feed. Those found in the trunks of the common wattle are considered the finest and sweetest. Every hunter carries a small hooked wand, to push into the holes of the wood, and draw them out. With an axe and an old grub-eaten tree, an excellent meal is soon procured; and when the women and children hear the sound of chopping, they hasten to partake of the food, which they enjoy above all others. The large fat grubs, to be found in quantities on the banks of marshes, drowned out of their holes, in times of floods, are gathered and cooked in hot ashes by the women and children.

The gum of the acacia, or common wattle tree, is largely consumed as food, as well as for cement; and each man has an exclusive right to a certain number of trees for the use of himself and family. As soon as the summer heat is over, notches are cut in the bark to allow the gum to exude. It is then gathered in large lumps, and stored for use.

A sweet substance, called buumbuul (manna), resembling small pieces of loaf sugar, with a fine delicate flavour, which exudes and drops from the leaves and small branches of some kinds of gum trees, is gathered and eaten by the children, or mixed in a wooden vessel with acacia gum dissolved in hot water, as a drink. Another kind of manna, also called buumbuul, is deposited in considerable quantities by the large dark-coloured cicadæ on the stems of white gum trees near the River Hopkins. The natives ascend the trees, and scrape off as much as a bucketful of waxen cells filled with a liquid resembling honey, which they mix with gum dissolved in cold water, and use as a drink. They say that, in consequence of the great increase of opossums, caused by the destruction of the wild dog, they never get any buumbuul now, as the opossums eat it all. Another sweet liquid is obtained by mischievous boys from young parrakeets after they are fed by the old birds with honey dew, gathered from the blossom of the trees. When a nest is discovered in the hole of a gum tree, it is constantly visited, and the young birds pulled out, and held by their feet till they disgorge their food into the mouth of their unwelcome visitant.

In summer, when the surface of the ground is parched, and the marshes dried up, the natives carry a long reed perforated from end to end, which they push down the holes made by crabs in swamps, and suck up the water. When obliged to drink from muddy pools full of animalculæ, they put a full-blown cone of the banksia tree into their mouths, and drink through it, which gives a fine flavour to the water, and excludes impurities. The name of the cone, when used for this purpose, is tatteen mirng neung weeriitch gnat-'drink eye banksia tree belonging to.'

The southern portions of Australia are remarkably deficient in native fruits, and the only kind deserving the name is a berry which the aborigines of the locality call 'nurt,' resembling a red-cheeked cherry without the pip, which grows abundantly on a creeper amongst the sand on the hummocks near the mouth of the River Glenelg. It is very much sought after, and, when ripe, is gathered in great quantities by the natives, who come from long distances to feast on it, and reside in the locality while it lasts. In collecting the berries they pull up the plants, which run along the surface of the sand in great lengths, and carry them on their backs to their camps to pick off the fruit at their leisure. On the first settlement of the district by sheepowners these berries were gathered by the white people, and they made excellent jam and tarts.

There are strict rules regulating the distribution of food. When a hunter brings game to the camp he gives up all claim to it, and must stand aside and allow the best portions to be given away, and content himself with the worst. If he has a brother present, the brother is treated in the same way, and helps the killer of the game to eat the poor pieces, which are thrown to them, such as the forequarters and ribs of the kangaroos, opossums, and small quadrupeds, and the backbones of birds. The narrator of this custom mentioned that when he was very young he used to grumble because his father gave away all the best pieces of birds and quadrupeds, and the finest eels, but he was told that it was a rule and must be observed. This custom is called yuurka baawhaar, meaning 'exchange;' and, to show the strict observance of it, and the punishment for its infringement, they tell a story of a mean fellow named Wirtpa Mit, signifying 'selfish,' who lived on kangaroos, which were very scarce in those days. When he killed one he ate it all himself, and would not give away a morsel. This conduct so displeased his friends that they resolved to punish him, but as it was difficult to do so without infringing the laws of the
tribe, they dug a deep pit and covered it over with branches and grass. When the trap was ready, they drove some langaroos in its direction, and advised Wirtpa Mit to follow them. He fell into the trap, and they covered over the top of the pit, leaving only a small hole to give him air and sunshine. There they kept him without food till he was nearly dead. He begged of them to make the opening larger, and when they acceded to his request he made his escape, but was so weak from starvation that they afterwards killed him and put him into the hole and filled it up. To this day this place is named after him, and the story is told to the young people as a warning not to be 'selfish.'

## CHAPTER X.

TOOLS.
The natives have few tools; the principal one is the stone axe, which resembles the stone celts found in Europe. This useful and indispensable implement is of various sizes. It is made chiefly of green stone, shaped like a wedge, and ground at one end to a sharp edge. At the other end it is grasped in the bend of a doubled piece of split sapling, bound with kangaroo sinews, to form a handle, which is cemented to it with a composition of gum and shell lime. This cement is made by gathering fresh wattle gum, pulling it into small pieces, masticating it with the teeth, and then placing it between two sheets of green bark, which are put into a shallow hole in the ground, and covered up with hot ashes till the gum is dissolved. It is then taken out, and worked and pulled with the hands till it has become quite stringy, when it is mixed with lime made of burnt mussel shells, pounded in a hollow stone-which is always kept for the purpose-and kneaded into a tough paste. This cement is indispensable to the natives in making their tools, spears, and water buckets. The stone axe is so valuable and scarce that it is generally the property of the chief of the tribe. He lends it, however, for a consideration, to the best climbers, who use it to cut steps in the bark of trees, to enable them to climb in search of bears, opossums, birds, and nests, and also to cut wood and to strip bark for their dwellings. For the latter purpose the butt end of the handle of the axe is made wedge-shaped, to push under the sheets of bark and prize them off the trees.

Another stone tool, like a chisel without a handle, is used in forming weapons and wooden vessels. With splinters of flint and volcanic glass the surface of wooden articles is scraped and smoothed, and every man carries a piece of hard, porous lava, as a rasp, to grind the points of spears and poles. These stone implements, although well known to the middle-aged aborigines of the present day, are, in consequence of the introduction of iron, not now in use or to be met with, excepting about old aboriginal camping places.

The writer lately found, in a ploughed field, two stones, which he showed to one of the oldest and most intelligent men of the Colac tribe. One of them is an
oval, silicious stone, very hard, about six inches long, five inches broad, and three inches thick, waterworn, and slightly hollowed on one side, as if used for pounding some hard substance upon, and rounded on the other side, with a funnelshaped hole in the centre two inches in diameter at the mouth and one inch deep, and having a much smaller hole of the same form on each side of the larger one and joining it. The other stone, which was found lying alongside, is of the same material, of cylindrical shape, six inches long by three inches in diameter, with one end pointed so as to fit into the centre hole of the flat stone. The natives to whom these were shown said they had never seen anything like them before, and did not know their use. It is evident, however, that they were an aboriginal mortar and pestle for grinding shells for cement. The writer has them still in his possession.

A tool is made of the large bone of the hind leg of the forest kangaroo, sharpened to a chisel point. With this tool is cut the hole for the hand through the heavy shield, Malkar. A bodkin, or awl, is formed from the small bone of the hind leg of the forest kangaroo, ground to a fine point, and is used for sewing rugs. A finely-tapered sharp pin is made of the small leg bone of the brush kangaroo or opossum, and is essential for extracting thorns and splinters of wood from the hands and feet. Ti-tree pins are used for pegging out the skins of the forest kangaroo.

Knives are of various kinds and material, according to the purposes they are to serve. For skinning animals, marking rugs, and cutting the human skin to produce ornamental wens on the chest, back, and arms, knives are made of splinters of flint, or of sharpened mussel shells. The sea mussel shell found on the coast at Warrnambool is preferred, but freshwater mussel shells are also used. For skinning the ring-tailed opossum, and for dividing meat, the leaf of the grass-tree is used, and also the long front teeth of the bandicoot, with the jaw attached as a handle. The shells of the freshwater mussel and of the sea snail serve for spoons. Every person carries one. In making necklaces of the quills of the porcupine ant-eater, the holes at the roots of the quills are burned through with a wooden pin made red-hot in the fire.

## CHAPTER XI.

LAWS OF MARRIAGE.
The laws of marriage among the aborigines are remarkably well devised; and exhibit a method and ingenuity which could not have been looked for among a people who were so long considered the lowest of the human race.

The olject of these laws is to prevent marriages between those of 'one flesh'—'Tow'wil yerr.'

As has been shown in the first chapter, the aborigines are divided into tribes. Every person is considered to belong to his father's tribe, and cannot marry into it. Besides this division, there is another which is made solely for the purpose of preventing marriages with maternal relatives. The aborigines are everywhere divided into classes; and everyone is considered to belong to his mother's class, and cannot marry into it in any tribe, as all of the same class are considered brothers and sisters.

There are five classes in all the tribes of the Western District, and these take their names from certain animals-the long-billed cockatoo, kuurokeetch; the pelican, kartpœrapp; the banksian cockatoo, kappatch; the boa snake, kirtuuk; and the quail, kuunamit.

According to their classes the aborigines are distinguished, as-

> Kuurokeetch, male ; kuurokaheear, female.
> Kartpoerapp, male ; kartpœrapp heear, female.
> Kappatch, male ; kappaheear, female.
> Kirtuuk, male ; kirtuuk heear, female.
> Kuunamit, male ; kuunamit heear, female.

Kuurokeetch and kartpœrapp, however, are so related, that they are looked upon as sister classes, and no marriage between them is permitted. It is the same between kappatch and kirtuuk; but as kuunamit is not so related, it can marry into any class but its own. Thus a kuurokeetch may marry a kappaheear, a kirtuuk heear, or a kuunamit heear, but cannot marry a kuurokaheear or a kartpœrapp heear. A kappatch may marry a kuurokaheear, a kartpœrapp heear, or a kuunamit heear, but cannot marry a kappaheear or a kirtuuk heear. A
kuunamit may marry a kuurokaheear, a kartpœrapp heear, a kappaheear, or a kirtuuk heear, but cannot marry a kuunamit heear.

The traditions of the aborigines say that the first progenitor of the tribes treated of in this volume, the kuukuur minjer, or first great great grandfather, was by descent a kuurokeetch, long-billed cockatoo, but whence he came no one knows. He had for a wife a kappaheear, banksian cockatoo. She is called the kuurappa moel, meaning first great great grandmother. This original pair had sons and daughters, who, of course, belonged to the class of their mother. The sons were kappatch, and the daughters kappaheear. As the laws of consanguinity forbade marriages between these, it was necessary to introduce wambepan tuuram, 'fresh flesh,' which could be obtained only by marriage with strangers. The sons got wives from a distance. Their sons, again, had to do the same; and thus the pelican, snake, and quail classes were introduced, which, together with those of their first parents, form the five maternal classes which exist all through the Western District.

The laws of the aborigines also forbid a man marrying into his mother's tribe or his grandmother's tribe, or into an adjoining tribe, or one that speaks his own dialect. A man is allowed to marry his brother's widow, or his own deceased wife's sister, or a woman of her tribe; but he is not permitted to do so if he has divorced or killed his wife. He may not marry his deceased wife's daughter by a former husband.

A common man may not have more than one wife at a time. Chiefs, however, may have as many wives as they think proper. The sons of chiefs may marry two wives.

Chiefs, and their sons and daughters, are married only into the families of other chiefs. If a chief persists in marrying a commoner, his children by that marriage are not disinherited; but such marriages are highly disapproved of. The natives say that if chiefs were permitted to marry commoners, it would lead to endless quarrels and jealousies.

When a married man dies, his brother is bound to marry the widow if she has a family, as it is his duty to protect her and rear his brother's children. If there is no brother, the chief sends the widow to her own tribe, with whom she must remain till her period of mourning is ended. Those of her children who are under age are sent with her, and remain with their mother's tribe till they come of age, when they return to their father's tribe, to which they belong. After the period of mourning for her deceased husband expires, the relatives of
the widow, with the sanction of the chief, make arrangements for her re-marriage, and she must marry the man chosen for her. If the widow has no near relatives, the arrangements are made by the chief of her tribe. Her own inclinations are not consulted in the matter.

No marriage or betrothal is permitted without the approval of the chiefs of each party, who first ascertain that no 'flesh' relationship exists, and even then their permission must be rewarded by presents.

So strictly are the laws of marriage carried out, that, should any signs of affection and courtship be observed between those of ' one flesh,' the brothers, or male relatives of the woman beat her severely; the man is brought before the chief, and accused of an intention to fall into the same flesh, and is severely reprimanded by the tribe. If he persists, and runs away with the object of his affections, they beat and 'cut his head all over;' and if the woman was a consenting party she is half killed. If she dies in consequence of her punishment, her death is avenged by the man's receiving an additional beating from her relatives. No other vengeance is taken, as her punishment is legal. A child born under such conditions is taken from the parents, and handed over to the care of its grandmother, who is compelled to rear it, as no one else will adopt it.

It says much for the morality of the aborigines and their laws that illegitimacy is rare, and is looked upon with such abhorrence that the mother is always severely beaten by her relatives, and sometimes put to death and burned. Her child is occasionally killed and burned with her. The father of the child is also punished with the greatest severity, and occasionally killed. Should he survive the chastisement inflicted upon him, he is always shunned by the woman's relatives, and any efforts to conciliate them with gifts are spurned, and his presents are put in the fire and burned.

Since the advent of the Europeans among them, the aborigines have occasionally disregarded their admirable marriage laws, and to this disregard they attribute the greater weakness and unhealthiness of their children.

As a preventive of illegal marriages, parents betroth their children when just able to walk. The proposal to betroth is made by the father of the girl. If the boy's father approves, he gives the girl a present of an opossum rug, and shows her attention, and gives her 'nice things to eat' when he sees her at great meetings. The father of the girl takes her occasionally to see her intended husband, but he is not permitted to return the visit.

The girl's mother and her aunts may neither look at him nor speak to him from the time of their betrothal till his death. Should he come to the camp where they are living, he must lodge at a friend's wuurn, as he is not allowed to go within fifty yards of their habitation; and should he meet them on a path they immediately leave it, clap their hands, cover up their heads with their rugs, walk in a stooping position, and speak in whispers till he has gone past. When he meets them away from their camp they do not converse with him, and when he and they speak in each other's presence they use a lingo, called wiltkill ang iitch in the chaap wuurong dialect, and gnee wee banott in the kuurn kopan noot and peek whuurong dialects, meaning 'turn tongue.' This is not used with the intention of concealment of their meaning, for it is understood by all. The intended mother-in-law, though she may not speak to the boy, may express her approval of what he says by clapping her hands. He never mentions her name at any time, and when he speaks about her to anyone, he calls her gnulluun guurk in the chaap wuurong dialect, and gnulluun yerr in the kuurn kopan noot and peek whuurong dialects. She, in speaking about him, calls him gnalluun jok in the chaap wurong dialect, and gnalluun in the kuurn kopan noot and peek whuurong dialects.

Examples of turn tongue in chaap wuurong dialect:-
Where are you going just now?
Winjalat kuurna new?
Tum tongue.-Winja gniinkirna?
It will be very warm by-and-bye.
Wulpiya gnuureen.
Turn tongue.-Gnullewa gnuureen.
Examples in kuurn kopan noot dialect:-
Where are you going just now?
Wuunda gnin kitneean?
Turn tongue.-Wuun gni gnin gninkeewan?
It will be very warm by-and-bye.
Baawan kulluun.
Turn tongue.-Gnullewa gnatncen tirambuul.
A wild blackfellow is coming to kill you.
Wattatan kuut gno yuul yuul.
Turn tongue.-Kulleet burtakuut yung a gnak kuuno nong.

In nearly all the aboriginal tribes of Australia young men are not allowed to marry until they have been formally initiated into manhood. In some tribes this initiation requires them to be subjected to ordeals and ceremonies more or less repulsive. In other tribes the trials are so severe that they often not only ruin the health, but cause the death of many delicate young men. Indeed, it is possible that they are designed to get rid of the weakly, who would be of no use either in hunting or in war, and would be only an encumbrance to the tribe. The customs, however, of those tribes which are treated of in this volume are quite free from this repulsiveness and severity.

A youth is not considered to be a man until he has undergone this probation, which is called katneetch in the chaap wuurong dialect, katnitt in the kuurn kopan noot dialect, and tapmet in the peek whuurong dialect. During the progress of this probation he is called kutneet, which is really 'hobbledehoy.' No person related to him by blood can interfere or assist in the proceedings. Should the boy have brothers-in-law, they come and take him into a wuurn, dress and ornament him, and remove him to their own country, where be remains for twelve moons. Should he not have brothers-in-law, strangers from a distant tribe come and take him to their country, where he is received with welcome by his new friends. After two moons he is allowed to visit his own tribe, but not without several men to take care of him and bring him back. If, during his sojourn, he becomes ill, he is sent home to his own tribe, for, were he to die, they would avenge his death. During the term of probation his wants are liberally supplied, and he is not permitted to do anything for himself. When he wishes to go anywhere, he must be carried by the men who brought him from his own country. The women also of the tribe must wait upon him with every mark of respect, and should any disobey his orders he has a right to spear them. He is not allowed to speak the language of the tribe, but he learns to understand it when spoken. At the end of twelve moons his relatives call and take him to attend the first great meeting of the tribes. Before leaving, they pull out all the hairs of his beard, and make him drink water mixed with mud; which completes his initiation into manhood. The knocking out of the upper front teeth, which is practised by some other tribes on such occasions, is unknown in the Western District.

He is then introduced to the young woman who is to be his wife. They may look at one another, but are not allowed to converse. When the young man's beard has grown again, and the young woman has attained a marriageable
age, she is sent away from her tribe, and placed under the care of the young man's mother, or his nearest female relative, who keeps her until they are married, but not in the same wuurn with her intended husband. She is constantly attended by one of his female relatives, but is not permitted to speak their tribal language. She is expected, however, to learn it sufficiently to understand it. A day is fixed for the marriage, and invitations are sent to the relatives and friends of both parties.

As such ceremonies are always accompanied with feasting and amusements, great preparations are made, and all kinds of food collected, such, for example, as emus' and swans' eggs, opossums, kangaroos, and wild fowl. An emu which is killed while hatching is considered a great treat, as then both bird and eggs can be eaten; and if the eggs have young ones in them so much the greater will be the delicacy. These things are cooked at a considerable distance from the camp, and brought to it at mid-day by the friends of the bridegroom. At this stage of the proceedings they are partaken of only by the friends of the bride. At sunset, the friends and relations of the bridegroom and bride, numbering possibly two hundred, sit on opposite sides, within a large circle formed of the leafy boughs of trees, with a fire in the centre. The bride is introduced by her bridemaid, and seated in front of her friends. The bridal attire is very simple. Her hair is braided, and bound with a plaited bark brow band, coloured red. In front of the brow band is stuck a bunch of red feathers, from the neck of the long-billed cockatoo. White streaks are painted over and under her eyes, with red lines below. The usual kilt of emu feathers is worn round the loins, and she is covered from the shoulders downwards with an opossum rug.

The bridegroom also is painted with a white streak over and under the eyes, and red lines beneath them. He wears a brow band the same as that of the bride, but it is ornamented in front with a white feather from a swan's wing, the web of which is torn down, so as to flutter in the wind. He wears the usual apron, and a rug of the ring-tail opossum, thrown over the shoulders like a mantle. This is fastened in front with a bone pin, and reaches to the knees. He is attended by two or three young bachelors, who are painted and ornamented for the occasion. They lead him from the wuurn of a friend to his bride, who receives him with downcast eyes and in silence. He then declares that he accepts the woman for his wife. Feasting then begins. When everyone is satisfied, a chief calls out, "Let us have a dance before the children go to bed." The karweann is then commenced, and kept up till midnight.

The bridegroom is conducted by his bridemen to a new wuurn, erected for him by his friends; and his wife is taken to it by her bridemaids. For several days afterwards hunting, feasting, and amusements, with dancing and pantomine at night, are kept up till all friends depart for their homes with the usual 'wo, wo'-' good-bye, good-bye.'

The newly-married pair are well fed and attended to by their relatives. The bridemaid, who must be the nearest adult unmarried relative of the bridegroom, is obliged to sleep with the bride on one side of the fire for two moons, and attend her day and night. The bridegroom sleeps for the same period on the opposite side of the fire with the brideman, who is always a bachelor friend, and must attend him day and night. The newly-married couple are not allowed to speak to or look at each other. The bride is, during this period, called a tiirok meetnya-' not look round.' She keeps her head and face covered with her opossum rug while her husband is present. He also keeps his face turned away from her, much to the amusement of the young people, who peep into their wuurn and laugh at them. If they need to speak to one another they must speak through their friends.

On the termination of this period, the bridemaid, or some other adult female relative of the bridegroom, takes the bride to see her own relatives for a week or two. The husband remains at home. When she returns, the attendance of the brideman and bridemaid is dispensed with. Ever afterwards the bridemaid, and other female friends, may sleep under the same roof with the married people, but on the opposite side of the fire.

After they have been married some months, they are visited by the parents of the bride. The bride's father can enter their wuurn, and converse with them as formerly; but the mother lives with her husband in a separate residence specially erected for them, and sees her daughter there. This visit is returned by the bridegroom and bride, for whose accommodation a wuurn is erected by the bride's friends. The mother-in-law can never speak to her daughter's husband, or enter his wuurn. If she meets him, she must cover up her head with her rug, walk in a stooping position, and speak in whispers while he is near. To such a length is this remarkable law carried, that it is not departed from even while one of them is dying. After death, however, the living looks upon the dead. The aborigines, who show great willingness to give explanations of their laws and habits to those persons they respect, cannot give any reason for this very extraordinary custom, which is said
to be observed all over Australia, and in several island groups in the Pacific Ocean.

A chief who has been married under the law of betrothal, is not permitted to marry another woman for a long time; and should he do so without obtaining the consent of his wife, there would be constant quarrelling, as the first wife is always superior in authority to the others, and is naturally jealous of a rival.

A man can divorce his wife for serious misconduct, and can even put her to death; but in every case the charge against her must first be laid before the chiefs of his own and his wife's tribes, and their consent to her punishment obtained. If the wife has children, however, she cannot be divorced. Should a betrothed woman be found after marriage to have been unfaithful, her husband must divorce her. Her relations then remove her and her child to her own tribe, and compel the father of the child to marry her, unless he be a relative. In that case she must remain unmarried. If a husband is unfaithful, his wife cannot divorce him. She may make a complaint to the chief, who can punish the man by sending him away from his tribe for two or three moons; and the guilty woman is very severely punished by her relatives.

The courtship of those who have not been betrothed to each other when young is regulated by very strict laws. Korroboræs, and great meetings of the tribes, are the chief opportunities for selecting wives; as there the young people of various and distant tribes have an opportunity of seeing one another. A married man or a widower can speak to a married woman or to a widow, but they are not allowed to go beyond the boundaries of the camp together at any time, unless they are accompanied by another married person. Unmarried adults of both sexes are kept strictly apart from those of another tribe, and are always under the eyes of their parents or guardians. The young women are not permitted to leave the neighbourhood of their wuurns at any time, unless accompanied by a near relative. As there can be thus no personal communication between marriageable persons outside of the limits of consanguinity, a mutual friend, called a gnapunda, 'match maker,' is employed to carry messages, but this can only be done with the approval of the parents or guardians of both parties.

When a man falls in love with a young woman, he does not always consult her wishes, or procure her consent to marriage, but makes his proposal to the father through her uncle or cousin. If the father approve, he informs the suitor that he may marry his daughter; and to this decision she must submit, whether
she admires the man or not. From the time when the proposal is accepted till they are married they are not permitted to speak to each other. Should she express reluctance to the match-which is often the case-the friends of the suitor accompany him to her father's wuurn, with his hands tied together with a rope made of the twisted inner bark of the blackwood tree. He is then introduced to her, and the rope is removed by his friends; and, after sitting beside her till sunset, he conducts her to his wuurn, which has been enlarged for her accommodation. The woman generally reconciles herself to the match, and remains quietly among her new friends. But, if she is dissatisfied, and runs away, the husband, failing to entice her to return home, considers he has a right to kill her. If he does so, however, her father, brothers, or uncles, in retaliation, can kill any of his relatives. The exercise of this right would thus lead to a quarrel between the families and their respective tribes.

If a young orphan woman elopes with a man of another tribe against the wishes of her relatives, notice is sent to him that she must be brought back, or she will be taken by force. Should the warning be unattended to, his wuurn is visited at daybreak by four or five of the woman's male friends, armed with spears and marwhangs, but not with boomerangs; they seize and stupefy her with blows, and carry her off. If the man or his friends resist, the contest frequently ends in the death of some of them, and, it may be, of the woman herself. If no warning has been given of an intention to talke her away, the man knows that she may be suddenly removed, and given to another. Sometimes he will kill her rather than allow her to be given to another man; but he does this with the certainty of retaliation on himself, or on his aunt or female cousin. Should the woman escape a second time from her relatives, and return to the man, she is then considered his lawful wife, and cannot be taken from him.

Besides the custom of selecting wives at the great meetings and korroboræs, any two young men of different tribes and classes, having each a sister or cousin, may agree, with the consent of their chiefs, to exchange the young women and marry them. This is done without any previous courtship, or consent on the part of the women, even although they may be perfect strangers to the men, and they must submit.

The rule is that a father alone can give away his daughter. If the father is dead the son can dispose of the daughter, with the consent of the uncle. Should the woman have no male relative, the chief has the power of bestowing her on anyone he thinks proper; but his consent is reluctantly sought, as it
attracts his attention to his power over her, and frequently results in his taking the young woman himself.

If a chief is a man of ability, exhibiting bravery in battle or skill in hunting, he is often presented with wives from other chiefs, who have generally some whom they wish to part with. These women are given without their consent, and the man must take them as a mark of friendship. It would seem, however, that these gifts are not always appreciated, for Puulorn Puul, who communicated this information, at the same time moodily muttered aside, in his own language, 'Dear knows, there are plenty of them, when a husband has to put up with half-a-dozen.' In cases where they are aged and infirm, the transfer is made against the inclination of both parties.

A young man, who belongs to the chief's family, very reluctantly seeks the consent of the head of the family to his marriage, for it frequently ends in the old chief taking the young woman himself. To such an extent is this tyrannical system of polygamy carried on by the old chiefs, that many young men are compelled to remain bachelors, the native word for which means 'to look out,' while an old warrior may have five or six of the finest young women of other tribes for his wives.

Exchange of wives is permitted only after the death of their parents, and, of course, with the consent of the chiefs; but is not allowed if either of the women has children. When such an exchange is effected, both couples occupy different compartments in the same wuurn, and assist each other amicably in household duties.

A husband and wife without children can agree to dissolve their marriage. In such a case the woman must return to her tribe, and can marry again.

When a woman is treated with cruelty by her husband, she may put herself under the protection of another man, with the intention of becoming his wife. If he take upon him the duty of protecting her, he must challenge her husband and defeat him in single combat in presence of the chiefs and friends of both parties. Having done so, their marriage is recognized as legal ; but ever afterwards the first husband calls her a wannagnum heear, 'cast-off wife,' and she calls him wannagnum, 'cast-off husband.' If a husband knows that his wife is in love with another man, and if he has no objection to part with her, he takes her basket to the man's wuurn, and leaves it. But as no marriage, or exchange of wives can take place without the consent of the chief, the wife remains with her husband till the first great meeting, when the bargain is confirmed. This
amicable separation does not create any ill feeling between the parties, as the woman is always kind to her first husband without causing any jealousy on the part of the second. Such transactions, although lawful, may not be approved of by the woman's relatives, and she is liable to be speared by her brother.

A single woman or widow belonging to a chief's family, can, with his consent, marry another chief, or his son, by simply sitting down in his wuurn beside his wife, who cannot prevent the match. But the first wife is always the mistress.

A young chief who cannot get a wife, and falls in love with one belonging to a chief who has more than two, can, with her consent, challenge the husband to single combat, and, if he defeats him, he makes her his legal wife; but the defeated husband never afterwards speaks to her.

A man falling in love with a young woman who will not consent to marry him, tries to get a lock of her hair, and, should he obtain it, he covers it with fat and red clay, and carries it about with him for one year. The knowledge of this so depresses the woman that she pines away. Should she die, her relatives and friends attribute her death to his having cast a spell over her, and they punish the man severely, and keep up enmity against him for a long time. In consequence of this superstition, the natives always burn their superfluous hair in a fire outside their dwellings; never in the domestic fire, as the remains of it would get among their food.

When a wife treats her husband with such persistent disrespect or unkindness as to make him wish to get quit of her, he casts a spell over her in the following manner. While she is asleep he cuts off a lock of her hair, and ties it to the bone hook of his 'spear thrower,' and covers it with a coating of gum. Early next morning he goes to a neighbouring tribe, and stays with them. At the first great meeting of the tribes he gives the 'spear thrower' to a friend, who sticks it upright before the camp fire every night, and when it falls over he considers that a sign that his wife is dead. But until he is assured by a messenger that such is the case, he will not return to his tribe. In the meantime, as the wife has not been legally separated from her husband, she cannot marry; and as she is constantly subjected to the sneers and taunts of her friends, she ultimately visits her husband, apologizes for her conduct, and brings him home. As an earnest of reconciliation and mutual confidence the spear thrower is broken and thrown into a water-hole.

After marriage, the women are compelled to do all the hard work of erecting
habitations, collecting fuel and water, carrying burdens, procuring roots and delicacies of various kinds, making baskets for cooking roots and other purposes, preparing food, and attending to the children. The only work the men do, in time of peace, is to hunt for opossums and large animals of various kinds, and to make rugs and weapons. But, notwithstanding this drudgery, and the apparent hard usage to which the women are subjected, there is no want of affection amongst the members of a family.

## CHAPTER XII.

## CHILDREN.

A woman near her confinement is called a 'moægorm,' and must stay at home, in her husband's wuurn, as much as possible. When she has occasion to quit the wuurn, any person who meets her must leave the path, and keep away from her.

During her confinement her husband lives elsewhere; the neighbouring wuurns are temporarily deserted; and everyone is sent away from the vicinity except two married women, who stay with her. Should she not have a mother to attend on her, a professional woman, 'gneein'-two of whom are generally attached to each tribe-is sent for, and compelled to nurse her and the baby till she is able to attend to it, and to resume the performance of her domestic duties. In return for these services the nurse is kindly treated and well fed, and generally presented with an opossum rug. The sick woman is not assisted in any way, and everything is left to nature. She is allowed very little solid food for some time, and only tepid water to drink; and, if necessary, is kept warm with hot stones. The women rarely die in childbirth.

When newly born an infant is not black, and the dark colour appears first on the brow, and spreads gradually over the body. The child is not bandaged in any way, but laid before the fire on soft, dry grass, and afterwards wrapped in an opossum rug. It receives no nourishment of any kind for twenty-four hours, and no medicine. If the child seem to be still-born, the nurse repeats the names of all her acquaintances in her own and neighbouring tribes; and, if it show signs of life on her mentioning one of them, it gets the name of that person, who afterwards takes a kindly interest in it, makes it presents, and shows it attention at the great meetings. In two or three days the husband comes to see his wife and child, and the neighbours again occupy their usual residences. If the infant is a boy, the nearest relative is the father; if it is a girl, the nearest relative is the mother.

Married women voluntarily assist each other in rearing their babies when the mothers are unable to do so, or are in bad health. Should this not be done voluntarily, the chief can make it compulsory.

Until a child is able to walk its mother seldom carries it in her arms, but keeps it on her back under the opossum rug. The rug is worn round the shoulders with the fur side inwards, and is fixed with a wooden pin in front. As every woman carries on her back, outside her rug, a bag suspended from her shoulders by a belt of kangaroo skin, a pouch is thus formed for her baby in a fold of the rug above the bag; and to give the bag solidity, and thus prevent the child from slipping down, stones are sometimes carried in it, in addition to the articles which it usually contains. When the mother wishes to remove the child, she reaches over her shoulder, and pulis it out by the arms. She replaces it in the same way.

To assist the child in cutting its teeth there is fastened to its wrist by a strip of skin a kangaroo front tooth, which is used as a 'coral,' to rub its gums with. As soon as it has teeth to masticate its food, it is fed on anything partaken of by its parents, in addition to the maternal nourishment, which is generally continued for two years.

Children under twelve or fourteen years of age wear no clothing of any kind. When the family is travelling, the youngest child under two years old is carried on the mother's back beneath her rug, occasionally in company with a young dingo. When obliged to leave its comfortable pouch to make room for another arrival, it rides on its father's back for a year or two, with a leg over each shoulder, and both hands holding on to his front hair. In cold weather, the children, while sitting in the wuurn, are covered with a single kangaroo skin or a small opossum rug, thrown over their shoulders; but when they go outside they leave the skin or rug behind, as they prefer keeping them dry for inside comfort.

Boys have their food regulated and restricted to certain articles, and they are permitted to engage in fights only to the extent of picking up and returning spears and boomerangs to their friends. Girls have for their amusement a wooden doll covered with opossum skin, and furnished with a little basket on its back in imitation of the mother.

Large families of children are unusual among the aborigines. However many may be born, rarely more than four are allowed to grow up. Five is considered a large number to rear. Twins are as common among them as among Europeans; but as food is occasionally very scarce, and a large family troublesome to move about, it is lawful and customary to destroy the weakest twin child, irrespective of sex. It is usual also to destroy those which are malformed.

Malformations, however, were so rare before the arrival of the white man that no instances could be remembered. When a woman has children too rapidly for the convenience and necessities of the parents, she makes up her mind to let one be killed, and consults with her husband which it is to be. As the strength of a tribe depends more on males than females, the girls are generally sacrificed. The child is put to death and buried, or burned without ceremony; not, however, by its father or mother, but by relatives. No one wears mourning for it. Sickly children are never killed on account of their bad health, and are allowed to die naturally.

No attention is paid to nævus marks on infants-which, in the aborigines show darker in colour than the surrounding skin-as these marks are attributed by them, not to the spells of enemies, but to frights, falls, or blows sustained by the mother.

Mischievous and thievish children are not personally punished by the individuals whom they may injure, as that would lead to quarrels, but the parents are held responsible; and, should they refuse redress, they are dealt with according to the laws of the tribe.

Every person speaks the tribal language of the father, and must never mix it with any other. The mother of a child is the only exception to this law, for, in talking to it, she must use its father's language as far as she can, and not her own. At the same time, she speaks to her husband in her own tribal language, and he speaks to her in his; so that all conversation is carried on between husband and wife in the same way as between an Englishman and a Frenchwoman, each speaking his or her own language. This very remarkable law explains the preservation of so many distinct dialects within so limited a space, even where there are no physical obstacles to ready and frequent communication between the tribes. The only explanation which is given by the aborigines for this law is, that the attempt of one tribe to speak or to intone the language of another is a caricature of it, and is never made except in derision, with the intention of provoking a quarrel. Since the arrival of the Europeans this law has, to a certain extent, been disregarded, and individuals are now to be found who can speak three distinct languages, besides their own, and also very correct English. Yarruum Parpurr Tarneen, the very intelligent chiefess of the Morpor tribe, is an instance of this; and she states that there are only four languages between Geelong and the South Australian boundary that she does not understand.

## CHAPTER XIII.

## NAMES OF PERSONS.

UNTLL a child is able to walk it is not distinguished by any individual name, and is called by the general term 'puupuup.' When it learns to walk, the father gives it a name. If the father is dead, the grandfather confers the name; and, failing him, the mother or nearest relative does so. The first child of either sex is called after its father, and the second, if a daughter, after its mother. If requested, the father will name his other children after friends, who call them 'laing,' meaning 'namesake,' and who are ever afterwards kind to them. In return, they address their godfathers by the same term. When children are not thus called after a friend, their names are taken from something in the neighbourhood, such as a swamp, rivulet, waterhole, hill, or animal; or from some peculiarity in the child or in its parents. Girls are sometimes named after Howers.

The name does not necessarily adhere to the individual during life. People sometimes exchange names as a mark of friendship. But as this would lead to confusion if it were done privately, it takes place only at one of the great meetings of the tribes, when the parties are full-grown, in order that every person may be informed of it, and may know that the chiefs and the parents give their consent, without which the exchange would not be permitted. The ceremony commences by the friends of each of the persons ranging themselves in opposite lines, with the principals in the centre facing each other, with firebrands in their hands. The chiefs inquire into the wishes of the parties, proclaim the names, and declare them exchanged for ever; and the principals then hand to each other their fire-sticks, weapons, and all other personal property. A man who wishes thus to express his love for a little boy two or three years old, or a woman who wishes to signify her affection for a little girl, can, with the consent of the parents and the chief, exchange names by tying strips of kangaroo skin round each of their own wrists, and the wrists of the children. These strips must remain till the transfer of rugs, personal property, and fire-sticks takes place at the first great meeting. Women's names are not
changed by marriage; and they are always addressed and known by their maiden names, unless they are exchanged publicly.

Personal names are rarely perpetuated, as it is believed that anyone adopting that of a deceased person will not live long. This superstition accounts for the great number of unmeaning names in a tribe. When a dead man or woman is referred to, it is by the general term 'muuruukan'-' dead person;' but when the time of mourning has expired, they can be spoken of by name, though still with very great unwillingness. If they need to be named by strangers during the period of mourning, it must be in whispers. As a great favour to the writer, references were made by name to deceased relatives; but this was done with so much reluctance, that in several instances the inquiry had to be abandoned without obtaining the desired information; and one man would not pronounce his own name because it was the sarne as that of his deceased brother. Not only is the name of a deceased person forbidden to be mentioned, but the names of all his near relatives are disused during the period of mourning, and they are mentioned only in general terms, as exemplified below. To call them by their own names is considered an insult to the deceased, and frequently leads to fighting and bloodshed.

When a man's father dies, the man is called ... ... Palliin ... ... Parrapeetch
When a man's mother dies, the man is called ... ...
When a woman's father dies, the woman is called ...
When a woman's mother dies, the woman is called ... Palliin kuurk
... Kokæheear
When a man's brother or sister dies, the man is called ...
When a woman's brother or sister dies, the woman is called ... ... ...
When an uncle on father's side dies his nephew is called ... ... ... Palliin ... ... Parrapeetch

When an uncle on mother's
side dies, his nephew is
called ... ... ... Kurm kurm kuurk ... Kun kun yaa
When an uncle on father's side dies, his niece is called
Palliin kuurk ... Parrapæheear

When an uncle on mother's side dies, his niece is called
When a male cousin dies, a male cousin is called ... Gnullii yuurpeetch ... Parrap tow'will
When a female cousin dies, a
female cousin is called ... Gnullii yuurpee kuurk... Parrap tow'will heear
A similar law regulates the names of animals and things after which a deceased person had been called. Thus, if a man is called after an animal, or place, or thing, and he dies, the animal, or place, or thing is not mentioned during the time of mourning by any member of the deceased person's tribe, except under another name, because it recalls the memory of the dead.

For Example:-
The crow, waa, is called narrapart.
The magpie, or piping crow, kirrææ, is called paalbaluum.
The common cockatoo, gnilyuuk, is called narrapart.
The black cockatoo, wilann, is called waang.
The grey duck, tuurbarnk, is called kulkuwæær.
The gigantic crane, or native companion, kuuront, is called kuuluur kuyætch.
The eagle, kneeangar, is called tiiro mænk.
The turkey bustard, barrim barrim, is called tillit tilliitsh.
The ringtail opossum, weearn, is called manuungkuurt.
The dasyure, or common native cat, kuppung, is called tulla meealeem.
The dingo, or wild dog, burnang, is called parroætch.
The kangaroo, kuuriin, is called warrakuul.
The carpet, or tiger snake, kuurang, is called killaweetch.
The black snake, mowang, is called kundareetch
Tussock grass, parret, is called pallingii.
A swamp, yaang, is called warrumpeetch.

## NAMES OF MEN.

The following are the names of men, with their meanings:-
Kaawirn kuunawarn ... ... 'Hissing swan'
(Chief of the Kirræ waurong-'blood-lip'-tribe, named after the noise the swans made when he robbed their nests.)
Wombeet tuulawarn... ... ... 'Rotten spear'
(From the old decayed spears his father carried.)
Gnuurnecheean ... ... ... Hunting bag
Puunmuttal ... ... ... Bite meat

Weerat kuyuut ... ... ... Eel spear
Pundeet puulotong ... ... ... Dragger out of fat
Teel meetch willa neung ... ... Untied eel spear
Wittin yuurong ... ... ... Strips of skin
Yambeetch... ... ... ... Swamp weed
Laaweet tarnæ ... ... ... You eat my food
Wuromkil wuurong ... ... ... Long lip
Purteetch wirrang ween ... ... Fight with fire-stick
Wol muutang ... ... ... Lightwood tree
Gnunnahiniitch ... ... ... Bat
Peaalkoæ ... ... ... ... Redgum tree
Wuruum kuurwhin ... ... ... Long grass burning
Wuuro killink ... ... ... Long waterhole
Nuurtekel wing ... ... ... Deaf
Muuroæ wuulok ... ... ... Seed of long grass
Tiyeer bariin ... ... ... Spear knee
Puunmirng... ... ... ... Swamp-local name
Puunbat ... ... ... ... Local name
Marrohmuuk ... ... ... Swamp-local name
Puulepeetch ... ... ... Bald head
Tuulirn beem ... ... ... Red head
Naaweetch... ... ... ... Swamp water
Tumeetch puuruutch ... ... Calves with large veins
Warrowill ... ... ... ... Swamp-local name
Wombeetch puyuun ... ... ... Decayed kangaroo
Wullæ merrii ... ... ... Stony


## NAMES OF WOMEN.

Yarruun parpur tarneen ... ... 'Victorious'
(Chiefess of the Morporr tribe, named by her father after defeating his enemies in a great battle.)
Muulapuurn yurong yaar ... ... Strips of kangaroo skin
Wuuriwuuriit ... ... ... Banksia tree
Warruum ... ... ... ... Bandicoot
Peecharn ... ... ... ... Blossom
Lærpeen tumbuur ... ... ... Singing woman
Bareetch churneen ... ... ... Cut
Poroitchol ... ... ... ... Scrubby place
Fatuurn yinheear ... ... ... Hanging root basket
Karndamaheear ... ... ... Upstanding
Walngeetch winyong ... ... Ear
Tartuu tarneen ... ... ... Turn round
Meendeaar tuakuung ... ... Dark body

| Parputeen ... | ... | ... | ... | Full |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yeetpuyeetch kamaruung |  | ... | ... | Breathless |
| Marrokeear tung an ... |  | ... | ... | Broken teeth |
| Purtkæræ ... | ... | $\ldots$ | ... | Knock dirt off tree |
| Gnaknii neear | $\ldots$ | ... | ... | Stutter |
| Koronn | ... | $\cdots$ | ... | Feather |
| Kuulern karrank | ... | ... | ... | Wattle bloom |
| Peertob | ... | ... | ... | Lake |
| Piik kuuruuk | ... | ... | ... | Water weed |
| Tumbuurn ... | ... | $\ldots$ | ... | Native daisy |
| Moyuup ... | $\ldots$ | ... | ... | Flower (with edible root) |
| Nullor | ... | ... | ... | Drosera |
| Peekirn | ... | $\ldots$ | ... | Flower of the yam |
| Mundarnin... | ... | $\ldots$ | ... | Snap with mouth |
| Muinpa apuurneen | ... | $\cdots$ | ... | Kneading |
| Kummorntok |  | $\ldots$ | ... | Name of bird |
| Weeitcho tærinyaar |  | ... | ... | Playful leaves |
| Tuppuun ... | ... | ... | . | Water lily |

Names of women, without their meanings:-

| Meen baaburneen | Kuulandarr |
| :--- | :--- |
| Nirræmeetch kuuronong | Buung'guæ |
| Wiitpurneen | Yatneetch pillæruung |
| Poatpoteen | Yillin tuupeheaar |
| Puunameen | Kuumarneen |
| Luppirnin nullohneung | Kunning juung |
| Yerrkombeen | Morpræwirngnong |
| Luupir purneen | Peeka |
| Yaabuur |  |

The distinction of gender between these proper names, though not recognizable by the white man, is discerned at once by the aborigines.

Besides proper names, some men are nicknamed after peculiarities in their persons, or habits, such as-

Kuunjeetch ... ... ... Blind
Kiiam mirng ... ... ... One eye

| Warn mirng | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Squint eye |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pappakupee yanmeetch | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Hopping |  |
| Gnuttcheep gnuttcheep | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Cripple leg |  |
| Mærng barriin | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Crooked knee |
| Muulpæn ... | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Leg cut off below knee |
| Porrgnomæt | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Deformed ankle |
| Tinnang wuumpmæt | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Club foot |  |
| Wuurk gnaato | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Broken arm |
| Morrdilwuurk | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Arm cut off at shoulder |
| Morrwhork | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Arm cut off at elbow |
| Tinning tinning turam | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Stout man |  |

The nicknames of women are distinguished by the feminine affix, such as-

Kuunjee heear ... ... ... Blind female
Kiiam minyaar ... ... ... One-eyed female
Warn minkgneear .. ... ... Squint-eyed female
Pappakupee yanmeheear ... ... Hopping female
Gnuttcheep gnuttcheep heear ... ... Cripple leg female
Mæring barring heear ... ... Crooked knee female
Porrgnomæheear ... ... ... Deformed ankle female
Tinnang wuumpmæheear ... ... Club foot female
Wuurkna heearong ... ... ... Broken arm female
Morrkilwuurk heear ... ... Arm cut off at shoulder female
Morrwhork heear ... ... ... Arm cut off at elbow female
Tinning tinning turam gneear... ... Stout female
White people are also named after their peculiarities, or after localities, such as kuurn wirndill, 'little bottle,' from the person carrying a flask of spirits while travelling.

Teeri yeetch beem ... ... ... Red head
Pæteritt ... ... ... ... Lapwing


| Tachwirring | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Eat ghost |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Kuurpeen mumkilling | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Live beside waterhole |  |
| Konngill ... | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Doctor |
| Narrakebeen | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | No meaning |
| Luppertan tullineann | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Speaker of native language |  |

Dogs are generally named after their owners, and when the latter are addressed the dogs recognize the names, and wag their tails. Other names are-

Wirng an ... ... ... ... 'Ear mine'
Peechilakk... ... ... ...
Puunmirng... ... ... ... Name of swamp
Waameetch cheearmart ... ... Swelled chest
Kæræreetch ... ... ...
Howlæluya ... ... ... Hallelujah
Karlo ... ... ... ... Name of Barrukills dog
Puunmæn ... ... ... ... Name of swamp

## CHAPTER XIV.

## SUPERSTITIONS AND DISEASES.

In investigating the superstitions of the aborigines, every care has been taken to exclude any superstitious notions which might have been impressed on their minds since they came in contact with the white race; and those from whom information was obtained were fully aware of the necessity of adhering strictly to the beliefs they entertained before they knew of the existence of Europeans.

It was ascertained that they believe in supernatural beings-celestial, infernal, and terrestrial.

The good spirit, Pirnmeheeal, is a gigantic man, living above the clouds; and as he is of a kindly disposition, and harms no one, he is seldom mentioned, but always with respect. His voice, the thunder, is listened to with pleasure, as it does good to man and beast, by bringing rain, and making grass and roots grow for their benefit. But the aborigines say that the missionaries and government protectors have given them a dread of Pirnmeheeal; and they are sorry that the young people, and many of the old, are now afraid of a being who never did any harm to their forefathers.

The bad spirit, Muuruup, sometimes called 'Wambeen neung been-been aa,' 'maker of bad-smelling smoke,' is always spoken of with fear and bated breath, as the author of every misfortune. He visits the earth in the form of lightning, knocking trees to pieces, setting fire to wuurns, and killing people by 'striking them on the back.' At times he assumes the form of a large ugly man, frequenting scrubs and dense thickets; and, although not provided with wings, like the white man's devil, he flits and darts from place to place with the rapidity of lightning, is very mischievous, and hungers for the flesh of children. The natives are not much afraid of Muuruup in the daylight, but have a great dread of him in the dark. They say that he employs the owls to watch and give notice when he may pounce upon any unfortunate straggler from the camp. Hence their hatred of owls, as birds of evil omen. When one of these birds is heard screching or hooting, the children immediately crawl under their grass mats. If children are troublesome at any time, they are hushed by their mother
calling out 'kaka muuruup,' Come here, devil.' None of the Kuurn kopan noot tribe ever saw the Muuruup, but believe he was once seen by two natives of the Chaap wuurong tribe at Merrang, on the Hopkins River, when that country was first occupied with live stock; and they described him as a huge black man, carrying a great many spears, with a long train of snakes streaming behind him, 'like smoke from a steamboat.'

The Muuruup lives deep under the ground in a place called Ummekulleen, and has under his command a number of inferior spirits, who are permitted to visit the surface of the earth occasionally. No human being has ever returned to tell what kind of place Ummekulleen is. There is a belief, however, that there is nothing but fire there, and that the souls of bad people get neither meat nor drink, and are terribly knocked about by the evil spirits.

A spirit lives in the moon, called Muuruup neung kuurn tarrong'gnat, meaning 'devil in the moon.' Children are sometimes threatened, when they are bad, that this Muuruup will be sent for to take them to the moon.

Of terrestrial spirits there are devils, wraiths, ghosts, and witches, the differences between them being somewhat indefinite.

There are female devils, known by the general term Gnulla gnulla gneear. Buurt kuuruuk is the name of one who takes the form of a black woman 'as tall as a gum tree.' She has for a companion the dark-coloured bandicoot. If this animal be killed and eaten by a native, he is punished by misfortunes and by nightly visitations from Buurt kuuruuk. There is a legend that she carried off a woman from near the mouth of the Hopkins River to her wuurn on the top of the Cape Otway mountains, and compelled her to eat raw opossums for six moons. Various parts of the country are supposed to be haunted by these female devils ; but none are so celebrated for their great size as those frequenting the Cape Otway ranges. The aborigines do not believe in any devils belonging to the sea.

Every person over four or five years of age has a spirit or ghost, which, although dormant through life, assumes a visible but undefined form after death; and, for a time, haunts the spot where a corpse is interred or placed in a tree. Although it is considered to be quite harmless, it is regarded with fear. It is said to be seen sitting on the grave or near the body, but it sinks into the ground or disappears if anyone approaches. As the friends of the deceased are very unwilling to go near the place, it is seldom seen and never examined. For its comfort a large fire is kept burning all night near the corpse. The recent custom
of providing food for it is derided by the intelligent old aborigines, as 'white fellow's gammon.'

It is a remarkable coincidence with the superstition of the lower orders in Europe, that the aborigines believe every adult has a wraith, or likeness of himself, which is not visible to anyone but himself, and visible to him only before his premature death. If he is to die from the bite of a snake, he sees his wraith in the sun; but in this case it appears in the form of an emu. If, in the evening, after sunset, a person walking with a friend sees his own likeness-' muuruup man,' and, if a woman, 'muuruup yernan,'-the friend says, 'Something will happen to you, as you have seen your wraith.' This so preys on the mind of the individual that he falls into low spirits, which he tries to relieve by recklessness and carelessness in battle.

After the disposal of the body of a good person, its shade walks about for three days; and, although it appears to people, it holds no communication with them. Should it be seen and named by anyone during these three days, it instantly disappears. At the expiry of three days it goes off to a beautiful country above the clouds, abounding with kangaroo and other game, where life will be enjoyed for ever. Friends will meet and recognize each other there; but there will be no marrying, as the bodies have been left on earth. Children under four or five years of age have no souls and no future life. The shades of the wicked wander miserably about the earth for one year after death, frightening people, and then descend to Ummekulleen, never to return. There was a belief current among the aborigines, that the first white men seen by them were the embodied spirits or shades of deceased friends. Whether this belief originated with the tribes of Port Phillip, or was transmitted from the Sydney district, it is now impossible to ascertain; but there is no doubt that it did exist among the aborigines of Victoria at the time of its first occupation by the white man.

Some of the ideas described above may possibly have originated with the white man, and been transmitted from Sydney by one tribe to another.

On the sea coast, opposite Deen Maar-now, unfortunately, called Julia Percy Island-there is a haunted cave called Tarn wirring, 'road of the spirits,' which, the natives say, forms a passage between the mainland and the island, When anyone dies in the neighbourhood, the body is wrapped in grass and buried; and if, afterwards, grass is found at the mouth of the cave, it is proof that a good spirit, called Puit puit chepetch, has removed the body and everything belonging to it through the cave to the island, and has conveyed its spirit to the clouds;
and if a meteor is seen about the same time, it is believed to be fire taken up with it. Should fresh grass be found near the cave, when no recent burial has taken place, it indicates that some one has been murdered, and no person will venture near it till the grass decays or is removed.

Witches appear always in the form of an old woman, and are called kuin'gnat yambateetch, meaning 'solitary,' or 'wandering by themselves.' No one knows where they come from or where they go to; and they are seldom seen unless at great meetings. They are dressed in an old ragged kangaroo skin rug, sewn together with rushes, and carry on their backs a worn-out basket containing various charms, and bits of the flesh of opossums and bandicoots. They belong to no tribe, and have no friends; and, as everyone runs away on their approach, they neither speak to anyone nor are spoken to. They are considered harmless.

There is a belief in prognostication of dreams. If a man dreams he will find a swan's nest in some particular spot, he visits the place with the expectation of finding it. If he dreams that something serious happens to him, as, for example, that he is mortally wounded in battle, and if, afterwards, he is wounded, he says, 'I knew that this would take place, for I dreamt it;' and so deeply is he impressed with the idea of approaching death, that he rushes wildly into the fight. If a man is told by a friend that he had a bad dream about him, this will make him very miserable and ill for a long time. If a dog shows agitation while asleep, that is a sign that he dreams of hunting kangaroos, and that he will kill one next day ; and so confident is his master in the dog's dream, that he will go out with him the next day to help him.

The aborigines have superstitious ideas connected with certain animals. The grey bandicoot belongs to the women, and is killed and eaten by them, but not by the men or children. Boys are not allowed to eat any female quadruped. When they are caught eating a female opossum, they are punished by their parents, as it makes them peevish and discontented. The common bat belongs to the men, who protect it against injury, even to the half-killing of their wives for its sake. The fern owl, or large goatsucker, belongs to the women, and, although a bird of evil omen, creating terror at night by its cry, it is jealously protected by them. If a man kills one, they are as much enraged as if it was one of their children, and will strike him with their long poles. Children are severely punished if they kill and eat the magpie lark, for it makes their hair prematurely white. The shepherd's companion belongs to both men and women, and is never killed, because it attacks snakes, and gives warning of their
approach. The pelican and its eggs are never eaten, but only because they are too strongly flavoured and fishy.

Kokok, the powerful owl, is a bird of evil omen, smells death in the camp, and visits the neighbourhood of a dying person, calling 'Kokok-kokok.' It is therefore hated by men, women, and children. It is of a fierce disposition, vigorously attacking anyone who approaches its nest; and, as it has a strong spur on the carpal joint of the wing, a blow from it is not pleasant. It is also disliked because it kills opossums, flying squirrels, and small animals, the food of the natives. The kokok builds its nest of reeds and sedges in the blackwood tree, and lays three eggs, which are sought after and eaten.

A porcupine ant-eater coming near a dwelling is a sign that someone in it will die before long. The cries of the banksian and white cockatoos announce the approach of friends. An itchy nose indicates a visit from a friend.

If a person imagines that he sees the planet Venus set twice in one night, it warns him of his death before morning. With this exception the aborigines do not predict events from the position of the stars.

The cause of an echo is not understood, but it is supposed to be something mysterious mocking the speaker.

The mantis belongs to the men, and no one dare kill it. Women are not permitted to eat the flesh or eggs of the gigantic crane, or of the emu, till they are old and greyheaded. If a baby is taken near the dead body of a gigantic crane, it is certain to break out in sores.

Pork is generally rejected by the natives because they believe it produces skin disease; but, as swine were unknown before the arrival of the white men, the idea of their flesh being unclean and unhealthy must have been impressed on them by the first settlers, and probably as a means of protecting from depredation their pigs, which were always allowed to run at large.

Strange spears and weapons are reluctantly touched, as it is believed they communicate sickness, and might cause death. It was with difficulty that some of the aborigines could be prevailed upon to take hold of spears, arrows, and clubs from the Society Islands. When the spear or weapon of an enemy has killed a friend, it is always burnt by the relatives of the deceased; but those captured in battle are kept, and used by the conquerors.

Fire caused by lightning is called 'Pillætuung murndall gnat'- -supernatural fire belonging to thunder'-and is shunned, because there is a belief that the lightning hangs about the spot, and would kill anyone going near it. However
much the natives may be in want of a firestick in travelling through the bush, they will not take a light from a strange fire unless they observe the footprints of human beings near it, indicating that it has been kindled by man. Neither will they take a light from a funeral pyre.

There is a tradition that fire, such as could be safely used, belonged exclusively to the crows inhabiting the Grampian Mountains; and, as these crows considered it of great value, they would not allow any other animal to get a light. However, a little bird called Yuuloin keear- 'fire-tail wren'-observing the crows amusing themselves by throwing firesticks about, picked up one, and flew away with it. A hawk called Tarrakukk took the firestick from the wren, and set the whole country on fire. From that time there have always been fires from which lights could be obtained.

There is a superstition, called Wuurong, connected with the tracking and killing of kangaroos. In hot weather a doctor, or other person possessed of supernatural powers, looks for the footprints of a large kangaroo. On finding them he follows them up, putting hot embers on them, and continues the quest for two days, or until he tracks it to a water-hole, where he spears it. He then presents portions of the body to his nearest neighbours, and takes the head home to his own wuurn. There seems to be no special meaning attached to this custom.

The aborigines believe that if an enemy get possession of anything that has belonged to them-even such things as bones of animals which they have eaten, broken weapons, feathers, portions of dress, pieces of skin, or refuse of any kindhe can employ it as a charm to produce illness in the person to whom they belonged. They are, therefore, very careful to burn up all rubbish or uncleanness before leaving a camping-place. Should anything belonging to an unfriendly tribe be found at any time, it is given to the chief, who preserves it as a means of injuring the enemy. This wuulon, as it is called, is lent to any one of the tribe who wishes to vent his spite against any one belonging to the unfriendly tribe. When used as a charm, the wuulon is rubbed over with emu fat mixed with red clay, and tied to the point of a spear-thrower, which is stuck upright in the ground before the camp fire. The company sit round watching it, but at such a distance that their shadows cannot fall on it. They keep chanting imprecations on the enemy till the spear-thrower, as they say, turns round and falls down in the direction of the tribe the wuulon belongs to. Hot ashes are then thrown in the same direction, with hissing and curses, and wishes that disease and misfortune may overtake their enemy.

As a mark of affection, locks of hair are exchanged by friends, and are worn round the neck, tied to the necklace. Should one of these be lost, most diligent search is made for it, as it is considered very unlucky to lose or give away a keepsake. If it be not found, the person who holds possession of the other lock of hair is asked to undo the exchange by returning it. If this were not done, the loser of the lock would die. So strong is this belief, that people in such circumstances often fall into bad health, and sometimes actually die.

The aborigines had among them sorcerers and doctors, whom they believed to possess supernatural powers. In the Kolor tribe there was a sorceress well known in the Western district under the name of White Lady, who was the widow of the chief, and whose supernatural influence was much dreaded by all. As an emblem of her power, she had a long staff resembling a vaulting pole, made of very heavy wood, and painted red. This pole, which she said was given to her by the spirits, was carried before her by a 'strong man' when she visited her friends or attended a meeting. On occasions of ceremony, it was dressed up with feathers of various colours, and surmounted by a bunch of the webs of the wing feathers of the white cockatoo. The pole-bearer, whose name was Weereen Kuuneetch, acted also as her servant. After ushering her to the meeting, he hid the pole at a short distance from the camp, while singing and amusements were going on, as it was too sacred to be exposed to common inspection. At bedtime he brought it into the circle by her direction, and held it upright before the fire, as a signal of retirement for the night. At her death the pole was carried off by the spirits, and no one has seen it since.

In order to support her pretensions to supernatural power, she would, on some moonlight night, leave the camp with an empty bag made of netted bark cord, and return with it full of snakes. These she said were spirits. No one, therefore, dare go near them or look at them. She described one as pure white, another black; the rest were young ones. She emptied the bag near the fire and made them crawl around it, by pointing with a long stick, and speaking to them. On another occasion, having left the camp for awhile on a moonlight night, she pretended, on her return, that she had been to the moon; and, in proof of her visit, produced a tail of a lunar kangaroo-an old fur boa which she had got from the whites. Besides this boa she had a number of charms round her neck, and, in her bag portions of the bones of animals, beads, pieces of crockery, bits of brass and iron, and strangely-shaped stones, each having its particular spell, and capable of producing good or evil, as suited her interests. This clever old witch
was very much annoyed when any white person scrutinized and exposed the contents of her bag; but the natives, though the more sensible of them were not sorry to see her powers and mysterious charms ridiculed, were too much afraid of her to smile, or join in any mirth at her expense.

White Lady was an honorary member of the teetotal society, and carried a temperance badge suspended from her neck, which she said told her ' not to drink spirits.' When an opportunity occurred, however, to get a drop of rum, she took off the badge and hid it in the ground, and, when sober, put it on again. She also had a cross suspended in the same way, which she said 'yabbered,' 'do not tell lies,' 'do not kill anybody,' 'do not steal potatoes;' but, when hunger prompted a raid on a potato field, the cross was temporarily buried in like manner. This cunning woman possessed such power over the minds of her tribe that anything she fancied was at once given to her. When she died, at Kangatong, her death was followed by the usual wailing and scratching of faces amongst her friends during the whole night; but, as she had been such a terror to her tribe on account of her reputed powers for evil, there was more form than sincerity in their professions of grief. The following day her body and all her property, consisting of clothing, opossum rug, ornaments and spells, were placed on a bier made of saplings, and silently carried off by the friends and relatives, and interred in a grave two feet deep. Her head, however, and portions of the legs and arms were buried in a cave near Mount Kolor, where she was born.

Every tribe has its doctor, in whose skill great confidence is reposed; and not without reason, for he generally prescribes sensible remedies. When these fail, he has recourse to supernatural means and artifices of various kinds.

The following remedies are those most commonly used. In cases of pain in one spot the skin is scarified, and the blood allowed to flow freely. When the pain is general, and arises from severe cold or rheumatism, a vapour bath is produced by kindling a fire in a hole in the ground, covering it with green leares, and pouring water on them. The sick person is placed over this, and covered with an opossum rug, and steamed till profuse perspiration takes place. He is then rubbed dry with hot ashes, and ordered to keep warm. Another cure for rheumatism is an infusion of the bark of the blackwood tree, which is first roasted, and then infused while hot. The affected part is bathed with the hot infusion, and bandaged with a cord spun from the fur of the flying squirrel, or ringtail opossum, with a piece of opossum rug as a covering. Severe headaches
of long continuance, requiring strong remedies, are cured by burning off the hair and blistering the skin of the head. Earaches are treated by pouring water on hot stones placed in a hole in the ground, and holding the ear over the steam. For pains in the joints, fresh skins of eels are wrapped round the place, flesh side inwards. The same cure is very common in Scotland for a sprained wrist. Sow thistles are eaten raw to soothe pain and induce sleep. The gum of the eucalyptus, or common white gum tree, is a cure for toothache. It is stuffed into the hollow of the tooth. Teeth are never extracted unless they are loose enough to be removed by the finger and thumb. For indigestion, the small roots of the narrow-leafed gum tree, or the bark of the acacia, are infused in hot water, and the liquor drunk as a tonic. When a child gorges itself with food, its mother gathers yellow leeches from underneath dry logs, and bruises them up along with the roasted liver of kangaroo, and sow thistles, and compels it to eat the mess, which is called kallup kallup. It acts as a strong emetic. Adults, when ill from overfeeding, are sometimes induced to take this dose, in ignorance of its composition; and it affects them strongly, but beneficially. Wood ashes are applied to wounds and cuts. Burns are covered with fat. Running sores which are difficult to heal, are rubbed with the fat of the powerful owl, which dries them up quickly. The fat of large grubs is used for anointing the skin of delicate children. Women unable to nourish their newly-born infants have their breasts bathed with lime-water, which is made by burning the shells of fresh-water mussels and dissolving them in water. Every married woman carries several shells in her basket, which are commonly used as spoons.

If diseases will not yield to these ordinary remedies, the doctor invokes the aid of spirits. Visiting his patient in the evening, and finding that the case is beyond the reach of the ordinary remedies, the doctor goes up to the clouds after dark, and brings down the celebrated spirit, 'Wirtin Wirtin Jaawan,' who is said to be the mate of the 'good spirit, pringheeal.' When he is expected to arrive, the women and children are sent away from the camp, and the men sit in a circle of fifty yards in diameter, with a banksia tree in the centre. The doctor and spirit alight on the top of the tree, and jump to the ground 'with a thud like a kangaroo.' The spirit gives his name; and, after the doctor has felt all over the body of his patient, they both go up to the clouds again. It is supposed that the patient must get well. Occasionally the doctor brings down with him the spirit of the sick man, in the form of a doll wrapped in an opossum rug. This doll produces a moaning noise. The sick person is placed sitting in the middle of a
circle of friends, supported behind by one of them, and the doctor presses the rug containing the doll to the patient's chest for some minutes, and then departs.

If the sick person is a chief or a chief's wife, or of superior rank, and the doctor, on visiting him at sunset, finds it beyond his power to remove the disease in the usual way, he goes up to the clouds after dark, and fetches down ten spirits. These he places at a distance of fifty yards from the sick person. He then has a conversation with his patient, and, after kneading him all over to ascertain the seat of the disease, he informs the spirits, and they tell him what to do. Having received his instructions, he warms his right hand at the fire and rubs it over the affected spot. The spirits then depart, with a croaking noise 'like the cry of the heron.' The doctor repeats the rubbing for three nights, and then, telling the patient he will soon be well, he departs for his home, with his followers. If, at the first meeting thereafter, his patient is cured, the doctor receives presents of food, rugs, and weapons; but if he dies the doctor gets nothing.

Spirits were very plentiful before the arrival of the white man. A spring of fine water near Mount Kolor, called Lurtpii, was their favourite resort, and they were to be found there at all times by the doctor, who alone had the power to make them appear. He summoned them, however, only in summer time, while the tribes were having their meetings and amusements. The men are not much afraid of these spirits in the daytime, but the women and children are terrified at them, and nobody runs the risk of seeing them after sunset.

Sometimes, when a korroboræ has ended, the doctor of the tribe calls on three or four female spirits to come down from the clouds and dance round the fire; and, when accosted, each gives its name as that of a deceased member of the tribe. Any person may look at them, but no one except the doctor can speak to them, and nobody dares to run away.

When the white men came to Victoria, there was one doctor of great celebrity in the Western District, Tuurap Warneen, chief of the Mount Kolor tribe. So celebrated was he for his supernatural powers, and for the cure of diseases, that people of various tribes came from great distances to consult him. He could speak many dialects. At korroboræs and great meetings he was distinguished from the common people by having his face painted red, with white streaks under the eyes, and his brow-band adorned with a quill feather of the turkey bustard, or with the crest of a white cockatoo. Tuurap Warneen was
unfortunately shot by the manager of a station near Mount Kolor; and his death caused much grief to all the tribes far and near.

On one occasion, when the tribe had a great meeting at a lake called 'Tarre Yarr,' to the north of Mount Kolor, doubts were expressed as to his power to summon spirits, and make them appear at mid-day. To show he could do this, he went up to the clouds and brought down a gnulla gnulla gneear, in form of an old woman, enveloped in an opossum rug, tied round her waist with a rope of rushes. In order to thoroughly frighten the people, he held her tethered with a grass rope like a wild beast, as though to prevent her chasing and hurting them. He did not allow her to go nearer to the wuurns than about fifty yards. After exhibiting her for half an hour, he led her off. Everyone was intensely terrified at the gnulla gnulla gneear, and the doctor found her a profitable invention, as he received numerous presents of weapons, rugs, and food to kecp her away. When he was in want of a fresh supply, he could always command it by a threat of another visit from the gnulla gnulla gneear.

The doctor pretends-to cure pains of every description, and makes his patients believe-not unwillingly-that he extracts foreign substances from the body by sucking the sore places. He actually spits out bits of bone, which he had previously concealed in his mouth. He also, by rubbing, apparently makes stones jump out from the affected part.

To cure toothache, a cape made of the basket rush is worn over the shoulders and round the neck, and is laid aside when the pain is gone-its name is weearmeetch. Another remedy is the application of a heated spear-thrower to the cheek. The spear-thrower is then cast away, and the toothache goes with it in the form of a black stone, about the size of a walnut, called karriitch. Stones of this kind are found in the old mounds on the banks of the Mount Emu Creek, near Darlington. The natives believe that when these stones are thrown into the stream at a distance from their residence, they will return to the place where they were found; and as they are considered an infallible remedy for toothache, they are carefully preserved. They are also employed to make an enemy ill, and are thrown in the direction of the offending tribe, with a request to punish it with toothache. If, next day, the stones are found where originally picked up, it is believed that they have fulfilled their mission. Not far from the spot where these stones are plentiful, there is a clump of trees called karriitch -meaning toothache-and the natives of the locality warn their friends never to go near it, for if they do they will be sure to get toothache. Stones of a
similar description are found in the sand hills on the sea coast, and are put into a long bag made of rushes, which is fastened round the cheek. The doctor always carries these stones in his wallet, and lends them to sick people without fee or reward.

Sunstroke is not common, although the natives never wear any head-dress; but the effect of the sun's rays are known to be injurious to the brain, and to cause death. The rays of the moon are also believed to be hurtful; and, when the moon is looked at too long by any person, 'the devil in it makes them whirl round, and tumble helplessly into the fire.'

The aborigines were not subject, in former times, to pulmonary complaints, though they were very much exposed to the weather. At all seasons of the year the men, while travelling in a strange country, slept among bushes or long grass, often quite destitute of clothing. This was necessary to prevent surprise by enemies, who would be attracted by the smoke of a fire. Since the introduction of European clothing, however, they are very liable to affections of the lungs. The reason for this seems to be that, however much they may clothe and perspire during the daytime, they still very generally keep up the custom of throwing off their clothing when they go to sleep, with the exception of a kangaroo skin or an opossum rug in cold nights, or a little dry grass as a covering in hot weather.

The aborigines have been visited on several occasions by epidemics, which were very fatal. The first occasion which the natives remember was about the year 1830, and the last in 1847. The very small remnant of old aborigines now alive who escaped the first of these epidemics describe it as an irruptive fever resembling small-pox. They called it Meen warann-' chopped root.' They have still a very vivid recollection of its ravages, and of the great numbers cut off by it in the Western District. In remembrance of it they still chant a wail called Mallæ mallææ, which was composed in New South Wales, where the disease first broke out, and is known to all the tribes between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. The malady spread with rapidity from tribe to tribe, in consequence of the infection being carried by the messengers who were sent forward to communicate the sad news of its ravages. It was considered to be so infectious and deadly, that when anyone sickened and refused food, and when pustules appeared on the body, the tribal doctor gave them up at once, and the friends deserted them, leaving beside them in the wuurn a vessel of water to drink. When they died, the body was allowed to decay where it was; and, long afterwards, when all infection was supposed to be gone, and nothing left but bones, some of the
relatives returned, and burned the wuurn and the remains. If a mother was affected by the disease, her child was immediately removed and given to a female relative to rear, while the mother was left to die. The aborigines say that the Meen warann came from the west in form of a dense mist; and that the chief places of mortality were round the Moyne Lagoon, and on the sand hummocks to the east of Port Fairy.

At the last of these visitations, also, great numbers died near the sea coast, and were buried in the hummocks at Mill's Reef, two miles east of Port Fairy. The skeletons were exposed some years ago by the drifting of the sand, and were found to be buried in pairs. This proves that the deaths were not then considered to be caused by any contagious disease, else the relatives would have abandoned the bodies, and only returned to burn the bones. It may be here said that there was a considerable slaughter of the natives at the same place by the white men, and the natives say that those who had escaped returned after some short time and buried their dead; but they did not bury these in pairs. The writer saw, about the year 1844, an aboriginal of the Hopkins River tribe as thoroughly marked with the small-pox as ever he saw a white man.

For scabies the natives have no cure, and they treat an infected person as though he had the leprosy. They will not touch him ; and, although they supply him with food and water, they remove their wuurns to a distance, for fear of infection. On the death of the person-for the natives say that they do die of it-the body and everything near it is burned.

Scrofula is uncommon, and traces of it are seldom observable on their persons.

Cases of insanity are very rarely met with, but the aborigines believe that there is more of it since the use of intoxicating liquors was introduced, and especially since they began to disregard their laws of consanguinity in marriage. When a case of insanity occurs, a consultation is held among the relatives; and, as they have a very great dread of mad people, the afflicted person is put to death.

Children born with any deformity or defect attributable to close consanguinity, and likely to render them an encumbrance to their parents in their wanderings about the country, are destroyed. In an instance of two dumb children, which was attributed to this cause, the tribes would have put them to death but for the British law.

## CHAPTER XV.

## DEATH AND BURIAL.

Dring persons, especially those dying from old age, generally express an earnest desire to be taken to their birthplace, that they may die and be buried there. If possible, these wishes are always complied with by the relatives and friends. Parents will point out the spot where they were born, so that when they become old and infirm their children may know where they wish their bodies to be disposed of.

When old people become infirm, and unable to accompany the tribe in its wanderings, it is lawful and customary to kill them. The reasons for this arethat they are a burden to the tribe, and, should any sudden attack be made by an enemy, they are the most liable to be captured, when they would probably be tortured and put to a lingering death. When it has been decided to kill an aged member of the tribe, the relatives depute one of their number to carry out the decision. The victim is strangled with a grass rope, and the body, when cold, is burned in a large fire kindled in the neighbourhood. All his property is burned with him except rugs, weapons, and implements. In this cremation the sons and daughters and near relatives take part; and two or three friends collect the necessary firewood and attend to the fire. This custom is recognized as a necessity. There is, therefore, no concealment practised with regard to it. Very often the poor creatures intended to be strangled cry and beg for delay when they see preparations made for their death, but all in vain. The resolution is always carried out.

Suicide is uncommon; but if a native wishes to die, and cannot get any one to kill him, he will sometimes put himself in the way of a venomous snake, that he may be bitten by it. An instance is given of a determination to commit suicide. A man having killed his wife while he was intoxicated, was so sorry, on discovering what he had done, that he besought the tribe to kill him. As he was a general favourite, no one would do it. He resolved, therefore, to starve himself to death on the grave of his deceased wife. His friends, seeing his
determination, at last sent for the tribal executioner, Pundeet Puulotong, who pushed a spear through him, and the body was burned.

Natural deaths are generally-but not always-attributed to the malevolence and the spells of an enemy belonging to another tribe.

When a person of common rank dies under ordinary circumstances, and without an enemy being blamed, the body is immediately bound, with the knees upon the chest, and tied up with an acacia bark cord in an opossum rug. Next day it is put between two sheets of bark, as in a coffin, and buried in a grave about two feet deep, with the head towards the rising sun. All the ornaments, weapons, and property of the deceased are buried with him. Stone axes are excepted, as being too valuable to be thus disposed of, and are inherited by the next of kin. If there is no time to dig a grave-which occasionally happens in hot weatheror if the ground is too hard, the body is placed on a bier and removed by two men to a distance of a mile or two. There the relatives prepare a funeral pyre, on which the body is laid, with the head to the east. All the effects belonging to the deceased are laid beside the body, with the exception of stone axes. Two male relatives set fire to the pyre, and remain to attend to it till the body is consumed. Next morning, if any bones remain, they are completely pulverized and scattered about. When a married woman dies, and her body is burned, the husband puts her pounded calcined bones into a little opossum-skin bag, which he carries suspended in front of his chest until he marries again, or till the bag is worn out, when it is burned.

When two persons die in a wuurn at the same time, if they are brothers or sisters, they are interred close together in separate graves. If they are not so related, one of the bodies is tied with the knees to the face, and buried with the head towards the rising sun, in a shallow hole, or in a deserted mound; the other is put up in a tree till nothing remains but skin and bones, when it is taken down and burned.

The bodies of children between the ages of four and seven years are wrapped in an opossum rug, and put in a sheet of bark rolled up into a tube. This is pushed up into a hollow tree till the remains are quite dry, when they are taken down and burned. The bodies of children under four years of age, who have died a natural death, are kept a day and a night, and are then interred or burned without any ceremony. Infants who have been put to death by their parents, in accordance with the customs of the tribe, are burned without ceremony.

Under ordinary circumstances a corpse is kept in the wuurn one night; in very hot weather it is kept only a few hours; and, immediately on its removal, a large fire is kindled on the spot, and the wuurn and all the materials connected with it are burned. Even the grass and the leaves, if dry enough, are carefully gathered and consumed.

Before the minds of the aborigines were poisoned by the superstitions of the white people, they had not the slightest dread of the dead body of a friend, nor had they any repugnance to remain beside it. Indeed, it often occurred that, while awaiting the arrival of friends from a distance, they kept watch constantly for six days beside the corpse, and in the same wuurn; by turns sleeping and wailing, and protecting the body from the flies by green boughs of trees. They have their own superstition, however, connected with this watching; for they believe that should the corpse open its eyes and stare at any one, that person will not live long.

The approaching death of a chief causes great excitement. Messengers are sent to inform the neighbouring tribes, and all his relatives and friends come and sit around him till he expires. They then commence their mourning. They enumerate the good qualities of the deceased, and wail and lacerate their foreheads. Messengers are sent, with their heads and faces covered with white clay, to inform the tribes of his death, and to call them to attend his funeral obsequies.

Immediately after his death the bones of the lower part of the leg and of the fore-arm are extracted, cleaned with a flint knife, and placed in a basket; the body is tied with a bark cord, with the knees to the face, and wrapped in an opossum rug. It is then laid in a wuurn filled with smoke, and constantly watched by friends with green boughs to keep the flies away.

When all the mourners, with their faces and heads covered with white clay, have arrived, the body is laid on a bier formed of saplings and branches, and is placed on a stage in the fork of a tree, high enough from the ground to be out of the reach of wild dogs. Everyone then departs to his own home. The adult relatives and friends of the deceased visit the spot every few days, and weep in silence. No children accompany them, as 'they are frightened.'

At the expiry of one moon, the relatives and the members of his own and the neighbouring tribes come to burn the remains. The body is removed from the tree. Each chief, assisted by two of his men, helps to carry it, and to place it on the funeral pyre; while the relatives of the deceased sit in a semicircle to
windward of the pyre, and each tribe by itself behind them. The fire is lighted and kept together by several men of the tribe, who remain till the body is consumed, and till the ashes are sufficiently cool to allow the fragments of small bones to be gathered. These are then pounded up with a piece of wood, and put into the small bag prepared for them. The widow of the deceased chief, by first marriage, wears the bag of calcined bones suspended from her neck, and she also gets the lower bones of the right arm, which she cleans and wraps in an opossum skin. This she puts in a long basket made of rushes, and ornamented with kangaroo teeth, emu feathers, cockatoos' crest feathers, red paint, and a lock of hair of the deceased. These relics she carries for two years, and keeps them under cover, with great care. She cannot marry while she carries these. Should she resolve to be married before the two years are out, she delivers the basket and bones to her deceased husband's next widow, or widows, in succession; failing them, to his mother; but should she also be dead, she gives them to his mother's sister, if she has a family; or, lastly, to his eldest daughter, if she is married and has a family. If the deceased has left no such relatives, the widow ultimately buries the bones in a deserted mound and burns the basket.

The eldest sister of the deceased chief gets the lower bones of the left arm, and his aunts get the lower bones of the legs, which are treated in the same way. Failing sisters and aunts, the nearest female relatives, to the degree of first cousins, take their place. The only reason one can assign for the observance of this custom is to induce the relatives of chiefs to keep them alive as long as possible; for the task of carrying dead men's bones for two years cannot be an agreeable one.

The body of a chiefess is treated like that of a chief, and the bones are carried about in a basket in the same way. When the body is burned, at the termination of one moon, if the deceased was greatly beloved by her husband, he gathers the calcined bones, pounds and puts them into a small bag made of opossum skin, which he wears suspended in front of his chest for twelve moons. They are then buried. Until these relics of his wife are buried he cannot marry again. The bodies of the adult sons and daughters of chiefs are disposed of in like fashion, and their bones carried about for the same period by their mother, and other relatives in succession.

If a chief dies of disease which is attributed to the spell of an enemy, his body is put up in a tree and watched all night by a dozen or more of his friends, who conceal themselves behind a log near the body. One of them in a low tone of voice
calls on the spirits to appear. Sparks like "lighted matches" then come out of the ground, followed by several spirits. The most conspicuous of these spirits represents the person who bewitched the deceased. They then disappear for ever. Some time ago an aboriginal man named Buckley was found dead near Camperdown: his body was put up in a tree and watched. The aborigines declared that the spirits came, but nothing was done to avenge his death.

A widower mourns for his wife for three moons. Every second night he wails and recounts her good qualities, and lacerates his forehead with his nails till the blood flows down his cheeks, and he covers his head and face with white clay. He must continue to mourn and wear the white clay for other nine moons, unless he shall succeed in taking a human life in revenge for her death. If he cease wearing the clay before the expiry of three moons without taking a life, his deceased wife's relatives say 'he has told a lie,' and they will attempt to kill him. If the woman left a child, it is taken from its father and given to its grandmother or grandfather to rear ; but if its father succeeds in taking a life, he has a right to take it back. When the husband has had a great affection for his wife, and is anxious to give expression to his grief, he burns himself across the waist in three lines with a red-hot piece of bark.

A widow mourns for her husband for twelve moons. She cuts her hair quite close, and burns her thighs with hot ashes pressed down on them with a piece of bark, till she screams with agony. Every second night she wails and recounts his good qualities, and lacerates her forehead till the blood flows down her cheeks. At the same time she covers her head and face with white clay. This she must do for three moons, on pain of death. The white clay is worn for twelve moons. Sometimes, towards the end of the period of mourning, one or two stripes of pale brown are painted across the nose and under the eyes, and near the end of the time the colour is changed to red.

For the same period, and in like manner, adults mourn for a father or mother, and parents mourn for their children if over three moons old. Children are not allowed to paint their heads and faces, but are obliged to show their grief by lacerating their brows and crying. While parents are mourning for their children, they live in a separate wuurn away from their friends. In their lamentations and wailings for the dead, the aborigines always enumerate all the good qualities of the deceased; and they appear to mourn sincerely.

The relatives-as far as cousins-of a deceased chief must mourn for him for twelve moons. The other members of the tribe must also mourn for
the same period; but if an enemy has been blamed for the death, and they succeed in killing a man of another-but not a contiguous-tribe, they at once remove the clay and paint from their heads and faces, and their mourning is ended. It is the same with a deceased chiefess; but the mourning for her lasts only six moons, and the person to be killed for her must be a woman.

The widow of a chief can return to her own tribe, but she cannot take her children with her, as they belong to the tribe of their father. If they are left with it by their mother, their nearest relatives are obliged to support and take care of them.

After the dead are finally disposed of, no amusements are permitted among the relatives of the deceased for two or three days; and if any levity is observed among them by the next of kin, he is entitled to take the life of one of them. Even hunting for food is not allowed until the brother or nearest male relative grants permission.

A very strange and revolting custom is practised in connection with the disposal of the bodies of those who have lost their lives by violence; and this custom has given rise to the idea that the aborigines are cannibals.

There is not the slightest doubt that the eating of human flesh is practised by the aborigines, but only as a mark of affectionate respect, in solemn service of mourning for the dead. The flesh of enemies is never eaten, nor of members of other tribes. The bodies of relatives of either sex, who have lost their lives by violence, are alone partaken of ; and even then only if the body is not mangled, or unhealthy, or in poor condition, or in a putrid state. The boy is divided among the adult relatives-with the exception of nursing or pregnant womenand the flesh of every part is roasted and eaten but the vitals and intestines, which are burned with the bones. If the body be much contused, or if it have been pierced by more than three spears, it is considered too much mangled to be eaten. The body of a woman who has had children is not eaten. When a child over four or five years of age is killed accidentally, or by one spear wound only, all the relatives eat of it except the brothers and sisters. The flesh of a healthy, fat, young woman, is considered the best; and the palms of the hands are considered the most delicate portions.

On remarking to the aborigines that the eating of the whole of the flesh of a dead body by the relatives had the appearance of their making a meal of it, they said that an ordinary-sized body afforded to each of numerous adult relatives only a mere tasting; and that it was eaten with no desire to gratify or appease the appetite, but only as a symbol of respect and regret for the dead.

## CHAPTER XVI.

## AVENGING OF DEATH.

A dying person, who believes that sorcery and incantations are the cause of his illness, intimates to his friends the number of persons in the suspected tribe whom they are to kill. Sometimes the individual who is believed to be the cause of his illness is named by the dying person.

When the offeading tribe is not otherwise revealed, the question is decided, after the body has been put up into the tree, by watching the course taken by the first maggot which drops from the body and crawls over the clean-swept ground underneath. If the body has been buried, the surface of the grave is swept and smoothed carefully; then the first ant which crosses it indicates the direction of the tribe which caused the death of the deceased. If possible, one of the members of that tribe must be killed.

A consultation takes place, and when an individual is fixed upon as the cause of the death, he receives warning that his life will be taken. If he escapes for two moons, he is free. Immediately after the warning, a small party of the male friends and relatives of the deceased prepare themselves by eating sparingly for two or three days, and getting together, each for himself, a supply of cooked food. When ready to start, they paint and disguise themselves, that they may not be recognized by the friends of the person whom they intend to kill. They proceed, well armed, by night to the vicinity of the residence occupied by their intended victim. It is difficult to surprise a camp, owing to the watchfulness and ferocity of the dogs belonging to it. The attacking party, therefore, form a wide circle, and gradually close round the wuurn, guiding each other by uttering cries in imitation of nocturnal animals. At the dawn of day, which is the time of the deepest sleep with the aborigines, and when it is sufficiently light to distinguish the person they wish to kill, they rush on their victim, drag him out of his bed, and spear him without the slightest resistance from himself or his friends, who, paralyzed with terror, lie perfectly still. After the departure of the attacking party, the friends cut up the body and burn it. No reason is given for this custom.

When the person who has been named by the deceased, and who has been warned of his intended fate, seeks safety by keeping away from his tribe, his enemies search for him for two moons; and, as he must hunt for food, he is sometimes discovered. When his enemies see him, they all keep out of sight except one man, who approaches him in a friendly way, and, in course of conversation, directs his attention to something up a tree, or in the distance. Being off his guard, he is suddenly knocked down. The others, who have been watching, immediately rush on their victim, catch him by the throat, throw him on his face, and hold him down, while one cuts open his back with a sharp fint knife, and pulls out the kidney fat, afterwards stuffing the hole with a tuft of grass. A piece of the fat is rolled up in grass and thrown over the shoulder of the operator, who then seats the man against a tree with a burning stick in his hand, and, retiring backwards with his eyes fixed on him, picks up the fat, which he wraps in opossum skin and carries away. This kidney fat is afterwards presented to his chief, who fixes it on his spearthrower, as a charm to ensure his spear going straight and fatally. After a while the wounded man walks home, with the grass still in the wound, and, as his case is hopeless, no effort is made to remove it, and nothing is done for him. He walks about for a day or two, and eats his food as if nothing had happened, but soon dies.

Sometimes the enemy is killed by strangling. He is watched by three or four men, who are provided with a tough rope, made of the inner bark of the stringybark tree. A running noose is made on the rope; they throw the noose over his head, and pull-one man at each end of the rope-till he is choked.

Intending murderers always disguise themselves with coloured clay; their victim cannot, therefore, easily recognize them. But as, if he do not die immediately, he is expected to name his murderers, he often fixes on the wrong persons. When these are killed in retaliation, a feud is begun; and thus there is kept up a constant destruction of life. If the attack upon the supposed spellthrower should take place near a camp, and he should be killed, his murderer is at once chased by every able-bodied man present, and, if caught, is put to death on the spot. Every pursuer thrusts four spears into his body, and leaves them there. His friends, who have been watching the result at a distance, wait till the pursuers go away, and then burn the body and all the spears which were thrust into it, and which are sometimes so numerous as to be likened to 'spines in a
porcupine.' The body of the supposed spell-thrower is removed to the camp, to be eaten according to the custom described in the previous chapter.

This ends the feud, as life has been taken for life; but if the murderer should escape, and should be known to the friends of the deceased, he gets notice to appear and undergo the ordeal of spear-throwing at the first great meeting of the tribes.

If he pay no attention to the summons, two 'strong, active men,' called Pææt pææts, accompanied by some friends, are ordered by the chief to visit the camp where he is supposed to be concealed, and to arrest him. They approach the camp about bedtime, and halt at a short distance from it. One of the Pææt pææts goes to one side of the camp, and howls in imitation of a wild dog. The other, at the opposite side, answers him by imitating the cry of the kuurku owl. These sounds bring the chief to the door of his wuurn to listen. One of the Pææt pææts then taps twice on a tree with his spear, or strikes two spears together, as a signal that a friend wishes to speak to him. He then demands the culprit; but, as the demand is generally met by a denial of his being there, they return to their friends, who have been waiting to hear the result. If they still believe him to be concealed in the camp, they surround it at peep of day, stamping, and making a hideous noise, to frighten the people in the camp. In the meantime the chief, anticipating the second visit, has very likely aided the culprit to escape while it is dark. When the Pææt pææts and their friends discover that the man is not in the camp, they freely express their anger and disappointment ; but, without attempting to injure anyone, they start off at once on the track of the fugitive.

The deaths of adults caused by epidemics are not avenged, nor are the natural deaths of boys before they have beards, or of girls before entering womanhood, or of those who have lost their lives by accident, such as drowning, falling off trees, snake bite, \&c.

When the body of an adult is found with the muscles of the back of the neck 'slack,' and marks of blows on the breast, it is concluded that death has been produced by strokes from a heavy club of quandong wood, called 'yuul marrang,' 'wild hand.' A club of this kind is kept among the associated tribes for the express purpose of killing criminals, and, as the quandong does not grow in the Western District, this club is borrowed by the chiefs around when needed, and especially when they visit tribes with the expectation of avenging death. When a man has been killed by this club, the body is brought home and examined
by his relatives, and disposed of according to the laws regulating mourning and the eating of human flesh, which are described in the previous chapter.

The friends examine the footprints of the murderers, and follow them sufficiently far to indicate the direction from which they came. If they are unable to follow up the track, they console themselves by expressing the wish that some evil may befall the murderer. If they have been able to follow up the track, they return home and collect as many men as possible, and make an attack on the suspected tribe; and, should they succeed in killing a member of the tribe-even though it be a woman, or only a child-they are satisfied, and the two tribes are again friendly. But if one of an innocent tribe should be killed, retaliation is sought, and probably another life sacrificed.

When a number of men have been implicated in a murder or other crime, they disguise their track by walking backwards in line over ground likely to retain the impressions of their feet; and they hide their numbers by stepping in each other's footprints. This they continue as long as they are in country belonging to another tribe. When lying in wait for an enemy they lay their ears near the ground, but not touching it, and listen attentively. They can hear the sound of footsteps on the soft sward at a distance of one hundred yards; those of a horse at two or three hundred.

Friendship is seldom allowed to interfere with the sacred duty of revenge. A man would consider it his bounden duty to kill his most intimate friend for the purpose of avenging a brother's death, and would do so without the slightest hesitation. But if an intimate friend should be killed, he would leave revenge to the relatives of the deceased. In all cases, if they fail to secure the guilty person, they consider it their duty to kill one of his relatives, however ignorant he may have been of the crime.

This law holding every member of the tribe responsible for the conduct of each individual in the tribe is doubtless founded upon the necessities of the case, and entails upon each one the duty of controlling the violent passions, not only of himself, but also of the others.

## CHAPTER XVII.

GREAT MEETINGS.
Great meetings are held periodically in summer, by agreement among the friendly tribes. But any two chiefs have the power of sending messengers and commanding the attendance of the tribes at an appointed time and place, in order that matters of dispute may be arranged. Sometimes, instead of dispatching men to give notice of a meeting, a signal smoke is raised by setting fire to a wide circle of long grass in a dry swamp. This causes the smoke to ascend in a remarkable spiral form, which is seen from a great distance. The summons thus given is strictly attended to. Or, if there is not a suitable swamp, a hollow tree is stuffed with dry bark and leaves, and set on fire. Or, a fire is made on a hill top.

Each tribe, on its arrival, erects its wuurns, and lights its fires in front of them, on the side of the camp nest their own country. When all are assembled, proceedings commence after sunset, or before sunrise next morning. As soon as the families of the different tribes are seated in rows on the ground, the chief of each tribe, accompanied by the other chiefs, walks along and taps everyone on the head with a piece of bark, asking the name of his tribe, his personal name, and his class. If anything of importance has to be discussed, a circular open space, of one hundred or one hundred and fifty yards in diameter, is reserved in the centre of the camp, into which the chiefs advance by turns, and speak in a loud voice, that everyone may hear what is said.

When a chief has a matter of great importance to settle, and desires the advice and assistance of friendly tribes, he dispatches two messengers to the nearest chief with a message-stick. This message-stick is a piece of wood about six inches long and one inch in diameter, with five or six sides, one of these indicating by notches the number of tribes to be summoned, and the others the number of men required from each. The messengers are not allowed to explain the business of the proposed meeting. Immediately on a chief receiving the message-stick, he sends for his principal men, who pass their hands down the stick and ascertain the number of men required from the tribe. They then
decide who are to be sent. The stick is next forwarded by messengers from their tribe to the nearest chief, who sends it on to the next, and so on until all are summoned. The most distant tribe starts first, and, joining the others in succession, all arrive in a body at the camp of the chief who sent for them. They are accompanied by their wives, but not by children or by very old persons. In the evening, when the children of the tribe and the women have gone to bed, the chief who convened the meeting gives his reason for doing so. After consultation, the chiefs decide what is to be done; each chief tells his people what is required, and all retire for the night.

The spear-thrower is also used as a message-stick; but, when so employed, it is specially marked to indicate its purpose. The writer has in his possession a specimen which was made by Kaawirn Kuunawarn, the chief of the Kirre Wuurong tribe, and which is a fuc-simile of a summons issued by him long ago to three tribes, to meet his own tribe at a favourite swamp and camping-place called Kuunawarn, on the east side of the River Hopkins, and represents their approach to his camp. In the centre of the flat side of the spear-thrower is a carved circle of about an inch and a quarter in diameter, which represents the camp of Kaawirn Kuunawarn. Near it are three notches on the edge of the stick, and two lines and two dots on the flat side, pointing to the camp, which form his signature; and, at the hooked end of the stick, three lines in shape of the letter $Z$ indicate his presence. Four rows of notches, extending from each end of the stick to the camp, indicate the numbers of individuals of the two tribes approaching from opposite directions. On the other side of the spear-thrower, in the centre, there are two circles of a smaller size, and pointing to them is a small, rudely carved figure of a hand-the word for 'hand,' munya, also means a 'meeting.' From each end of the stick six lines of notches represent the numbers of individuals of other two tribes approaching from opposite directions. As each notch indicates an individual, there must have been a thousand at this meeting. Kaawirn Kuunawarn was then a very young chief; and as he is now a man considerably over sixty years of age, the meeting must have been held immediately previous to the occupation of the country by the white man. Of those who attended it there are only four individuals now alive, viz., Kaawirn Kuunawarn, Jamie Ware, Jim Crow, and Helen Crow.

Occasionally, a distant and distrustful tribe will send two men to test the friendship of a meeting. On arrival, they announce the name of their tribe and their own names, and then retire to the wuurn of an acquaintance. He ties a
feather to the point of one of their spears, and fixes the spear upright at his door. When the attention of a chief is called to this, he transfers the spear to the middle of the camp. Two or three men come and draw their hands down it, and retire to their wuurns; no objection having been made, the chief takes the spear to the two strangers and lays it down beside them, remarking that it belongs to them, and is returned as a sign of friendship and welcome. If the friendship of their tribe is not desired, a hint is given to them to go away. Three or four young women at sunset will pretend to go for water, carrying pieces of smouldering bark hidden in their buckets. These pieces of bark they give to the strangers to make their fire on their journey home. The men immediately set off, carrying the pieces of lighted bark under their rugs till they are out of danger of pursuit.

Messengers are attached to every tribe, and are selected for their intelligence and their ability as linguists. They are employed to convey information from one tribe to another, such as the time and place of great meetings, korrobores, marriages, and burials, and also of proposed battles; for, if one tribe intends to attack another, due notice is always honourably given. Ambuscades are proceedings adopted by civilized warriors. As the office of messenger is of very great importance, the persons filling it are considered sacred while on duty; very much as an ambassador, herald, or bearer of a flag of truce is treated among civilized nations.

To distinguish them from spies or enemies, they generally travel two together, and they are painted in accordance with the nature of the information which they carry. When the information is about a great meeting, a korroboræ, a marriage, or a fight, their faces are painted with red and white stripes across the cheeks and nose. When the information relates to a death, their heads, faces, and hands, their arms up to the elbows, and their feet and legs up to the knees, are painted with white clay. Thus the appearance of the messengers announces the nature of their news before they come to the camp. If their appearance indicates a death, lamentation and disfigurement begin immediately. On arriving at the camp they sit down without speaking, apparently unobserved; and, after a little time, one of them delivers the message in a short speech with intoned voice.

There are also teachers attached to each tribe, whose duty is to instruct the young in the use of weapons, and in other needful information. Sometimes a messenger is also a teacher.

The fine old chief of the Spring Creek tribe, Weeratt Kuyuut-' Eel spear,' occasionally called Morpor, after his tribe and country, and believed to have been upwards of eighty years of age-was both a messenger and a teacher. As a messenger he generally travelled by himself. In his younger days he was a great warrior, and in more mature years was considered such an honourable, impartial man, that he was selected on all occasions as a referee in the settlement of disputes. When a great battle was to be fought, he was sent for by the contending chiefs, who placed him in a safe position to see fair play. In reward for his services he returned home laden with presents of opossum rugs, weapons, and ornaments.

As a teacher he taught the young people the names of the favourite planets and constellations, as indications of the seasons. For example, when Canopus is a very little above the horizon in the east at daybreak, the season for emu eggs has come; when the Pleiades are visible in the east an hour before sunrise, the time for visiting friends and neighbouring tribes is at hand; if some distant locality requires to be visited at night, it can be reached by following a particular star. He taught them also the names of localities, mountain ranges, and lakes, and the directions of the neighbouring tribes.

As Weeratt Kuyuut had the reputation of being an expert warrior, besides being well known as a messenger, he travelled unmolested all over the country between the Grampian ranges and the sea, and between the rivers Leigh and Wannon; and was received and treated everywhere with kindness and hospitality.

In his travels towards Geelong-which at that time was the name of the bay and not of the land-he heard of Buckley as a chief who had 'died and jumped up whitefellow,' and who on that account was treated with marked consideration and respect. There is little doubt that Buckley owed his life to this idea, which was very likely encouraged by him to enable him to retain his influence over the tribes with which he mingled.

Among the associated tribes a public executioner was employed to put criminals to death when ordered by the chiefs to do so. The natives have a vivid recollection of a bloodthirsty savage named Pundeet Puulotong, ' dragger out of kidney fat,' who acted in that capacity, and who was so fond of doing cruel deeds that he solicited the office himself. He killed his victims with a club called yuul marrang, 'wild hand,' made of quandong wood, and kept for the purpose.

Pundeet Puulotong was a great fighting man. On killing one of a neighbouring tribe, he would show himself to the relatives of his victim, and challenge
them to spear him. None, however, dared to meddle with him. On asking members of his tribe how many lives he had destroyed, the reply was that he took one at almost every meeting. When he was seen approaching a meeting the women wept, as they were certain he would put someone to death before he left. If he received a scratch, or had blood drawn from him, he would kill some person in revenge. The old savage grew quite blind and helpless in his old age, and the natives say, that, instead of putting him to death, which they could easily have done, they left his blindness to punish him for his innumerable murders and cruelties.

Persons accused of wrong-doing get one month's notice to appear before the assembled tribes and be tried, on pain of being outlawed and killed. When a man has been charged with an offence, he goes to the meeting armed with two war spears, a flat light shield, and a boomerang. If he is found guilty of a private wrong he is painted white, and-along with his brother or near male relative, who stands beside him as his second, with a heavy shield, a liangle, and a boomerang-he is placed opposite to the injured person and his friends, who sometimes number twenty warriors. These range themselves at a distance of fifty yards from him, and each individual throws four or five gneerin spears and two boomerangs at him simultaneously, 'like a shower.' If he succeeds in warding them off, his second hands him his heavy shield, and he is attacked singly by his enemies, who deliver each one blow with a liangle. As blood must be spilt to satisfy the injured party, the trial ends on his being hit. After the wound has been dressed, all shake hands and are good friends. If the accused person refuses to appear and be tried, he is outlawed, and may be killed; and his brother or nearest male relative is held responsible, and must submit to be attacked with boomerangs. If it turns out that the man was innocent, the relatives have a right to retaliate on the family of the accuser on the first opportunity.

Should a person, through bad conduct, become a constant anxiety and trouble to the tribe, a consultation is held, and he is put to death. Liars are detested; and should anyone, through lying, get others into trouble, he is punished with the boomerang and liangle. Women and young people, for the same fault, are beaten with a stick.

Long ago the Bung'andætch natives, who inhabited the Mount Gambier district, were looked upon as wild blacks and very malevolent, for they sent lightning and rain to injure the associated tribes. In retaliation, the latter
challenged the Bung'andretch natives to fight at Coleraine ; but, as they never could get them to stand and give battle, they chased them to their own country. According to the account of a native who accompanied his father on such occasions, the fires of the associated tribes at the Wannon falls, 'Tuunda beean,' were like the lights of Melbourne at night.

Quarrels between tribes are sometimes settled by single combat between the chiefs, and the result is accepted as final. At other times disputes are decided by combat between equal numbers of warriors, painted with red clay and dressed in war costume; but real fighting seldom takes place, unless the women rouse the anger of the men and urge them to come to blows. Even then it rarely results in a general fight, but comes to single combats between warriors of each side; who step into the arena, taunt one another, exchange blows with the liangle, and wrestle together. The first wound ends the combat. This is often followed by an encounter between the women, who begin by scolding, and rouse each other to fury, tearing each other's hair, and striking one another with their yam-sticks or muurong poles. There-is no interference by the men, however severely their wives may punish each other. Both men and women, when quarrelling, pace about, tossing up the dust with their toes, stamping, and making a hissing noise like 'ishew,' or 'eeshwuur.' Every license is allowed to the tongue. They wish each other all kinds of evil in the coarsest and most violent language. The mildest imprecations are such as-'May your teeth project, and your eyes squint and be closed with small pox;' 'May you lose your hair and be completely bald;' 'May you have a deformed nose;' 'May you break your neck and become a skeleton, for you should have died long ago ;' and ' May many assist in putting you to death.' Words failing to produce the desired effect, they will spit in each other's faces.

Sometimes a fight takes the form of a tournament or friendly trial of skill in the use of the boomerang and shield. Ten or twelve warriors, painted with white stripes across the cheeks and nose, and armed with shields and boomerangs, are met by an equal number at a distance of about twenty paces. Each individual has a right to throw his boomerang at anyone on the other side, and steps out of the rank into the intervening space to do so. The opposite party take their turn, and so on alternately, until someone is hit, or all are satisfied. Every warrior has a boy to look after his boomerang, which, on striking a shield, flies up and falls at a considerable distance. As the boomerang is thrown with great force, it requires very great desterity and quick sight to ward off such an
erratic weapon, and affords a fine opportunity for displaying the remarkable activity of the aborigines. This activity is, no doubt, considerably roused by fear of the severe cut which is inflicted by the boomerang. Mourners are not allowed to join in these tournaments, as it would be considered disrespectful to the dead. Women and children are generally kept at a safe distance. The chiefs and aged warriors stand by to see fair play, and to stop the proceedings when they think they have gone far enough.

At the periodical great meetings trading is carried on by the exchange of articles peculiar to distant parts of the country. A favourite place of meeting for the purpose of barter is a hill called Noorat, near Terang. In that locality the forest kangaroos are plentiful, and the skins of the young ones found there are considered superior to all others for making rugs. The aborigines from the Geelong district bring the best stones for making axes, and a kind of wattle gum celebrated for its adhesiveness. This Geelong gum is so useful in fixing the handles of stone axes and the splinters of flint in spears, and for cementing the joints of bark buckets, that it is carried in large lumps all over the Western District. Greenstone for axes is obtained also from a quarry on Spring Creek, near Goodwood; and sandstone for grinding them is got from the salt creek near Lake Boloke. Obsidian or volcanic glass, for scraping and polishing weapons, is found near Dunkeld. The Wimmera country supplies the maleen saplings, found in the mallee scrub, for making spears. The Cape Otway forest supplies the wood for the bundit spears, and the grass-tree stalk for forming the butt piece of the light spear, and for producing fire; also a red clay, found on the sea coast, which is used as a paint, being first burned and then mixed with water, and laid on with a brush formed of the cone of the banksia while in flower by cutting off its long stamens and pistils. Marine shells from the mouth of the Hopkins River, and freshwater mussel shells, are also articles of exchange.

Attendance at these great meetings is compulsory on all. As an instance of the obedience paid to the usual summons, a very faithful native, who had charge of a flock of sheep at Kangatong, gave notice that he had received a message directing him to attend a meeting at Mount Rouse, whenever he saw the signal smoke, or a reflection in the sky of a fire in that direction. As there was at that time a very great scarcity of shepherds, in consequence of the rush to the goldfields, permission to go was refused. Some days afterwards the signal was seen. Next morning Gnaweeth was away, leaving his flock in the fold. Having thus broken his engagement, he considered he had forfeited all claim to payment
for the work which he had before faithfully performed; and, therefore, deposited at the back door of the house a bundle containing his clothing, blankets, gun, and every other article that had been given to him for his long services. He gave up all his property rather than disobey the summons. Many months passed over ere he was heard of ; and it was only after repeated invitations and assurances of welcome that he returned. He then explained, that, had he neglected the summons to attend the meeting, his life would have been forfeited.

When it had been agreed by the chiefs of the associated tribes to have a grand battue, messengers were sent all round to invite everybody to join. As each tribe left its own country, it spread out in line, and all united to form a circle of fifteen or twenty miles in diameter. By this means the kangaroos and emus were enclosed, in order to be driven to an appointed place-usually on Muston's Creek, a few miles from its junction with the River Hopkins. To this place the old people, women, and children of the several tribes had previously gone, and were there encamped. At a fixed time the circle was perfected by arranging the men so that they stood about two hundred yards apart. The circle then began to contract. As they drew near to the central camp both young and old joined them, and formed a line too compact to allow the escape of the game ; which, frightened and confused with the yells and shouting all around, were easily killed with clubs and spears. In the evening a grand feast and korroboræ ended the day's sport. Next morning the game was fairly divided, and each tribe started homewards, with the usual 'wuwuurk, wuwuurk,' farewell, farewell.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## AMUSEMENTS.

The leading amusement of the Australian aborigines is the karweann, or korroboræ, which somewhat resembles pantomime, and consists of music, dancing, and acting.

Little can be said in favour of the aboriginal music. The airs are monotonous and doleful, and there is no such thing as harmony. Men and women join in singing. The women commence, each one accompanying her voice with regular beats of the open hand on a rolled-up opossum rug, which sometimes contains shells, to produce a jingling sound; the men strike in with their voices and with their music sticks. These sticks are made of hard wood, and are about nine inches long and an inch and a half in diameter, rounded, and tapering at each end to a point. The one is held stationary, and is struck with the other. The sound produced is clear and musical, and can be heard at a great distance.

Many songs having appropriate airs are universally known. Very often complimentary or descriptive songs are composed on the instant, and are sung to well-known airs, the whole company joining in the chorus. A lament called 'Mallæ malææ,' composed in New South Wales in commemoration of the ravages of small-pox, is known all over the Australian colonies, and is sung in a doleful strain, accompanied with groans and imitations of a dying person. The following is a song in the Chaap wuurong language, with its translation. It is said to have been composed in the neighbourhood of Sydney by one of the aborigines of that country, and to have been translated into the different languages as it became known. In singing it the last two lines are repeated three times.

CHUUL'YUU WILL'YOU.
Chuul'yuu Will'yuu
Wallaa gnorææ.
Chilla binnæ aa gna
Kinuuaa gnuuras jeeaa,
Chixbaa gnuutaa.
Kirrægirræ, kirrægirræ, kirrægirræ,
Leeaa gnaa.

## THE PORCUPINE.

> Porcupine spikes Burn like heat of fre. Someone pinching me When I am up high, With affection like a sister. Grinning, grinning, grinning, Teeth mine.

When a korroboræ is held, all are dressed in their best attire. The chiefs are painted red over and under the eyes and on the cheeks; a twisted band of the tuan squirrel fur surrounds the head; in this band, over the right temple, is stuck a plume made of the webs of a swan's dark quill feather, which are tied to the barrel of a long white quill feather from the swan's wing; in the hair are fastened several incisor teeth of the large kangaroo; and the tail of a wild dog hangs from the hair down the back; the arms are adorned with armlets of tuan fur rope. The common men wear round the head a plaited band about two inches broad, made of the inner bark of the stringy-bark tree, coloured red; over this band is a thick rope of ring-tailed opossum skin with its fur outside; and in the band, above the right temple, is stuck a white quill feather of the swan, with its webs torn half way down, so as to flutter in the wind. Both chiefs and common men wear necklaces. The usual necklace is formed of from eighty to one hundred kangaroo teeth, tied by their roots to a skin cord. This necklace hangs loosely round the neck, and displays the teeth diverging towards the shoulders and breast. Another kind of necklace is composed of short pieces of reeds strung in eight or ten rows on bark cords. A third kind of necklace is formed of numerous threads spun from opossum fur. The usual apron is worn, with the addition of an upright tuft of emu neck feathers fastened to the belt behind, and somewhat resembling the tail of a cock.

The women wear the usual opossum rug, and have their heads bound with a plaited bark band and an opossum skin rope. A few kangaroo teeth are fastened among their back hair. Above each ear, and projecting beyond the forehead, is a thin piece of wood with various coloured feathers tied to the end of it. Over the forehead there is stuck in the brow band a bunch of white cockatoo crest feathers. A short piece of reed is worn in the cartilage of the nose, and flowers in the slits of the ears. They also wear reed or kangaroo teeth
necklaces, and anklets of green leaves. The wives of chiefs are distinguished by two red stripes across the cheeks.

Both men and women are ornamented by cicatrices-which are made when they come of age-on the chest, back, and upper parts of the arms, but never on the neck or face. These cicatrices are of a darker hue than the skin, and vary in length from half an inch to an inch. They are arranged in lines and figures according to the taste or the custom of the tribe. The operator cuts through the skin with a flint knife, and rubs the wounds with green grass. This irritates the flesh and causes it to rise above the skin. By repeated rubbings, the flesh rises permanently, and the wounds are allowed to heal. About the same age, nearly every person has the cartilage of the nose pierced to admit some ornament. The hole is made with the pointed bone of the hind leg of the kangaroo, which is pushed through and left for a week. A short tube, made of the large wing bone of the swan, is then introduced to keep the hole open, and is turned round occasionally while the nose is kept moist by holding the face over a vapour bath, produced by pouring water over hot stones. When the wound is quite healed, the ring is removed. On occasions of ceremony, a reed about eighteen inches long is pushed through the opening and worn as an ornament.

Before the korroboræ commences-which is immediately after sunset-large quantities of dry bark, branches, and leaves are collected, and the young people are ordered to light the fire and attend to it. The men and well-grown boys retire to prepare themselves for the dance. They paint their bodies and limbs with white stripes, in such a manner as to give them the appearance of human skeletons; and they tie round their ancles a number of leafy twigs, which touch the ground, and make a rustling noise as they move. Each dancer wears the reed ornament in his nose. When they stand in a row these reeds have the appearance of a continuous line.

The women do not join in the dance, but sit in a half-circle behind the fire, and sing, accompanying their song with the sound of beating on opossum rugs, as described under the head of music. Some of the men stand beside the fire, beating time with the music sticks.

After the music has begun, one of the dancers emerges from the darkness into the open ground, so as just to be seen; and, with a stamp, sets himself with arms extended, and legs wide apart and quivering, his feet shuffling in time to the music, and the twigs round his ankles rustling at each movement. He
remains thus for a few seconds, and, turning round suddenly, disappears in the darkness with a rustling sound. Another dancer takes his place, and goes through the same movements, and disapears in the same way. Then two or three come forward, and dance in a line, and disappear in the darkness. At length all the dancers are seen in a row, quivering and making a great rustling in time to the music, and advancing nearer and nearer to the fire until they come quite close, when a simultaneous loud groan is suddenly given, and the dance is over. The bright light of the fire shining on the white stripes of the dancers against a pitch-dark background, produces a very striking effect. The different tribes dance by turns; they never mingle.

The interludes between the dances are filled up by the buffoonery and jesting of one or two clowns, called 'chipperuuks,' chosen for their powers of humour, ready wit, and repartee. These clowns do not perform altogether voluntarily, owing to the manner in which they are treated previous to the korroboræ. They are caught by the orders of the chiefs, and are compelled to live apart in a separate wuurn, without any covering to keep out the cold, but are supplied with plenty of food. The hair of the chipperuuk is cropped off both sides of his head, which are plastered with white clay, leaving a crest of hair along the ridge like the hog-mane of a horse. A stripe of white paint extends from the top of the brow down the nose, mouth, chin, and neck to the waist; and the same behind, from the crown of the head down the spine; another stripe extends down the inside of each leg, terminating in an arrow-point above the ankles. The arms are encircled with three white stripes between the shoulder and wrist. He wears the usual apron and the tail of emu feathers. The chipperuuk enters the circle between the dances, and amuses the people with jokes, and with ludicrous movements in imitation of the gambols of emus, native companions, and other animals. Sometimes he puts on a mask formed of a kangaroo pouch, painted white, and having holes for the eyes, nose, and mouth. These are pulled over the head and face, and are often used to frighten children when they misbehave. After the amusements are finished, the chipperuuks visit each wuurn, with a bark torch, and a basket to receive presents of food, which are liberally bestowed.

It is now almost impossible to ascertain whether or not the korroboræs held among the tribes referred to, previous to the advent of the Europeans, were attended with indecencies; but the aborigines now alive-and many of them are very truthful and intelligent-declare that there was nothing indecent
permitted, and that when anything contrary to strict propriety was attempted, it was instantly stopped, and the offenders reprimanded, and threatened with punishment if it were repeated.

Since the aborigines have been gathered together under the immediate care of Government officials, and other protectors, the korroboræ is discountenanced ; and, as little or nothing in the form of amusement is substituted, the weary monotony, restraint, and discipline of these tutelary establishments have a very depressing effect on the minds and health of the natives, and impel them to seek relief in the indulgence of intoxicating drinks. And who can blame them?

Another amusement, called 'Tarratt' in the Kuurn kopan noot language, and 'Wittchim' in the Chaap wuurong and Peek whuurong languages, consists in stalking a feather, in imitation of hunting an emu. The feather is tied to the end of a long stick, which is held by a man in the centre of a large circle of natives. A man, who has dressed himself in korroboræ costume, enters the circle with shield and boomerang, and moves round the circle for fifteen or twenty minutes with his eye upon the feather, now crouching, and then running, in imitation of stalking game, and finishes by stooping and touching the feather. His place is taken by another, and so on, until four or five competitors have gone through the same movements. The ceremony is conducted with so much gravity, that if a spectator should laugh, or in any way ridicule the actor, the latter would be entitled to throw his boomerang at him with impunity. The chiefs then decide who has performed best, and they present him with the feather. In the evening, after several korroboræ dances have been gone through, the winner of the feather, who has kept out of sight, comes into the circle in korrobore costume, and by order of the chiefs repeats his movements round the feather. He then presents it to the other competitors in the game, out of compliment, and with a view to remove any feeling of jealousy.

Games are held usually after the great meetings and korroboræs. Wrestling is a favourite game, but is never practised in anger. Women and children are not allowed to be present. The game is commenced by a man who considers himself to be a good wrestler challenging any one of his own or another tribe. His challenge being accepted, the wrestlers rub their hands, chests, and backs with wood ashes, to prevent their hold from slipping; they then clasp each other and struggle, but do not trip with their feet, as that is not considered a fair test of strength. After one of them has been thrown three times, he retires. Other two men then engage, and so on. When all competitors have had a trial, the
conquerors are matched ; and the last couple decide the championship. The event is followed by a promiscuous wrestling, and the game terminates with shouting, just as among white people.

One of the favourite games is football, in which fifty, or as many as one hundred players engage at a time. The ball is about the size of an orange, and is made of opossum-skin, with the fur side outwards. It is filled with pounded charcoal, which gives solidity without much increase of weight, and is tied hard round and round with kangaroo sinews. The players are divided into two sides and ranged in opposing lines, which are always of a different 'class'-white cockatoo against black cockatoo, quail against snake, \&cc. Each side endeavours to keep possession of the ball, which is tossed a short distance by hand, and then kicked in any direction. The side which kicks it oftenest and furthest gains the game. The person who sends it highest is considered the best player, and has the honour of burying it in the ground till required next day.

The sport is concluded with a shout of applause, and the best player is complimented on his skill. This game, which is somewhat similar to the white man's game of football, is very rough; but as the players are barefooted and naked, they do not hurt each other so much as the white people do; nor is the fact of an aborigine being a good football player considered to entitle him to assist in making laws for the tribe to which he belongs.

The throwing of spears at a mark is a common amusement. Young people engage in the pastime with toy spears. A number of boys will arrange themselves in a line: one of the party will trundle swiftly along the ground, about ten yards in front of them, a circular piece of thick bark about a foot in diameter, and, as it passes them, each tries to hit it with his toy spear. They amuse themselves also with throwing wands, fern stalks, and rushes at objects, and at each other.

The toy boomerang is much lighter and more acute in the angle than the war boomerang, and has a peculiar rounding of one of its sides, which has the effect of making it rise in the air when thrown along the ground, and return to the thrower when its impetus has been expended. It requires much skill, and study of the wind, to throw it aright. On dark nights this boomerang will sometimes be lighted at one end and thrown into the air, with an effect very like fireworks. This boomerang is also thrown into flocks of ducks, parrots, and small birds, among which it commits great havoc-occasionally cutting off their heads as with a knife.

The wure whunitch is also used as a toy. It is a tapering wand about two feet long, with a pear-shaped knob on the thick end. It is held by the small end, whirled round the head, and projected with force along the ground, where it skips for a considerable distance. It is also used for throwing at birds. This toy is used in the games after great meetings. Like football, it is played by opposing classes-kuurokeetch against kirrtuuk, kappatch against kartprerup, \&c.-and the award is given to those who throw it to the greatest distance.

## CHAPTER XIX.

WEAPONS.
The spear is the chief and most formidable weapon amongst the aborigines. There are seven kinds of spears, each of which is used for a special purpose. The longest and heaviest are the war spears, which are about nine feet long, and made of ironbark saplings reduced to a uniform thickness. They are variously named from the way in which they are pointed. The 'tuulowarn' has a smooth point. The 'tungung'gil' is barbed on one side for six inches from the point. The 'wurokiigil' is jagged for six inches on each side of the point, with sharp splinters of flint or volcanic glass, fixed in grooves with the same kind of cement which is employed to fix the handles of stone axes. The hunting spear, ' narmall,' is about seven feet long, and is made of a peeled ti-tree sapling, with a smooth, sharp point; to balance the weapon it has a fixed buttpiece formed of the stalk of the grass tree, about two feet long, and with a hole in the pith in its end to receive the hook of the spear-thrower; but, as the hook of the spear-thrower would soon destroy the light grass tree, a piece of hard wood is inserted in the end, and secured with a lashing of kangaron sinew. Although the narmall is chiefly used for killing game, it is the first spear thrown in fighting, as it can be sent to a greater distance than the heavy war spears, which are only used in close quarters.

The spear-thrower is a piece of wood about two feet and a half long, and three-quarters of an inch thick. It is two or three inches broad in the middle, and tapers off into a handle at one end and a hook at the other. Its object is to lengthen the arm, as it were, and at the same time balance the spear by bringing the hand nearer its centre. The hook of the spear-thrower is put into the hole in the end of the hunting-spear, and the other end is grasped with the hand, which also holds the spear above it with the finger and thumb. With this instrument a spear is sent to a much greater distance than without it.

The 'gnirrin' spear is made of a strong reed, about five feet long, with a sharp point of ironbark wood, and is used only for throwing at criminals, as mentioned in the chapter on great meetings. The eel spear is formed of a peeled ti-tree sapling, of the thickness of a little finger and about seven feet long, pointed
with the leg bone of the emu, or with the small bone of the hind leg of the large kangaroo ground to a long, sharp point, and lashed to the shaft with the tail sinews of the kangaroo. The spear called 'bundit'-which name means 'bite'-is made of a very rare, heavy wood from the Cape Otway mountains, and is so valuable that it is never used in fighting or hunting, but only as an ornament. It is given as a present in token of friendship, or exchanged for fancy maleen spears from the interior.

Spears are warded off with the light shield, which is a thin, oblong, concave piece of wood about two and a half feet long, nine inches broad in the centre, and tapering towards the ends. It has a handle in the middle of the hollow side, which is grasped by the hand when in use, and the convex side is ornamented with the usual diagonal cross lines.

The aborigines never heard of poisoned spears, or the use of poison for the destruction of life.

The liangle is a heavy, formidable weapon, about two and a half feet long, with a sharp-pointed bend, nine inches in length, projecting at a right angle. It is used in fighting at close quarters; and the blows are warded off by the heavy shield, which is a strong piece of triangular wood, three feet long by five or six inches broad, tapering to a point at each end; with a hole in the centre, lined with opossum skin, for the left hand. In grappling, the shields are thrown away, and the combatants deliver their blows on each other's backs with the sharp point of the liangle, by reaching over their shoulders. The liangle is not ornamented in any way, but the front of the shield is covered with the usual diagonal lines.

There are several kinds of clubs, varying in size from a walking-stick, which the natives term a 'companion,' up to one of a formidable size, called a wure whuitch, which is always made of heavy wood, and is about two feet and a half long, with a broad almond-shaped end, about a foot long, terminating in a sharp point. The war boomerang is much heavier and more obtuse in the angle than the toy boomerang, and on being thrown it does not return. The natives generally carry a weapon resembling a war boomerang, but longer and heavier, and somewhat like a scimitar in shape. It is used as a scimitar.

## CHAPTER XX.

## ANIMLALS.

The dingo-the wild dog of Australia-deservedly holds the first place in the estimation of the aborigines. Previous to the advent of the white man, though every wuurn had its pack of dogs, they were so very rare in their wild state-at least in the inhabited parts of the country-that one 'would not be seen in many days' travel.' This scarcity is attributed by the aborigines to the want of food. They were usually bred in a domesticated state, and no puppies were ever destroyed. Wild young ones also were caught and domesticated. The dogs were trained to guard the wuurns, which they did by growling and snarling. Dingoes never bark. As they would not sleep or take shelter under the roof of their master, a separate place was generally erected for them. In watching they were vigilant and fierce. They would fly at the throats of visitors; and strangers had often to take refuge from them by climbing into a tree. They were also trained to hunt, which was their principal use. They were active and skilful in killing kangaroos, and seldom got cut with the powerful hind toes of these animals. When they killed one, they jelped to let their master know where they were. Some well-trained dogs would even come home and lead their owners to the dead game. In some of the mountainous parts of Victoria, but especially in the Otway ranges, the dingoes were so very numerous and fierce, and hunted in such large packs, that the natives were afraid to venture among them, and often had to take refuge in trees. Since the introduction of the European dog the dingo is not used, notwithstanding its superiority in several respects to the former, which is preferred on account of its affectionate and social disposition.

The forest kangaroo is generally hunted by stalking, and is killed with the hunting spear. If the kangaroo is grazing on open ground, where there is no cover to conceal the hunter, he makes a circular shield of leafy branches, about two or three feet in diameter, with a small hole in the centre to look through; and, with this in front, he crawls towards the kangaroo while its head is down, remains motionless if it looks up, and, when he has got within throwing distance,
transfixes it with a spear which he has dragged after him between his toes. The brush and wallaby kangaroos, unlike the foresters, frequent scrubby valleys and patches of brushwood, and are hunted with dogs and spears.

The common opossum supplies the aborigines with one of their principal articles of food, and the skin of this animal is indispensable for clothing. It lives in holes in the trunks of trees, and also in the ground and among rocks. Before the occupation of the country by the white man, opossums were only to be found in the large forest trees; and they were so scarce that the hunter required to go in search of them early in the morning, before the dew was off the grass, and track them to the trees, which were then marked and afterwards visited during the day. Now, since the common opossums have become numerous, in consequence of the destruction of animals of prey by the settlers, the hunter does not look for their tracks among the grass, but examines the bark of the trees; and, if recently-made scratches are visible on it, he immediately prepares to swarm up the bole. It may be seventy or one hundred feet in height without a branch, but he ascends without difficulty, by cutting deep notches in the thick bark with his axe. In these notches he inserts his fingers and his toes, and climbs with such skill and care that very few instances of accident are known. On reaching the hole where the opossum has its nest, he introduces a long wand and pokes the opossum till it comes out. He then seizes it by the tail, knocks its head against the tree, and throws it down. Occasionally several opossums occupy one cavity. When it is too deep for the wand to reach them, a hole is cut in the trunk of the tree opposite their nest.

The ring-tailed opossum-so the aborigines say-formerly made its nest in the holes of trees; but, since the common kind has increased so greatly in numbers, they have taken possession of the holes, and compelled the ring-tails to build covered nests in low trees and scrub, somewhat similar to those of the European magpie and squirrel. In corroboration of the change in the habits of the ring-tail opossum, the writer may state that he has observed their nests in both situations, in low shrubs and also in hollow stumps of trees. As a further proof of this, the aborigines have no name for the nest of the ring-tail opossum when it is built in a bush.

The wombat, being a nocturnal animal, cannot be caught by daylight; and, being a deep burrower, cannot be got by digging, except where the ground is soft. The burrow sometimes extends a long distance; but, as it is large enough to admit a man, the hunter crawls into it till he reaches the animal-which is
harmless-and then taps on the roof to let his friend above ground know its position; a hole is then sunk, and the wombat dragged out. Should the burrow be under a layer of rock, the hunter lies quietly above its mouth, and, when the wombat comes out after sunset to feed, he jumps into the hole and intercepts the frightened animal on its retreat to its den. The flesh of a fat wombat is considered very good to eat. No use is made of the skin.

The bear, or 'sloth bear of Australia,' forms a substantial article of food; and it is easily discovered by the hunter, as it does not hide itself in holes, but sits all day long in the fork of a tree. On a native ascending the tree, it gradually climbs for safety to the top of a branch so slender that it bends with its weight. As the climber dare not venture so far, he cuts the limb, and with it sends the bear to the ground. But, as nature appears to have given tree-climbing animals immunity from injury from falls of even hundreds of feet, the bear immediately scrambles up the nearest tree, unless someone is ready to secure it. No use is made of the skin of the bear.

The emu, the turkey bustard, and the gigantic crane are stalked by means of a screen made of a bunch of plants held in front of the hunter. The plant used is the shepherd's purse, and a bunch of it is indispensable to every hunter on the open country, where branches of trees are not easily got. The hunter, concealed from view behind this screen, creeps up towards the game, and carries exposed to view as a lure a blue-headed wren, which is tied alive to the point of a long wand, and made to flutter. When the game approaches to seize the bait, it is killed with a waddy; or it is caught with a noose fixed on the point of the wand, which the hunter slips over its head while it is trying to catch the wren.

The turkey bustard is sometimes killed without stalking, as it has a habit, when anyone approaches, of lying down and concealing itself among long grass, like the grouse and partridge. In this way the hunter gets near enough to kill it with a waddy. In the breeding season no respect is paid to birds hatching. When a turkey's nest is discovered, the great object of the hunter is to secure the mother as well as the eggs; and, for that purpose, he suspends a limb of a tree across the nest, supported at one end with a short stick, to which a long string is attached. This string reaches to a hole in the ground, which the hunter digs, and in which he sits, covered with bushes and dry grass. When the turkey returns to her nest, and seats herself in it, the string is pulled, and she is crushed by the log.

Emus are frequently run down with dogs. They are sometimes trapped, during the dry weather, by digging a hole in a nearly dried-up swamp, where the birds are in the habit of drinking. The hole is about twenty feet in diameter, and made very muddy and soft, with a little water in the centre. When the birds wade in to drink, they get bogged, and are easily captured. If not actually smothered, they are very much exhausted with struggling. This trap, if at a distance from the camp, is visited every two or three days to remove the birds. The feathers are highly prized for making ornaments, the fat for anointing the body and hair, and the flesh for food. Emu is considered the greatest delicacy. It is eaten, however, only by the men and grey-haired women; young women and children are not allowed to partake of it. No reason is given for this rule. When the time for the emu to lay her eggs has arrived-which is marked, as has been elsewhere observed, by the star Canopus appearing a little above the horizon in the east at daybreak-every member of a tribe must return home, and no eggs must be taken from the grounds of a neighbouring tribe. If any person is caught trespassing and stealing the eggs, he or she can be put to death on the spot. The aborigines say that the emu is very ready to desert her nest, and if she observes yellow leeches crawling over her eggs before she lays the usual number, she immediately commences a new one, which accounts for many abandoned nests with only two or three eggs in them, instead of the usual dozen. The first egg of the emu is called 'purtæ wuuchuup,' meaning 'youngest,' because it is not only the smaliest but the last to hatch, and is always at the bottom of the nest, covered by the others. The eggs are considered a great treat, and are cooked in hot ashes.

The aborigines have a tradition respecting the existence at one time of some very large birds, which were incapable of flight, and resembled emus. They lived long ago, when the volcanic hills were in a state of eruption. The native name for them is 'meeheeruung parrinmall'- ' big emu,' and they are described, hyperbolically, as so large that their 'heads were as high as the hills,' and so formidable that a kick from one of them would kill a man. These birds were much feared on account of their extraordinary courage, strength, and speed of foot. When one was seen, two of the bravest men of the tribe were ordered to kill it. As they dared not attack it on foot, they provided themselves with a great many spears, and climbed up a tree; and when the bird came to look at them, they speared it from above. The last specimen of this extinct bird was seen near the site of Hamilton. In all probability, skeletons will be some day
found, corroborating the statements of the aborigines with regard to this bird, which seems to have resembled the gigantic moa of New Zealand.

Swans are killed in marshes, by the hunter wading among the tall reeds and sedges, and knocking the birds on the head with a waddy. When the nullore blossoms, the swans commence laying. The eggs are generally eaten raw, especially by the men while wading in the cold swamps, as they believe an uncooked egg keeps them warm. The penalty for robbing a swan's nest in a marsh belonging to a neighbouring tribe is a severe beating. Ducks and the smaller waterfowl are captured among the reeds and sedges with a noose on the point of a long wand. The hunter approaches them under the concealment of a bunch of leaves, and slips the noose over their heads, and draws them towards him quietly, so as not to disturb the others.

In summer, when the long grass in the marshes is dry enough to burn, it is set on fire in order to attract birds in search of food, which is exposed by the destruction of the cover; and, as the smoke makes them stupid, even the wary crow is captured when hungry. Sometimes a waterhole is surrounded with a brush fence, in which an opening is left. Near this opening a small bower is made, in which the hunter sits; and, when the birds come to drink, he nooses them while passing. Pigeons are caught in great numbers in this way; and, as they come regularly to drink at sunset, the hunter has not long to wait for them. The quail is captured during the breeding season only, for then it is readily attracted by imitating the call of its mate; and the hunter, concealed by a bush shield and provided with the long wand and noose, has no difficulty in catching it among the long grass. Small birds are killed with a long, sharp-pointed wand by boys, who lie in thickets and attract them by imitating their cries. When a bird alights on a bush above their heads, they gently push up the wand and suddenly transfix the animal.

The eagle is hated on account of its readiness to attack young children. The natives mention an instance of a baby having been carried off by one, while crawling outside a wuurn near the spot where the village of Caramut now stands. On the discovery of an eagle's nest-which is always built on the top of a high tree-the natives wait the departure of the old birds, and, while one man watches for their return, the other climbs up and digs a hole through the bottom of the nest, and removes the eggs. If it contains young birds, too strong to be handled, he sets fire to the nest with a lighted stick, which he carries between his teeth. This so terrifies them that they jump out, and fall to the ground. While the old
birds are present no native will venture up to their nest, for a blow from their wing would make him lose his hold, and death would be the consequence.

Fish are caught in various ways, but the idea of a hook and line never appears to have occurred to the natives of the Western District. Large freshwater fish are taken by tying a bunch of worms, with cord made of the inner bark of the prickly acacia, to the end of a long supple wand like a fishing-rod. The bait is dipped into the pool or stream, and, when swallowed by the fish, it is pulled up quickly before the fish can disgorge it. Fishing baskets, about eight or ten feet long, made of rushes in the form of a drag-net, are drawn through the water by two persons. Various kinds of fish are thus captured. The small fish, 'tarropatt,' and others of a similar description, are caught in a rivulet which runs into Lake Colongulac, near Camperdown, by damming it up with stones, and placing a basket in a gap of the dam. The women and children go up the stream and drive the fish down ; and, when the basket is full, it is emptied into holes dug in the ground to prevent them escaping. The fish thus caught are quickly cooked by spreading them on hot embers raked out of the fire, and are lifted with slips of bark and eaten hot.

Eels are prized by the aborigines as an article of food above all other fish. They are captured in great numbers by building stone barriers across rapid streams, and diverting the current through an opening into a funnel-mouthed basket pipe, three or four feet long, two inches in diameter, and closed at the lower end. When the streams extend over the marshes in time of flood, clay embankments, two to three feet high, and sometimes three to four hundred yards in length, are built across them, and the current is confined to narrow openings in which the pipe baskets are placed. The eels, proceeding down the stream in the beginning of the winter floods, go headforemost into the pipes, and do not attempt to turn back. Lake Boloke is the most celebrated place in the Western District for the fine quality and abundance of its eels; and, when the autumn rains induce these fish to leave the lake and to go down the river to the sea, the aborigines gather there from great distances. Each tribe has allotted to it a portion of the stream, now known as the Salt Creek; and the usual stone barrier is built by each family, with the eel basket in the opening. Large numbers are caught during the fishing season. For a month or two the banks of the Salt Creek presented the appearance of a village all the way from Tuureen Tuureen, the outlet of the lake, to its junction with the Hopkins. The Boloke tribe claims the country round the lake, and both sides of the river, as far down as

Hexham, and consequently has the exclusive right to the fish. No other tribe can catch them without permission, which is generally granted, except to unfriendly tribes from a distance, whose attempts to take the eels by force have often led to quarrels and bloodshed. Spearing eels in marshes and muddy ponds is a favourite amusement. Armed with two eel-spears, the fisher wades about, sometimes in water up to his waist, probing the weeds and mud, at the same time gently feeling with his toes. On discovering an eel under his feet, he transfixes it with one spear pushed between his toes, and then with another, and by twisting both together he prevents its escape, and raises it to the surface. He then crushes its head with his teeth, and strings it on a kangaroo sinew tied to his waist. In instances where old men have very few or bad teeth, it is amusing to see them worrying the heads, while the tails of the eels are wriggling and twisting round their necks. If the marsh is shallow, the eel can be seen swimming in the water. It is followed to its hole in the ground. The fisher probes the spot with an eel-spear, and, feeling that he has transfixed the eel, he treads in with his heel a round portion of the mud and weeds, lifts the sod to the surface of the water, and removes the eel. Sometimes two spears are needed to secure the fish. In summer, when the swamps are quite dry on the surface, but moist underneath, eels are discovered by their air-holes, and are dug up.

For night fishing in deep waterholes, a stage is formed of limbs of trees, grass, and earth, projecting three or four feet from the bank, and close to the surface of the water. A fire is lighted on the bank, or a torch of dry bark held aloft, both to attract the fish and give light. The fisher, lying on his face, spies the fish through a hole in the middle of the stage, and either spears or catches them with his hand. In shallow lakes and lagoons fish are caught during very dark nights with torch and spear. The torch is made of dried ti-tree twigs, tied in a bundle. The fishers wade through the water in line, each with a light in one hand and a spear in the other. Fish of various kinds are attracted by the light, and are speared in great numbers.

Crayfish and crabs are caught by wading into the sea, and allowing them to lay hold of the big toe, which is moved about as a bait. The fisher then reaches down and seizes the animal by the back, pulls off its claws, and puts it into a basket, which is slung across his shoulders. Freshwater mussels are found in the rivers. When the water beetle is seen swimming on the surface of the water in great numbers, it is a sign that there are 'plenty of mussels there.' Hence the water beetle is called the 'mother of mussels.' Tortoises abound in the

River Hopkins. The aborigines believe that thunder causes them to come out of the water and lay their eggs. These they deposit in the sand, and cover with a layer of soft mud, about the size of the mouth of a tea cup. This indicates their position to the fisher, who digs them up with a stick. They are roasted in hot ashes, and are considered very good eating.

Snakes are very much dreaded by the aborigines, who, from their primitive habits, are peculiarly exposed to danger from these reptiles. Only two instances, however, of death from snake-bite are known to the present generation of the tribes mentioned in this book; and there is no recollection of any death of a child from this cause. There are eight kinds of snake, including boas, most of which are venomous ; and their poison is considered to be just as virulent when they are in a semi-torpid state as when they are in full activity. There is only one variety-the carpet or tiger snake-which will attack a man without provocation, and this is the most deadly of all the Victorian snakes. The deathadder of the interior of Australia, whose bite is said to kill a large dog in fifteen minutes, is unknown in the Western District of Victoria. On the Mount Elephant Plains there is a small kind of snake, called 'gnullin gnullin,' which is about eighteen inches long, and one-third of an inch in diameter, of uniform thickness, and terminating abruptly at the tail. It resembles the English blind-worm, and, like it, is harmless. With the exception of this and the boas, the bite of any of the snakes will produce temporary indisposition. When, therefore, a person is bitten by a snake, and has not been able to discern the species to which it belongs, he is made to look at the sun, and, if he see an emu in it, the case is considered hopeless: he has seen his spectre, and must shortly die. If nothing be seen in the sun, there is hope of recovery. The only remedy used is rubbing the wound with fat. They have no idea of sucking the wound, or scarifying it. They have a very correct idea of the nature of snake-bite, for they believe that the poison is contained in a bag behind the eye, and is projected into the wound through a hollow in the fang. They say that one poisonous snake can kill another.

Boa snakes are not so plentiful as the others. There are two kinds, a larger and a smaller. Of the larger kind, individuals have been killed ten feet long. They are of a dark mottled leaden colour, and have small heads, with large teeth. The smaller kind is the more dangerous of the two. It will attack a human being readily and unprovoked. When it has laid hold of its victim, it cannot easily be removed. It winds itself tightly round the body until it reaches the
crown of the head, and then waves its head to and fro. When irritated, or when calling to its mate, it emits a sound like 'kæ, kæ, kæ.' It is the only snake that makes any sound. Pundeet Puulotong said, that, when he was a little boy, a boa snake attacked a man at the Salt Creek, and squeezed his neck so severely that he died the same day. The boy saw the reptile spring on its victim, but was afraid to go near it, and ran home to tell his friends, who came too late to assist the man. He was dead, and the snake was gone. Near Mount Rouse two men were attacked by a boa, which sprang on one of them and wound itself round his body; the other was too frightened to help his companion, and kept at a distance. The snake, on reaching his head, 'whistled' and brought its mate, which also wound itself round the man. He, knowing the habits of the boa, remained quite still. The other man then ran for assistance. The friends came, but only to watch; knowing that the boas, if disturbed, would probably bite the man as well as squeeze him, and, if let alone, might leave their victim alone. After a while they did so, but the man had been nearly frightened to death.

At Kangatong, an aboriginal was attacked by a boa, which got up his leg, underneath his blue shirt as far as his belt, and began to squeeze him. He threw himself on the ground, and rolled backwards and forwards till it released him. When he came to the house at Kangatong and told the story, it was at first discredited ; but on examining the dead snake and the marks of the struggle, and knowing the thoroughly reliable character of the man--who was blue with fright, and scarcely able to walk-there was no longer room to doubt of the truth of his statement. Long previous to this occurrence the natives had often pointed to a stony rise, and said that there a snake had seized and squeezed a man; but the story had been misbelieved. This later occurrence, coming more under the cognizance of the white people, obtained credit for the former statements, and showed that the boas of Victoria will attack human beings, and are dangerous.

## CHAPTER XXI.

## METEOROLOGY AND ASTRONOMY.

Great reliance is placed by the natives on certain signs, as indicating a change in the weather ; and, even when a white person might not observe symptoms of an approaching storm, the natives are made aware of it by signs well known to them. They notice the appearance of the sun, moon, stars, and clouds, the cries and movements of animals, \&c. A bright sunrise prognosticates fine weather; a red sunrise, rain; a red sunset, heat next day; a halo round the sun, fine weather; a bright moon, fine weather; the old moon in the arms of the new, rain; the new moon lying on its back, dry weather; a halo round the moon, rain; a rainbow in the morning, fine weather; a rainbow in the evening, bad weather; a rainbow during rain, clearing up; when mosquitoes and gnats are very troublesome, rain is expected; when the cicada sings at night, there will be a hot wind next day. The arrival of the swift, which is a migratory bird, indicates bad weather. The whistle of the black jay, the chirp of the little green frog, the creak of the cricket, and the cry of the magpie lark indicate bad weather; wet weather is more likely to come after full moon. It is a sign of heat and fine weather when the eagle amuses itself by towering to an immense height, turning its head suddenly down, and descending vertically, with great force and with closed wings, till near the earth, then opening them and sweeping upwards with half-closed wings to the same height. This movement it repeats again and again, for a long time, without exertion and with apparent pleasure. The aborigines call this movement 'warroweean,' and always expect warm weather to follow it.

They believe that, in dry weather, if any influential person take water into his mouth and blow it towards the setting sun, saying, 'Come down, rain,' the wind will blow and the rain will pour for three days. When they wish for rain to make the grass grow at any particular place, they dig up the root of the convolvulus, called 'tarruuk,' and throw it in the direction of the place, saying, 'Go and make the grass grow there!'

Although the knowledge of the heavenly bodies possessed by the natives
may not entitle it to be dignified by the name of astronomical science, it greatly exceeds that of most white people. Of such importance is a knowledge of the stars to the aborigines in their night journeys, and of their positions denoting the particular seasons of the year, that astronomy is considered one of the principal branches of education. Among the tribes between the rivers Leigh and Glenelg, it is taught by men selected for their intelligence and information. The following list was obtained from Weerat Kuyuut, the sagacious old chief of the Moporr tribe, and from his very intelligent daughter, Yarrum Parpur Tarneen, and her husband, Wombeet Tuulawarn:-

The sun is called 'tirng,' meaning 'light,' and is of the feminine gender.
The moon, 'meeheaarong kuurtaruung,' meaning 'hip,' is masculine.
The new moon, 'taaruuk neung', is masculine.
The larger stars are called 'kakii tirng,' 'sisters of the sun,' and are feminine.
The smaller stars, ' narweetch mæring,' 'star earth.'
The milky way, ' barnk,' ' big river.'
The coal sack of the ancient mariners-that dark space in the milky way near the constellation of the Southern Cross-is called 'torong,' a fabulous animal, said to live in waterholes and lakes, known by the name of bunyip, and so like a horse that the natives on first seeing a horse took it for a bunyip, and would not venture near it. By some tribes the coal sack is supposed to be a waterhole; and celestial aborigines, represented by the large stars around it, are said to have come from the south end of the milky way, and to have chased the smaller stars into it, where they are now engaged in spearing them.

The larger Magellanic cloud, 'kuurn kuuronn,' 'male native companion,' or 'gigantic crane.'

The smaller Magellanic cloud, 'gnærang kuuronn,' 'female native companion.'
Jupiter, 'Burtit tuung tirng,' 'strike the sun'-as it is often seen near it at midday-feminine.

Venus, 'Wang'uul,' 'twinkle,' feminine ; also 'Paapee neowee,' ' mother of the sun.'

Canopus, ' Waa,' 'crow'-masculine.
Sirius, or the dog star, 'Gneeangar,' 'eagle'-masculine.
Antares, 'Butt kuee tuukuung,' 'big stomach '-masculine. The two stars near Antares, one on each side, are his wives, and the three stars underneath are called 'kuukuu narranuung,' 'nearly a grandfather.' The glow-worm took its light from Butt kuee tuukuung.

Stars in tail of Scorpio, 'Kummim bieetch,' 'one sitting on the back of the other's neck'-masculine.

Pleiades are called 'kuurokeheear,' 'flock of cockatoos,' by the Kuurn kopan noot tribe, and are feminine. The Pirt kopan noot tribe have no general name for the Pleiades; but there is a tradition that the stars in it were a queen called Gneeanggar, and her six attendants; and, that, a long time ago, the star Canopus'Waa,' 'crow'-fell in love with the queen, but was so unsuccessful in gaining her affections that he determined to get possession of her by stratagem. Shortly after her refusal to become his wife, he discovered by some means that the queen and her six attendants were going in search of white grubs, of which they were very fond. On hearing of this, 'Waa' at once conceived the idea of transforming himself into a grub; and in this form he bored into the stem of a tree where he was certain to be observed by the queen and her servants. He was not long in his hiding-place before he was discovered by one of them, who thrust into the hole a small wooden hook, which women generally use for extracting grubs. He broke the point of the hook. He did the same with those of the other five attendants. The queen then approached, and introduced a beautiful bone hook into the hole. He knew that this hook was hers; he therefore allowed himself to be drawn out, and immediately assumed the form of a giant, and ran off with her from her attendants. Ever since the loss of the queen there have been only six stars in the Pleiades, representing her six servants.

Some doubt having been expressed by friends to whom the manuscript was shown with regard to the authenticity of this story, which shows a very remarkable coincidence with tales of Grecian mythology, the strictest inquiry has been made through Mr. William Goodall, the superintendent of the Framlingham Aboriginal Station; and the result of this inquiry has been to confirm the story, and to show that it is well known in the Western District, and, with some variation, in South Australia also.

The three stars in the belt of Orion are called 'Kuppiheear' and are the sisters of Sirius, who always follows them.

A yellowish star in the constellation of Orion is called 'Kuupartakil;' and another, of a red colour, is called 'Moroitch,' 'fire'-masculine.

Southern Cross, 'Kunkun Tuuromballank,' 'knot or tie'-masculine.
Centauri, the pointers, 'Tuulirmp,' 'magpie larks '-masculine.
Mars, 'Parrupum'-masculine.
Fomelhaut, 'Buunjill'-masculine.

Hydra, 'Barrukill,' is a great hunter of kangaroo rats, On his right, and a little above him, are two stars...the rat, and his dog 'Karlok;' above these again are four stars, forming a log; underneath are four other stars, one of which is his light, and three form his arm. The dog chases the rat into the log ; Barrukill takes it out, devours it, and disappears below the horizon. Hydra is of great service to the aborigines in their night journeys, enabling them to judge the time of the night and the course to be taken in travelling.

A comet, 'Puurt Kuurnuuk,' believed to be a great spirit.
A meteor, ' Gnummæ waar,' ' deformity.'
The crepuscular arch in the west in the morning is called 'Kullat,' 'peep-of-day:'

The upper crepuscular arch in the east at sunset is called 'Kuurokeheear' puuron,' ' white cockatoo twilight.'

The under arch, 'Kappiheear puuron,' 'black cockatoo twilight.' The natives say this arch comes from the constellation Orion.

The crepuscular rays in the west after sunset are called 'rushes of the sun.'
The Aurora Australis, ' Puæ buæ,' 'ashes.'
For the names of the cardinal points of the compass, and of the various winds, see the vocabulary at the end of the book.

The aborigines appear to be well acquainted with the effects of earthquakes. Besides one which they say rent the ground and formed 'Taap heear'-a waterhole in Spring Creek, near Minjah House-they have a vivid recollection of another which occurred about forty years ago. Puulornpuul, who described it, was a little boy when it occurred. Three tribes were encamped on the lower Hopkins River, and were holding a korrobore after sunset; they had their fires lighted round a waterhole, and were in the midst of their dancing, when a strange sound, ' like the galloping of horses,' approached from the north-west, accompanied with a violent shaking of the ground, which, according to Puulornpuul, 'ran about and pushed up blackfellows,' and was immediately followed by a hurricane. This may have been the same carthquake which upset one of Major Mitchell's drays while his party was encamped between the Hopkins and Geelong.

Some names of places indicate the existence of heat in the ground at a former period ; but no tradition exists of any of the old craters, so numerous in the Western District, ever having thrown out smoke or ashes, with the exception of 'Bo'ok,' a hill near the town of Mortlake. An intelligent aboriginal
distinctly remembers his grandfather speaking of fire coming out of Bo'ok when he was a young man. When some of the volcanic bombs found among the scoriæ at the foot of Mount Leura were shown to an intelligent Colac native, he said they were like stones which their forefathers told them had been thrown out of the hill by the action of fire.

## CHAPTER XXII.

## NATIVE MOUNDS.

Native mounds, so common all over the country, are called 'pok yuu' by the Chaa wuurong tribe; 'po'ok,' by the Kuurn kopan noot tribe; and 'puulwuurn' by the Peek whuurong tribe; and were the sites of large, permanent habitations, which formed homes for many generations. The great size of some of them, and the vast accumulation of burnt earth, charcoal, and ashes which is found in and around them, is accounted for by the long continuance of the domestic hearth, the decomposition of the building materials, and the debris arising from their frequent destruction by bush fires. They never were ovens, or original places of interment, as is generally supposed, and were only used for purposes of burial after certain events occurred while they were occupied as sites for residences-such as the death of more than one of the occupants of the dwelling at the same time, or the family becoming extinct; in which instance they were called 'muuru kowuutuung' by the Chaa wuurong tribe, and 'muuruup kaakee' by the Kuurn kopan noot tribe, meaning 'ghostly place,' and were never afterwards used as sites for residences, and only as places for burial. There is an idea that when two persons die at the same time on any particular spot, their deaths, if not attributed to the spell of an enemy, are caused by something unhealthy about the locality, and it is abandoned for ever. It is never even visited again, except to bury the dead; and the mounds are used for that purpose only because the soil is loose, and a grave is more easily dug in them than in the solid ground. The popular notion of their having been ovens is refuted, not only by the unanimous testimony of all the old aborigines, but also by a careful examination of the structure and stratification of the mounds. On opening a very perfect circular mound, sixty-five feet in diameter and five feet high, and intersecting it by parallel trenches dug at intervals of three feet, down to the original surface soil, and through that and a bed of gravel to the clay, not the slightest sign was observed of the ancient alluvial soil having been disturbed. Had an oven ever existed there, it would have been distinctly visible in the floor of the wuurn, as native ovens are always formed by digging deep holes in the ground. In cutting
through these mounds, a complete history of their growth was exhibited. Layers of yellow ashes, mixed with small pieces of charred wood, alternated with the earthy debris of the old dwellings; and the numerous saucer-shaped, ashy hollows in the strata of the mounds showed where the fires had been. No stones larger than a walnut were found; which is another proof that the fireplaces were never used as ovens. Several mounds, not more than a foot high, on being intersected in every direction, showed the remains of only one fireplace, and that always on the eastern side of the mound. In every large mound, and in some of the smaller ones, human skeletons were found about eighteen inches below the surface, lying on- the side, with the head to the west, and the knees drawn up to the chest-a mode of sepulture not uncommon among the aboriginal inhabitants of England.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

## ANECDOTES.

THE first white man who made his appearance at Port Fairy (a locality named after a small vessel called the Fairy) was considered by the aborigines to be a supernatural being; and, as he was discovered in the act of smoking a pipe, they said that he must be made of fire, for they saw smoke coming out of his mouth. Though they were very ready to attack a stranger, they took good care not to go near this man of fire, who very probably owed the preservation of his life to his tobacco-pipe. Shortly afterwards a tipsy man was seen. He was considered mad, and everyone ran away from him.

The first ship which was descried by the aborigines was believed to be a huge bird, or a tree growing in the sea. It created such terror that a messenger was immediately sent to inform the chief of the tribe, who at once declared the man to be insane, and ordered him to be bled by the doctor.

When the natives first saw a bullock, they were encamped at the waterhole Wuurong Yrering in Spring Creek, near the spot where the village of Woolsthorpe now stands, and were engaged in fishing. The animal, which was evidently a stray working bullock from some exploring party, and which had a sheet of tin tied across his face to prevent him from wandering, came down to the waterhole to drink. The natives, who had never in their lives heard of such a large beast, instantly took to their heels. In the night time the bullock came to the encampment and walked about it bellowing, which so terrified the people in the camp that they covered themselves up with their rugs and lay trembling till sunrise. In the morning they saw what they believed to be a Muruup, with two tomahawks in his head; but no one dared to move. Immediately after the departure of this extraordinary and unwelcome visitor, a council of war was held; and the brave men, accompanied by their wives and children-who could not, under such alarming circumstances, be left behind-started in pursuit. The animal was easily tracked, as such footprints had never been seen before. They were followed four or five miles in a north-easterly direction. The bullock was at length discovered grazing in an open part of the forest. The bravest of the
warriors went to the front, and, with the whole tribe at their back, approached the animal. They asked if he was a whitefellow, and requested him to give them the tomahawks he carried on his head; whereupon the astonished bullock pawed the ground, bellowed, shook his head, and charged. This so terrified the 'braves' that they fled headlong, and in their precipitate retreat upset men, women, and children, and broke their spears. The natives afterwards told this story with great glee. It used to be narrated in a very humorous way by Gnaweeth, who was mentioned in a previous chapter, and afforded the women many a laugh at the expense of the men. It was also told more recently by Weeratt Kuuyut, when he was considerably over seventy years of age; and he described it as having occurred when he was a newly married man, which makes the date of the incident to have been about 1821 or '22.

## THE FIRST FORMATION OF WATERHOLES.

One very dry season, when there was no water in all the country, and the animals were perishing of thirst, a magpie lark and a gigantic crane consulted together. They could not understand how it was that a turkey bustard of their acquaintance was never thirsty; and, knowing that he would not tell them where his supply of water was obtained from, they resolved to watch and find out where he drank. They flew high into the air, and saw him go to a flat stonc. Before lifting the stone, the turkey, afraid oi his treasure being discovered, looked up and saw the two birds, but they were so high, and kept so steady, that he took them for small clouds. He lifted the stone, therefore, and drank from a spring running out of a cleft in a rock. When he replaced the stone and flew away, the two spies came down and removed it, and took a drink and a bath, remarking, 'King gnakko gnal'-'We have done him.' They flapped their wings with joy, and the water rose till it formed a lake. They then flew all over the parched country, flapping their wings and forming waterholes, which have been drinking-places ever since.

## THE TORTOISE AND THE SNAKE.

Long ago the tortoise was a venomous beast, and bit people while they were drinking at waterholes and streams. To avoid being bitten, they adopted the plan of scooping up the water with their hands and throwing it into their
mouths. This precaution so disappointed the tortoise, that he asked the snake to allow him to transfer his deadly venom to it; and argued that, since the natives had adopted another mode of drinking, he had no opportunity of destroying them, but that the snake had many opportunities of biting them in their wuurns and among the long grass. The snake agreed to the proposal, and ever afterwards the tortoise has been harmless. This method of drinking, however, which was adopted to avoid the bite of the tortoise, still continues.

## THE BLUE HERON.

Once upon a time, while a large meeting was being held at a place near Dunkeld, and the natives were encamped under a wide-spreading red gum-tree, and were enjoying a feast of small fish, one of their number was so displeased because he did not get the whole of the fish to himself, which had been distributed to his tribe, that he took the form of a heron, and, lighting on the tree, knocked it down and killed nearly the whole of the tribe. Those who escaped ran off and told the other tribes who were encamped in the neighbourhood what had happened. When they came to the spot, they found that the heron had eaten all the fish. In revenge they laid upon him the curse that his spirit would fly about for ever in the form of a blue heron, and then they killed him.

## THE NATIVE COMPANION AND THE ENIU.

A native companion and an emu, each with a brood of young ones, went to a swamp to get sedge roots, which are very good to eat. They kindled a fire on the bank in which to cook the roots, and then waded into the water to get a supply. The native companion pulled up a number of roots, and returned to the fire, provided with a long pole, with which she pushed the roots into the fire, and had them all covered up, and the pole hidden, before the emu returned with her supply. The emu had only a very short stick, which was soon burnt in trying to push her roots into the fire. She used first one foot and then the other. Both got scorched. She tried her wings next, then her bill, and had them scorched likewise. She ran to the swamp to cool her burns. On her return she found the native companion and her young ones digging the roots out of the fire with the long pole, and eating them. The emu was very ill pleased at the trick,
but resolved to be revenged at a future opportunity. Some time afterwards they went again to the swamp for roots, kindled a fire on the bank, and left the young emus only at it to watch the fire. The young native companions accompanied their mother. The emu came home first, fed her young ones with roasted roots, and hid all her brood except two. The native companion returned with her young ones, and, on inquiring what was being roasted in the fire, was told by the emu that, as she could not find any roots, and was very hungry, she was cooking all her young ones except the two which were running about. Thereupon the native companion killed all her young ones except two, and put them into the fire to roast. After they were eaten, the emu called her brood from their hiding-place, and, addressing the native companion, said, 'Now I have served you out for deceiving me on a former occasion, and ever after this you will have no more than two young ones at a time, instead of a dozen as I have, and as you had before playing this trick on me.'

## THE BUNYIP.

The following story was told by the old chief, Morpor, to his daughter and her husband:-Long ago two brothers-one of them so tall that he looked down on everybody, and the other of ordinary size-went to a swamp near Mount William to get swans' eggs. They found a great many; and, while roasting some of them on the bank of the lagoon, the smaller of the brothers said that he must get some more from the swamp. The taller one forbade him to go alone. However, he did go. He found a nest in the middle of the lagoon, and took the eggs. When returning to the shore, he heard a rush of water behind him, and saw the water-fowls in front of him hurrying along the water as if frightened. At the same time, the bottom of the marsh became so soft that he stuck in the mud, and could not go forward. A great wave overtook him and carried him back to the nest, where a large bunyip caught him in its mouth. It held him so high that his brother saw him. Some hours afterwards the water became calm. The tall brother then took a sheet of bark and put a fire on it, and, approaching the nest, saw his brother in the mouth of the bunyip. Speaking to the bunyip, he said-'Be quiet, and let me take my brother.' The bunyip gnashed its teeth and gave him up; but he was dead, and his entrails had been devoured. The brother took the body ashore and laid it near the fire, and wept. He then went for his friends, who came and carried the corpse to their home. After he
had watched it for two days, the relatives put it in a tree for one moon, and then burned it, with the exception of the leg and arm bones, which were given to the friends of the deceased.

## THE GHOST.

A man, travelling in the country of a friendly tribe, came upon a deserted habitation. Above the doorway he saw the usual crooked stick, pointing in the direction which the family had taken; and, all round about the place, pieces of bark covered with white clay, indicating a death. He found tracks leading to a tree, in which he soon discovered a dead body. Anxious to know who had died, he laid down his rug and weapons at the foot of the tree, and ascended it. On removing the opossum rug from the face, he found that it was a friend. He wept for a long time, then came down and went away; but he had not gone far before he heard some magpies making a great noise, as though they saw something strange. He turned round to see what it was, and, to his horror and amazement, saw the ghost of the deceased come down and follow him. He became so terrified that he could not move; and, addressing it, said—'Why do you frighten me, when I have come to see you, and never did you any harm?' It never spoke, but followed him for a considerable distance, scratching his back meanwhile with its nails, and then returned to the tree. When he reached his friends he told them what had happened, and showed them his back, lacerated and bleeding; and said that he had a presentiment that something bad would befall him before long. At the next meeting of the tribes he was speared through the heart.

## THE METEOR.

A friend communicates the following anecdote as illustrative of the cleverness of the aborigines. 'On one occasion, having tried in vain to get an old man-known about Camperdown as Doctor George-to understand something of the Christian religion, I turned the conversation to the subject of a large meteor which had appeared a few months previously, and asked him if he had seen it. After a little he caught my meaning, and said-"Yes! me see him, like it fire; him go 'ff 'ff," pointing with his finger its path along the sky. I asked him what he thought it was. He answered, carelessly, "Borak me know." Then suddenly brightening up, and putting on a slyly grave countenance, he said:
"Me think, great big one master "-pointing to the sky-_" want smoke him pipe. Him strike him match," suiting the action to the words, "and puff, puff," pretending to smoke. Then he made a movement as though he slowly dropped a match through the air. The comical assumption of gravity with which this was said, and the quickness with which the impromptu explanation was invented, showed that if he did not understand my religious teaching, it was certainly not from lack of intelligence.'

## BUCKLEY'S WIDOW.

The following account has been kindly communicated by Mr. Goodall, the Superintendent of the Aboriginal Station at Framlingham, who has in several other ways assisted the writer in obtaining information from the aborigines under his charge:-

There is, at the Aboriginal Station at Framlingham, a native woman named Purranmurnin Tallarwurnin, who was the wife of the white man Buckley at the time he was found by the first settlers in Victoria. She belonged originally to the Buninyong tribe, and was about fifteen years old when she became acquainted with Buckley. She says that one of the natives discovered immense footprints in the sand hummocks near the River Barwon, and concluded that they had been made by some unknown gigantic native-a stranger, and therefore an enemy. He set off at once on the track and soon discovered a strange-looking being lying down on a small hillock, sunning himself after a bath in the sea. A brief survey, cautiously made, was sufficient. The native hurried back to the camp and told the rest of the tribe what he had seen. They at once collected all the men in the neighbourhood, formed a cordon, and warily closed in on him. When they came near he took little or no notice of them, and did not even alter his position for some time. They were very much alarmed. At length one of the party-finding courage addressed him as muurnong guurk (meaning that they supposed him to be one who had been killed and come to life again), and asked his name, "You Kondak Baarwon?" Buckley replied by a prolonged grunt and an inclination of the head, signifying yes. They asked him a number of other questions, all of which were suggested by the idea that he was one of themselves returned from the dead, and to all the questions Buckley gave the same reply. They were highly gratified, and he and they soon became friends. They made a wuurn of leafy branches for him, and lit a fire in front of it, around which they all
assembled. He was then recognized as one of the tribe. The news spread rapidly, and he was visited by large numbers of natives from different parts of the colony, who always showed great fear of him at first. The children especially would hide themselves from him, or call to their mothers to keep them from the Muuruup.

When ships visited the coast to get wood and water, Buckley never sought to make himself known to any of them. On several occasions ships were wrecked on the coast and all hands perished. From the wrecks Buckley and his tribe secured a large quantity of blankets, axes, and other articles, which he taught them how to use.

When Batman arrived at Geelong, Buckley was fishing in the river Barwonin which pursuit he excelled-and the news was conveyed to him by a number of natives, who brought him several articles which they had received as presents from Batman and his friends, such as biscuits, sugar, bread, \&c., which he at once recognized and partook of. He was asked by the tribe to take his fish (of which he had a large quantity) and all his war accoutrements, and go down to the " big ships." When he arrived he was met by Batman and "all the other big fellows," who were well pleased to see a white man among the natives. Buckley could not at first understand what they said, having completely forgotten his own language. He looked so puzzled while he was endeavouring to recall his mother tongue. Several days passed before he could converse with any freedom. Batman and his companions were not long in getting Buckley thoroughly washed and shaved, and in cutting his hair, which had grown to a prodigious length. When he was taken away in the ship the natives were much distressed at losing him, and when, some time after, they received a letter informing them of his marriage in Hobart Town, they lost all hope of his return to them, and grieved accordingly.

Buckley arrived at Port Phillip in 1802 as a convict, and in 1803 made his escape into the bush. After wandering about for one year he joined the aborigines, and lived with them till 1835. For thirty-two years he had not conversed with a white man. He had no children, and died in Tasmania in 1856.

# CONTEYANCE BY PRINCIPLL C'HIEFS TO BATMAN OF 100,000 ACRES BETWEEN GEELONG AND QUEENSCLIFF. 

The lithograph opposite to this page is a fac-simile of a parchment conveyance of certain land near Geelong to John Batman from eight chiefs, who affixed their marks, or signatures, to the deed, and at the same time symbolized the transfer of the land by taking up some of the soil and handing it to Batman. The original document is in the custody of Messrs. Taylor, Buckland and Gates, who have kindly given their permission to its publication. The heading is not in the original document.

Another conveyance of 500,000 acres between Geelong and the Yarra was made to Batman. A copy of this conveyance is to be found in the Record Office, in the Van Diemen's Land Correspondence, and has been published by Dr. Lang, by Mr. Bonwick, by Mr. Arden, and by Mr. Labelliere, in their several accounts of the early settlement of Victoria.

Both of the transactions represented by these documents were disallowed by the Colonial Secretary, in London.

The marks made by the chiefs on the parchment were their genuine and usual signatures, which they were in the habit of carving on the bark of trees and on their message sticks. The reader will be interested in these traces of civilization among a people who have hitherto been considered the least civilized of all nations.


Pe At Pemembied thet on the otry ane ther





务施 Saice Chiofo tateing ng-fiove of the toze on






Alaryanh hi Silf mater

- Hoovotue bis $\iiint_{\text {T }}^{T}$ muote Nommamulan bisflo sowth
vOcabulary of words in three languages.





| English. | Chaap wurong (broad lip). |  |  | Kuurn kopan noot (small lip). |  | Peek whuurong (kelp lip). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bodkin of bone | Kirndeen |  |  | Kirndeen ... |  | Kirndeen |
| Body | Pengneeung uratt | ... |  | Turang muttnen | ... | Turang muttnen |
| Boil, to boil . | No term | ... |  | No term | ... ... | No term |
| Bone ... | Kulku |  |  | Pukkiin | ... | Bukkiin |
| Bone, ribs | Lun'yin | ... |  | Yeeyeer ... | ... | Yeeyeer |
| Bone of upper arm | Kun'kun'tutchuk | $\ldots$ |  | Millæwuurk | ... .. | Millewwurk |
| Bone of lower arm | Tutchakuuk ... | ... |  | Wuurhneong |  | Wuurhneung |
| Bone of hand... | Kulkeea | \%.. |  | Pukkin marrang, | 'bone hand | Bukkiin marrank, 'bone hand' |
| Bone of leg, general term | Kulkeea nurak |  |  | Pirn | ... ... | Pirn |
| Bone of thigh ... | Kulkin karipp | $\ldots$ |  | Pukkiin karipp | ... | Muulo |
| Bone of lower legr ... | Karnuuk .. | $\ldots$ |  | Pirnuung ... |  | Pirnuung |
| Bone of foot ... | Warteep kulk | $\ldots$ |  | Pukkiin dinnang, | 'bone foot'.. | Bukkin timnang, 'bone foot' |
| Bones, custom of carrying human bones | Wiindeetch | $\ldots$ |  | Wiin wiin . |  | Chirt titt |
| Bones, calcined human bones, worn in bag ... | Chrert chaet | $\ldots$ |  | Treset tret ... | $\ldots$ | Taret taet |
| Bone in point of spear ... | Killæpuuk . | ... |  | Killipneung | $\cdots$ | Kilapneung |
| Boomerang, general term | Littum littum | ... |  | Leedre laedim | ... | Laxdre ladim |
| Boomerang, 'companion stick' | Paang geetch... | $\ldots$ |  | Paang geetch | $\cdots$ | Paang geetch |
| Boomerang, which retmons | Peenyarra grapp | ... |  | Whatannomeetch | ... | Whatannomaa |
| Boomerang, which does not return ... | Pungo gnapp... | $\ldots$ |  | Bungo neetch |  | Pungo nen |
| Boot | Wremajimma | $\ldots$ |  | Walla whallop din | nang | Wirn clinnang |
| Bottle | Tuunduum beawir | $\ldots$ |  | Wirndill ... | ... | Wirndill |
| Bower, of bower-lird ... | Larnokk | $\ldots$ |  | Yurohneung | $\ldots$ | Lorrotch |
| Bowels | Warteepuup kuuna | $\ldots$ |  | Kuurn kumrn kuu | nang | Puuloin neung |
| Boy | Watcheepuuk | $\ldots$ |  | Warran warran | ... .. | Warran warran |
| Boy whose beard is beginning to grow | Kretnxtch | $\ldots$ |  | Kutnat | ... .. | Kutnat |
| Box-tree | Taak |  |  | Weetcheerin |  | Karian |
| Brain | Mirtpuurp | $\ldots$ |  | Turuchar beem | ... | Tulo'chore |
| Branch of tree | Tutchakukk | ... |  | Wuurhneung | ... - | Trrang |
| Brave | Tititwuuchuup | $\ldots$ |  | Pinnukillik | ... .. | Likkætung |
| Break | Puku g'nak ... | ... |  | Kirndeen | ... | Kirnda |



| English. | Chaap wurrong (broad lip.) |  | Kuurn kopan noot (small lip). |  | Peek whuurong (kelp lip). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Camp or village | Yartma kæra ... |  | Pareen been | $\cdots$ | Wiitpee wuurn |
| Canoe, made of bark | Gnunnak ... |  | Torrong | ... ... | Torrong |
| Canopus planet | Wræ, 'crow' |  | Waa, 'crow' | $\ldots$ | Murhearong ware, 'large crow' |
| Carry ... | Tuurta |  | Walateen ... |  | Walatta |
| Catch | Kurkak |  | Mummakee |  | Manna |
| Catching men with noose | Worm match chimnin |  | Gnorm gnomm | $\ldots$ | Porkopa |
| Catching wild turkey or pigeon with noose | Parrem | $\ldots$ | Patkryan ... | $\ldots$... | Patkæyan |
| Catching water fowls with noose | Kreram bakk |  | Terang lukka |  | Trurang lunkke |
| Cave ... | Yeitchmir, 'close the eyes' |  | Yatmiruk, 'clo | ose the eye' | Yuluurn |
| Celt, or stone axe ... | Buuroku ... ... |  | Mocheger ... |  | Mochrexer |
| Cement for celt handles... | Puuropiitch ... ... |  | Puuropanuut | $\cdots$ | Puuropuut |
| Cement for spears and buckets ... | Chuulim |  | Tuulæmuul | $\ldots$... | Tuulemunu |
| Ceremony ... | Only specific |  | Only specific | ... .. | Only specific |
| Chickweed | Kreramukka. |  | Tæramukkar | ... $\quad$. | Mukkar |
| Chief $\quad .$. | Gnern neetch... . .. |  | Wung'it ... | $\ldots$ | Wung'it |
| Chief, when addressed | Nanneyok, 'chief mine' |  | Wung'it nan | $\ldots$ | Wung in hmæn |
| Chiefess ... . | Gnun kuutchup mutchong |  | Piniitchong mu | llert ... | Piniitchong mullert |
| Chiefess, when addressed | Gnamnrkuurk ... |  | Wangin heear | ... ... | Wang in heear |
| Child $\quad .$. | Pupuwuuk ... ... |  | Tukuæ̇ ... | ... .. | Pupuup |
| Child, illegitimate | Keearn kuurk ... |  | Keearn | ... .. | Keearn |
| Childbirth . | Narram ... |  | Morkorn ... | ... | Mowkorn |
| Children | Pupuup kaleek |  | Tukure tukure |  | Porpong |
| Childless | Alla pupuup, ' no children' |  | Bang pupuup, | ' no children' | Bangaheear tukur, 'no children' |
| Chin ... | Gmun'yee ... ... |  | Narriiu ... | ... | Gnarriin |
| Chirp of small bird | Wurika yarwirra yarwirr |  | Wuingjun kuu | ma knurn muttal | Lurkun tokos muttal |
| Chisel, made of bone | Pilaerer |  | Pilææ⿺ |  | Tirn tirn |
| Chisel, made of stone | Kannewil |  | Puin puin ... | ... ... | Kannakil |
| Claw of bird ... | Tinanyuuk |  | Tinan yuang | ... .. | Pirrenuung |
| Clay | Peek |  | Pupall ... | ... .. | Yuum |
| Clay, white | Peek |  | Martang ... | ... ... | Martang |
| Clay, red ... | Chuulirn |  | Tuulirn |  | Tuulirn |
| Clever ... | Murpillup munya, 'making |  | Muиyup marra | ng, 'makingliand' | Muuyuupeen marrang, 'makinghand' |









| English. | Chaap wurong (broad lip). |  | Kuurn kopan noot (small lip). | Peek whuurong (kelp lip). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Funeral pile | Carbowee |  | Carbowing | Carbowing |
| Fungus, mushroom ... | Peekuurn ... |  | Peekuurn ... | Peekuurn |
| Fungus, phosphorescent | Kilarn |  | Kilarn | Puluurt |
| Fungus, poisonous .... | Murtkourwæ , .. , |  | Murtkappirng ... , | Puluurt. |
| Fungus, tree fungus, edible | Puluntch wirmbuul, 'ear wax' |  | Bunloth wirng, 'ear wax' | Buulot wirng, 'ear wax' |
| Fungus, underground, edible ... ... | Boee wan |  | Boee wan ... |  |
| Futurity ... | Gnam gnampeng kuundeetch |  | Wuule whuula kittawunda | Wuulee whundre kittawunda |
| Gall ... | Meenguuk ... ... |  | Tittuung .. | Tittuung |
| Gallop, like a horse | Pirrpa ... ... |  | Karkuuran | Wirrakan pinnang kuupamin |
| Gather | Tumbukka |  | 'Tambukkx | Kirnaa |
| Gentleman | Puunjiliya |  | Puunjilkærang | Pumjilkramg |
| Gentleman, young ... | Wurteepee pumjiliya munnya |  | Kuurnai puunjilkarang ... | Kuurn punjilkeerang |
| Geranium, native .. | Kullum kulkeetch |  | Kawuurn kallumbarrant | Kawuurn kallumbarrant |
| Get... .... | Muutchak .. |  | Maneen ... |  |
| Girl, young ... | Buurni buurni |  | Pariit pariit ... ... | Gnaart |
| Girl, before entering womanhood | Weearkuurneetch kuwrk |  | Marramarrabuul | Marramarrabuul |
| Girl, betrothed, and visiting her intended husband's relations $\qquad$ | Tannat yanballup kumk |  | Kuumagnat yanburtaheear | Kuumagnat yanburtaheear |
| Give | Wokagee ( $g$ hard) ... |  | Wokakin ... ... | Yu gnaama |
| Glass, volcanio ... | Wurokiin ... ... |  | Wurokiin ... ... ... | Wurokiin |
| Gloaming light in the west | Kulleitch, 'evening light' |  | Kullatt, 'evening light' ... | Kullatt, 'evening light' |
| Glow ... ... | Pittayang ureen .. |  | Tirræra'gnan .. | Wallawar |
| Glutton | Murt gneeang, 'big mouth' |  | Meeheary gnuulang, 'lig mouth' | Tung'an, 'teeth' |
| Go... | Yanango ... |  | Ian ... ... ... | Puurpa gnin |
| God, or good spirit Good | Mam yungrakk Chulkuuk |  | Pirnmeheeal, but the affix Peep ghnatnæn, 'Father ours,' is generally added <br> Gnuuteung $\qquad$ | Peep ghnatnen, 'Father ours' Gnuuteung |
| Good-bye $\quad$... | Wuwu w®e ... |  | Wa wu. | Wuwuuk |
| Good-night ... ... | Kuumpeenyang o |  | Yuween ... ... ... | Yuween |
| Gossip, female ...) | Yueetcha kuurk |  | Yeetkueet mæring heean ... | Milling e chaar |




| Kuurn kopan noot (small lip). | Peek whurrong (kelp lip). |
| :---: | :---: |
| Karkor neegh heear"... | Karkor neegh heear |
| Tinnc yuwannc . | Tinure |
| Kuumakills | (inillam |
| Tuukue, or puupuup | Tuakure, or puupuup |
| Pirm pirm -.. | Pirm pirm |
| Gruuteung -.. | Gnuuteung |
| Gnarkuumbectch | Gnarkuumboetch |
| Ouly specific | Only specitic | Mullin

Teein
Wirrit metch
Nurinbee Wirn amin, 'my eater' Puurtam been Punrtam heen heaa Kuln gin
Milpen Kokok
Talliin
Kiiyuuk kiiyuuk
Trauk Trarunk
Puroin
Po'ol
Kulng gin
Pupkuqamin
 Wiin wiin Wart tinang, ' upper foot' Puulot ... Mullin ...
Wirrit næctch
Wirritneeanan
G'nuunat be
Tukkarnk knanin, 'my eater' Muuroin muum .... Muuroin muum hear Kulng gheean
Milpeean ...
Ko'hneung
Tallin … Kumnaguurt
Taruuk ... Korronong
Polong ...
Kulng gheean
Gnuuteung Kupam ...
Wiin wiin...

$$
\text { English. } \quad \text { Chaap wuurong (broad lip). }
$$

Pirpaa wituuruuk
Kleenja kuumbuurnga... Gnillam Puupuup kalink Pirm pirm ... Chulkuuk $\quad \cdots$ Gnarkuumbeetch Ouly specific .. Gneuncluwan... Wart chinang, ' upper foot' Puloitch Mullin
Ka... bonk Baba'gnilang Nuok Mumakin, 'my eater'. Tuurong muum Tuurong muum knurls Kulng gheelung
Kookok $\quad \cdots$
Pallunt yung'ark
Tartkuurt kurrok kuroo
Tan'yuuk ya'gnuurak.
Korrondok
Polos heeling
Kulng gheelung
Chuult kærem
Jealousy, on man's part Jealousy, on woman's part Jester o "•" Joints of bones, $g$
Joint of shoulder ... Joint of elbow Joint of wrist
Joint of hip
Joint of knee... .
Joint of ankle
Joke, or fun... Jump
Kangaroo apple

Immoral woman
In, or into
Infant, new-born Infant, till named Infusion of bark Imnocence
Insane person
Insects
Insects, very small
Instep of foot
Ironbark tree
Islond
tch ${ }^{\prime}$
Itchy
Jaw
Joint of wrist Joint of ankie ' Joy... $\quad .$. ..
Kangaroo applo






xxix




xxxiv




| English. | Chaap wrurong (broad lip). |  | Kuurn kopan noot (small lip). |  |  | Peek whumrong (kelp lip). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Spear, flint-jagged way ... | Muuwill |  | Wuurokigill |  |  | Wuurokiin |
| Spear, kangaroo | Tææァ |  | Narmall |  |  | Terr |
| Spear, best quality | Bundit, 'bite' |  | Bundit, 'bite ' | .. |  | Bundit, 'bite' |
| Spear, reed . | Chaark |  | Gnirrin | ... |  | Terr |
| Spear, eel | Tuulakneetch |  | Kuyuat ... | $\cdots$ | - | Knyuut |
| Spear with emu feather attached ... | Witchin |  | Taaratt |  |  | Taaratt |
| Spear, thrower stick | Kirrek ... .. |  | Gniiruung. . |  |  | Karpong golang |
| Spectacles | Trert mirr, 'dazzle eye' |  | Atchæet termirn, " C | lazzle |  | Trerert ming, 'dazzle eye ${ }^{\text {d }}$ |
| Spell | Yuncomaa muuruup, 'frightene for devil' ... ... |  | Yuunyuumban <br> ' frightened for cl | $\begin{gathered} \text { muu } \\ \text { levil' } \end{gathered}$ |  | Yuumban muruup, ' frightened for devil' |
| Spell, rubbish | Woreetch |  | Wuulon ... |  |  | Wuulon |
| Spirit, good or great | Mam yungrakk ... |  | Pirnmeeheeal | $\cdots$ |  | Pringheeal |
| Spirit, bad male | Muaruup . | .. | Muuruup ... | $\cdots$ | .. | Tambuur |
| Spirit, bad female | Gnulla gnulla kuurk |  | Gnulla gnulla gneea |  |  | Gnulla gnulla gneear |
| Spirit, man's ... | Gniiyarr ... |  | Wirreenk ... | ... |  | Wirreenk |
| Spirit, woman's | Wirree gork ... |  | Wirreeyaar | $\ldots$ |  | Weeyarr |
| Spirit or ghost | Muaruupuak ... |  | Muuruup hneung | - |  | Murruup lmeung |
| Spirit in cave on seashore | Not knoven . |  | Puit chepetch | ... |  | Puit chepetch |
| Spirit of beast .. | None |  | None ... |  |  | None |
| Spirituous liquor | Balliin kork, 'motherless girl' |  | Kokre heear, ' moth | herles |  | Lapeetch, 'pungent water' |
| Spittle ... | Kowwarr ... |  | Tuulork | ... |  | Tuulort |
| Sponge | Gnuunkee |  | Gnuunkee... | ... |  | Gnuunkee |
| Spoon formed of shell .. | Tarræ warrong |  | Tarree warrong | . |  | Tarre warrong |
| Sporran ... | Piian'greetch ... |  | Piian'gæætch |  |  | Piian'gæereh |
| Spring of water | Kuulan nuuk... |  | Pupkupan pareetc out water' | $\mathrm{h}, \mathrm{i}$ |  | Tuuriin tumion |
| Spring of the year | Bukkar yak eelang nor, 'summe coming' |  | Bukkar ya eeawa coming ' ... | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{~s} \\ \ldots \end{gathered}$ |  | Bukkar ya eeawan, 'summer coming' |
| Spur on wing of lapwing | Yulore yuuk. | $\ldots$ | Willanyuung | ... | ... | Willanyuung |
| Spur on wing of powerful owl | Leeawiluuk |  | Meenim mahamneu |  |  | Willanyuung |
| Spur of platypus | Yuloæ yuuk |  | Willanyuung | ... |  | Willanyuung |
| Squaring skins for rugs... | Tulgorakk |  | Tuuloin kuurtakæ | ... |  | Tuuloin kuurtake |
| Squeak ... | Kagga wuudchan ... |  | Kawuurdeean | $\ldots$ |  |  |


| English. | Chaap wurrong (broad lip). | Kuurn kopan noot (small lip). | Feek whuurong (kelp lip). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Squint ... | Chuunkee mirnk, 'squint eye' ... | Muurngottitch mirng, 'squint eye | Wartu wirteen mink, 'squint eye' |
| Stage in tree for corpse... | Kalk | Barrangkuurt ... | Barrangkuurt |
| Stalking game | Krerambung o | Treran bowamm | Trera buurtna |
| Stalking the feather | Witchim | Tarratt | Tarratt |
| Stand ... | Charrekan | Kardan | Kardan |
| Stars, generally | Chachee neowee, 'sisters of the sun' | Kaakii tirng, 'sisters of the sun' | Mink gill, ' eye ours ' |
| Stars, small ... | Chachee neowee, 'sisters of the sun' | Narweetch maring, 'star earth' | Peepeetchee kupen, 'crowded' |
| Start ... | Pung'yin gnan, 'frightened me' | Parlopum me ano, 'frightened | Pardopum meeno, 'frightened me' |
| Steal or stealing | Pirmelang | Yurpeann... | Mannumeetch |
| Steamboat ... | Preen preen nuurnup, 'smoke along' ... | Tongtong pirndeheear, 'smoke along | Torong |
| Steep, steep hill | Knarer . | Kullee wuur | Kuul kuurt |
| Stem of tree or plant .. | Tutcha kuuk | Wuurtneungr | Wuurtneung |
| Sticks for beating time... | Tirntirn ... | Popok $\quad .$. ... | Popok |
| Sting. ... | Kuurnaneeng... | Kuturang an, 'bite me' | Murpa |
| Stinking | Wuutchaeaa ... | Wumbail ... | Wuumbeetch |
| Stomach | Preling ink ... ... | Tuuku ... | Tuuku |
| Stomach ache ... | Gneuro ang æ | Koroit gna gnan | Koroit gna gnan |
| Stone | Laa'a . | Marrii ... | Marrii |
| Stones, applied hot to pain spot | Tueetch pakk yakuutch | Paawat kueakuut | Paawat kueakut |
| Stones, for curing toothache | Kerm kerm | Kaaratch | Kaaratch |
| Stones, for sorcery | Kerm kerm | Kaaratch | Kaaratch |
| Stones for celts | Laa... | Marrii | Marrii |
| Stones, for basket-making | Parpu gna ... | Paapirano... | Paapirano |
| Stones, for grinding celts | Yuron yuron ... | Warwhatuur | Warwhatumr |
| Stoop. $\quad .$. | Wuumrelang ... | Yurotan | Yurotan |
| Stooping custom of mothers-in-law | Gneealuun guurk | Naluun | Naluunyar |
| Storm, which destroys blossoms... | Borran borran kulan chimmuk | Borran borran kula mutang ... | Borran borran kuula muutang |



Peek whuurong（kelp lip）．
Tullark wireetjar，＇mate of thistle＇
Pundang
Weerang an
Gnuul gnuul tin＇yææn
Tullark
Pukkeepa
Karnda
Kaarta bung＇een
Yarnda
Pundun o
Gneerank marrank，＇mother of fingers＇
Muxndall
Murndall
Tarrat murndall
Kuttepaa，＇rising＇
Kuttepaa，＇rising
Ma＇al
Waawo＇gna
Puunuung
Tinnang
Kneerang tinnang，＇mother of toes＇
Tuungna teetch
Tulliin
Kunnuk neung Karratch
Merk
感
泉
Kuurn kopan noot（small lip）．
Gneerang marang，
fingers ${ }^{\text {Murndall }}$
Tarrat murndall
Gnundun，＇rising＇
Weearmeetch
Part puung＇ang
Part puung ang
Puunong …
Kalo
Tinnang ．．．

$\vdots$
者
Kumnuk neung
Karratch ．．．
Yappeheear
Yapp $\quad \cdots$

Wuurn beem

| Chaap wuurong（broad lip）． |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Punpun dillup，＇prick，prick＇ | $\ldots$ |

Thistle，imported thistle
Thistle，imported thistle Thistle，sow thistle ．．．
Thorn ．．．．．
Thread，made of sinew Thread，made of fur Threaten
Throat
Throw
Baap mun＇ya，＇mother of fingers＇
Murndaar
Tarrachee murndaar …
Gnunjaa，＇rising
－
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Puung＇ort } \\ \text { Tirt kuugna } & . .\end{array}$
Chinna $\quad$ i．
Pirp pirp pirp
Kunnæ neuk ．．．
Yapuurelap
$\begin{array}{lll}\text { Yapuurælap } & . . & \cdots \\ \text { Yapp } & \ldots & \ldots \\ \text { Chinbukk } & \cdots & \ldots\end{array}$ Laarb
English．
Thunder ．．．
Thunder cloud Tippet of rushes
toothache
救
To－day
Toes，gen

| Toe，large | ．．． | ．．． |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Paap chinna，＇mother of toes＇ |  |  |
| To－morrow | ．．． | Pirp pirp pirp | Chalææ ．．．．．．



| English. | Chasp wuurong (broad lip). | Kuurn kopan noot (small lip). | Peek whuurong (kelp lip). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tracker, native | Kappang o tinning, 'follow foot'... | Wuurongkuurtan, 'follow track' | Wuurong kuurtann, 'follow track' |
| Trail of man ... | Poop chinna, "print foot' . | Poorp tinnang, 'print foot' ... | Poorp tinnang, 'print foot ' |
| Trail of lizzard | Pirpa muurndarnk, 'running lizzard' | Karkuuran muunee, running lizzard' | Tarnuung muuliin at, 'running lizzard' |
| Trail of snake | Parring'guak kuurnwilla | Tarnuung kuurang at, 'running snake' | Tarnuung kuurang at, 'running snake' |
| Txavel or travelling | Yan'gna, "go | Yannan, 'go' | Puurpa, 'go' |
| Trees, generally | Yuulong .. | Wuurot ... | Wuurot |
| Tremble ... | Muumuur an ... | Puurng puurnga wan | Yarremee kuutah |
| Tribe, tribes of aborigines generally | Kuulæ | Maar | Maar |
| Trough for holding water | Gnannak | Torong | Torong |
| Trysting place | Trending gnaræen ... | Trenda hrenan | Tændo hinnan |
| Tuff or tuffa. | Turtee match... ... | Tarra lols | Tarra lok |
| Tumble down... | Pueet ka | Yarnda puurteeann ... | Yarndaa wuurtin |
| Tusk of quadruped | Wirnduuk | Wirnuung... | Wirnuung |
| 'Twilight in morning | Kuumba kulliitch, 'sleep twilight' | Yuwan kullatt, 'sleep twilight' | Yuwan kullatt, 'sleep twilight |
| Twilight in evening | Wueetpa kulliitch, 'dusk' .. | Wuuyupeet kullatt, 'dusk' ... | Wuyupaa kullatt, 'clusk' |
| Twin children | Teenjerapp ... ... .. | Kurpim biyeetch ... | Kurpim biyeetch |
| Twinkle | Muurmuuraa kulkuuk ... | Wungruul ... ... ... | Minkill |
| Udder of quadruped | Chrekorm | Gnarmiin ... | Gnarmiin |
| Ugly ... | Wokre mirng, 'black eye' .. | Meen mirng, "black eye" | Gnumeenjar |
| Umbilical cord | Wirowok ... ... | Peekort | Peechuung |
| Umkilical cord custom | Warro ... | Peekuurt ... | Peetch |
| Undee | Kenneuneuk ... | Kang'giænuung ... | Wreneunuung |
| Unkind | Yatchang | Gnummee gulleen ... | Gnummx jaar |
| Until | King'an | Deenbee ... | Kullo |
| Up... | Keeyuga | Kunnee | Kınnu |
| Urine | Chirrop ... | Krirn ... | Krimn |
| Us ... | Pareea ... ... | Batar gnatnaen ... .. | Gnarrakit wanuung |
| Valley | Knrexer | Kully kully wuur | Murtong |
| Vein ... | Pirpa kuurk, 'running blood' ... | Karkurann ktureek, " running hlood ' | Weerakan kerrik, 'running blood ' |


| English. | Chaap wuurong (broad lip). | Kuurn kopan noot (small lip). | Peek whurong (kelp lip). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Vegetables | Only specific | Only specific ... | Only specific |
| Venus, planet | Paapee neowee, 'mother of the sun' | Wung'uul, 'twinkle' | Marhearrong, 'large' |
| Vengeance ... | Pirnawuuchuup ... | Warrakilek | Watta le'hnan |
| Venom of snake | Barring guyuuk | Barring guutong | Barring guatong |
| Vex | Pinna wuutchubak | Watann lihnann | Watta lihnann |
| Village, native | Munn'yah | Marrang | Gnarrakituung wuurng |
| Violet, small indigenous | Neeak necak mirnk, 'seeing eye' | Nachnachmilk, 'seeing eyo'... | Nachnachmikk, 'seeing eye' |
| Virgin ... .. | Weearkuurneetch kuurk ... | Marramarrabuul or keearn | Marramarrabuul or keearn |
| Volcano, active | Walpa kuulor, 'burning hill' | Baawan kuulor, 'burning hill ' | No name |
| Vomit | Kartma | Karnann ... | Kartma |
| Waist | Nalukrek | Aluurk | Aluuk |
| Walk | Yan gnang o ... | Yanna wan | Puurpuukall |
| Wand, for noosing birds | Parrem -.. | Putkiyang... | Putkiyang |
| Warm | Wulpung æn ... | Paawan ... | Paawan |
| Wart | Chim chim mok | Timp timp... | Timp timp |
| Wash | Karwilang | Puroneeann | Gnormang |
| Water ... | Kutchin | Pareetch ... | Pareetch |
| Water, fresh ... | Telkw kutchin, 'good water' | $\begin{array}{cc}\text { Gnuutchgnan } \\ \text { water' } & \text { pareetch, 'good } \\ \text {.... }\end{array}$ | Gnuuteung pareetch, 'good water' |
| Water, salt | Piinbal | Mirteetch ... | Mirteetch |
| Water, foul or muddy | Puppal | Puppal or yuurm ... | urm |
| Waterhole ... | Yarrum | Killink, 'sound of stone dropped into water' | Killink, 'sound of stone dropped into water' |
| Wave | Piinbaal | Wuupareitch | Wopuut tuutnæn |
| We... | Pareea gnurak | Baar gnatnæn | Gnarrakit wanuung |
| Weak | Bo'olk | Warpee | Wanuupa |
| Weapon, general term | Pulk pulk | Muut muut chuul | Muut munt chuul |
| Weapons, bundle of | Kxp kulleen ... ... ... | Kiap kulluung | Kiap kulling |
| Web of spider | Larnuuk mun'yak kareek, 'house of spider' | Wuurnong marrakukk gnat, 'house of spider' ... | Pirrii hneung, 'their net' |
| Wedding | Knuuluurpee... | Knuuluurp ... | Gnuuluarp |
| Weed, water weed | Piik kuuruak | Piik kuuruuk | Piik kuuruuk |
| Weed in lagoons and swamps ... ... | Churak | Tuurak ... | Tuurak |


| English. | Chaap wuurong (broad lip). | Kuurn kopan noot (small lip). | Peek whuurong (kelp lip). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Weep | Yeereeyaa | Luung an | Weepa |
| Well, healthy | Tulku wan, 'good am I' | Gnuuteung niit, 'good am I' ... | Gnuuteung, 'good' |
| Well, native well | Chuung ang o, "to dig' | Tuunda wan, 'to dig' ... | Kunnung, 'to dig' |
| Well, exclamation | Neaa a ... | Yaa | Yaa |
| West | Mirmupp neowee, 'go down sun' | Kiitmeet tirng, 'go down sun' | Kameetgnunnang, 'godownsun' |
| What | Neaa | Nunn aa ... | Gnunna |
| When | Winjaa | Uunda | Uunda |
| Which | Ween'yatuuk... | Wuundaræcha nuung | Wuundaræcha nuung |
| Whine, like a dog | Gnilman | Gneeneetan | Gnin hnitta |
| Whisker ... | Knunnyæ .... ... | Gnarriin | Gnarriin |
| Whisper ... | Teert charring gna gno, 'speak in my ear' ... | Tirtpan an, 'speak in my ear'... | Tirtpan, 'speak in my ear' |
| Whistle, to | Chre kuurna ... ... . | Tirng kærann ... ... | Wuinja |
| Whistle, by holding th lower lip ... | Trekuuna | Trkæramn... ... | Teewirna |
| Whistle or cry of snake | Tukkxlang kuurnwil | Purteeann kuurang ... | Kurnda |
| White | Turrarnup | Gnupkuyeetch ... ... | Tarndeetch |
| Who, whose, whom | Winyaar | Gnaara | Gnarra |
| Wicked man ... | Pirm pirm xtch | Korrang korrang atch | Manno manno mretch |
| Wicked woman | Pirm pirm millakork | Korrang korrang atchaar | Manno manno mætchaar |
| Widow | Puunjak ... | Puundak ... | Punndak |
| Widower | Puunjall tanyuuk | Nakeecheruuk | Nakeechamo |
| Wife, general term | Muttchumee ... | Mullin'gar... | Mullang |
| Wife, first ... | Karre nupkuurk, 'reared together' | Karromakeear, 'reared together' | Karrm makeear, 'reared together' |
| Wife, second, and follo ing | Paakunekuurk | Weehneear | Weehneear |
| Wild | Pirna wuuchuup | Warrakeek læk | Warrakeek læk |
| Wild aboriginal | Yuul yuul ... | Yuul yuul ... | Yuul yuul |
| Wind, general term | Mot mot | Muurnduak | Gnuurnduuk |
| Wind, north ... | Pirnmalle, 'hot wind' ... | Barrakii, 'hot wind' | Barrakii, 'hot wind' |
| Wind, south | Kuureen, 'fog or misty wind' | Kuureen, 'fog or misty wind'... | Kuureen, 'fog or misty wind' |
| Wind, west ... | Kuumar kuumar, 'cold wind' | Kuumar kuumar, 'cold wind '... | Kuumar kuumar, 'cold wind' |
| Wind, east | Laplap kurtii, 'warm wind' | 「aplap kuurn, 'warm wind'. | Laplap kuurn, 'warm wind' |
| Wind, whirlwind | Weeyulung weeyuung guur | Weeyuung weeyuung guur | Weeyuung weeyuung gaur |
| Wind, strong... | Gnaarachaak ... ... | Uunduuk ... ... | Uunduuk |


| English. | Chaap wuurong (broad lip). |  | Kuurn kopan noot (small lip). |  |  | Peek whuurong (kelp lip). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Wing of bird ... | Tutchakuuk ... |  | Warritnong | ... |  | Wirritnong |
| Wink | Nimpmar ... ... |  | Millxpan ... |  |  | Millæpa |
| Winter | Moatt moatt, 'cold' ... |  | Gnuurnduuk, 'cold |  |  | Gnuurnduuk, 'cold' |
| Wish | Yaaweeann ... ... |  | Watniitch ... |  |  | Wannæ ka |
| Witch | Yunggii yapp, 'solitary' |  | Kuin'gnatyambat | tch, 'so |  | Yambateetch, 'solitary |
| Within | Keeyuga ... ... | ... | Likkæ nuung |  |  | Likkx nuung |
| Without | Cholkuurna |  | Yeekuwan |  |  | Teekuurnæko |
| Woman, white | Knamakeek kuurk |  | Knamatreheear | .. |  | Gnamatæcharr |
| Woman, white, old | Kalla kalla kuurk | ... | Kukuwitch | $\ldots$ |  | Gnullang yaar |
| Woman, white, young . | Yarkuurnap kuurk | .. | Marramarrabuul | ... |  | Marramarrabuul |
| Woman, aboriginal ... | Beng beng go... |  | Tannumbor | ... |  | Tannumbor |
| Woman, aboriginal, old | Gnalla gnalla kuurk ... | ... | Kukuwitch | ... |  | Gnullang yaar |
| Woman, aboriginal, young | Weearwuurnup kuurk ... |  | Marramarrabuul |  |  | Marramarrabuul |
| Woman, aboriginal, single | Tulkuuk kuulæe kuurk ... |  | Knuighwhaar tan | umbor |  | Knuutch tannambor |
| Woman, young and betrothed ... | Charn kork |  | Keearn |  |  | Keearn |
| Woman, aboriginal, married | Gnanætch wilkuurk | .. | Gnanna puurkeea |  |  | Gnanna puurkeear |
| Woman, aboriginal, married and childless | Kukuya |  | Kuurokutann | ... |  | Bang att tukuæ |
| Woman, aboriginal, near confinement | Gnarram |  | Moægorm ... | ... |  | Moægorm |
| Woman, aboriginal, unchaste | Kyn kuurk ... |  | Keeandeetch | $\ldots$ |  |  |
| Wood or timber for fuel | Wee ... | ... | Ween ... | ... |  | Wee |
| Wound | Wærpek |  | Meeng ... | ... |  | Meeng |
| Wounded | Chut kuurnæ nut |  | Muttre tanno | ... | $\ldots$ | Meeng |
| Wraith, man's | Muuruup pakk | ... | Muuruup man | ... | $\cdots$ | Muuruup man |
| Wraith, woman's | Muuruup kuurakk |  | Muuruup yernan | ... |  | Muuruup yernan |
| Wraith, child's .. | None |  | None ... | ... |  | None |
| Wrestle | Partuum cherrang | ... | Bartuuniyeeban | ... | $\ldots$ | Yarnda |
| Wrestler, champion wrestler ... ... | Wartwær |  | Warkill ... | ... |  | Warkill |
| Wrestling, game of | Partuum partuum ... | ... | Bartuunum | ... | . | Bartuunum |
| Wrist ... | Kayuuk kayuuk gnuurak |  | Kayuuk kayuuk | - |  | Kayuuk kayuuk |

QUADRUPEDS.



BIRDS.


| English, | Chanp wuurong (broad lip). | Kuurn kopan noot (small lip). | Peek whuurong (kelp lip). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Hawk, kite ... | Chukkchukk bo'ang, 'eater of carrion' | Tætcha wuumbeetch, 'eater of carrion' | Tikkok |
| Hawk, black-shouldered kite | $\begin{array}{ccc}\text { Millamarr } & \ldots & \cdots \\ \end{array}$ | Warn warneetch yakerr | Not known |
| Hen, domestic | Kuurn kuurn kulleitch, 'call for daylight' | Kuurn kuurn kulleitch, 'call for daylight' | Kuurn kuurn kulleitch, 'call for daylight' |
| Heron, common | Kuukup wuuchu | Kuukup ... ... | Gnarrapiin |
| Heron, white-necked | Kuukæbang'gar, 'old basket' | Bangkar, 'old basket' | Yuheup kuyuurn, 'old lasket' |
| Heron, nankeen or night heron | Kuuke kalwar, 'grandmother of herons' | Koro kalwar, 'grandmother of herons ' ... | Kalwar |
| Ibis,.. | Kuum kuum bulu kuurk, 'relation of another ${ }^{\text {'... }}$ | Wirram guæ | Tirrim guæ |
| Jay ... | Muunyukill ... ... | Mumanukill ... | Munnyukill |
| Kingfisher, sacred | Bunbun yuchuuk, 'catch fish' | Banban kuunamang, 'catch fish' | Tuuran |
| Lapwing, large | Pirrit pirrit, 'its cry ${ }^{\text {' }}$ | Petereet, 'its cry' ... | Pateratt, 'its cry ' |
| Lapwing, small | Munjarra kuurk, 'relative of another' | Mundaratt | Not known |
| Lark, or pipit, native | Tirteen charuuk | Warwharkeet | Tirpurtii |
| Laughing jackass, large | Kuurnk kuurnk, 'its cry' | Kuunit ... | Kuunit |
| Laughing jackass, small | Kaan billæguurk ... | Karntuluung ... | Pirrim pirrim |
| Lyre bird ... .. | Buuln buuln, 'its cry ' ... | Buuln buuln, 'its cry' | Not known |
| Magpie, or organ-bird | Kuuruuk, 'its cry ' | Kirrex, 'its cry' ... | Kirrex, ' 'its cry ' |
| Magpie, black ... | Killirn, 'its cry' | Gillin gillin, 'its cry ' | Killirn, 'its cry, |
| Magpie lark | Chirmp chirmp, 'its cry' | Tuulirmp, 'its cry'.. | Tuulip, 'its cry' |
| Minah, or soldier-bird ... | Pirndeen ... ... | Puutch | Poatch |
| Osprey ... ... | Wo'ok | Wo'ok | Pareetch pareetch kounterbuul, 'cut cut whale' |
| Owl | Only specific | Ouly specific | Ouly specific |
| Owl, common... | Warroma will ... | Wirmall ... | Wirmall |




| English. | Chaap wuurong (broad lip). |  |  | Kuurn kopan noot (small lip). |  |  | Peek whuurong (kelp lip). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Wren, slate-coloured* . | Teupeetch teupeetch | ... | ... | Mirnam mirnam | $\cdots$ |  | Tee'cheetch, 'its cry ' |
| Wren, yellow-rumped ... |  |  |  | Gnarrin beeal | ... |  |  |
| Wren, firctail... ... | Woreewill kuurk | ... |  | Yuloinkeear |  |  | Pundit tii |
| Wryneck ... .. | Tirn tirn, 'its cry' | ... |  | Tirn tirn, 'its cry' |  |  | Tirtaheaar |

* The wren which builds a false nest on the top of the true one. It will be seen that, in the case of the crane, crow, curlew, duck (mountain and wood), goose (large and small), kestrel

保 called attention to this fact, because it seems to lend some countenance to the onomatopoetic theory of the origin of speech ; or, in other words, to the highly plausible assumption that the latter, like writing, was suggested by the instinct of imitation. but I think the facts are against him.
REPTILES.


lviuii
FISHES AND CRUSTACEA.

| English. | Chaap wuurong (broad lip). |  |  |  | Kuurn kopan n | (smal |  | Peek whuurong (kelp lip). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fish, saltwater, general term | Yarrar | ... | ... | -• | Yarrar | ... | . $\cdot$ | YarrarPirnma |
| Fish, freshwater, general term | Mo'om | . |  |  | Kuunamuung | . | . |  |
| Blackfish, freshwater ... | Chuulim | ... | $\cdots$ | ... | Yerre chaar | ... | ... | Yerre chaar |
| Clamshell fish | No name | ... | ... | . | Yuyuuk ... | ... | ... | Yuyuuk |
| Crab, saltwater ... | Kalweetch | ... | ... | ... | Kalweetch | ... | ... | Kalweetch |
| Crab, freshwater ... | Yaapeetch | ... | ... | .. | Weechang ... | ... | ... | Yapeetch |
| Crawfish ... | Yarram | . |  | ... | Yarram ... |  |  | Yarram |
| Cuttlefish, or octopus | Paar munya | 'm | ands ' | ... | Karrat marrang | 'many | cls ' | Karrat marrank, ' many hands ' |
| Eel, fieshwater ... | Puunyart | ... | ... |  | Kuyang ... | ... | ... | Kuyang |
| Eel, lamprey ... | Not known |  | ... | ... | Kuyang dakk | ... | ... | Kuyang dakk |
| Little fish in fresh water | Tuurt kuurt | ... | ... | ... | Tuurt kuurt | ... | ... | Tuurt kuurt |
| Little fish in fresh water | Yuchuuk | ... | ... | ... | Kuunamuung | ... | ... | Pirnmarrii |
| Mussel, freshwater ... | Challuup | . $\cdot$ | ... | . $\cdot$ | Timbonn ... | - | ... | Timbonn |
| Mussel, saltwater ... | Mrehmrt | ... | ... | ... | Mæhmæt ... | ... | ... | Mrehmæt |
| Mutton-fish, large ... | Tullik | ... | ..' | ... | Tullik ... | ... | ... | Tullik |
| Mutton-fish, small ... | Munjir | $\ldots$ | ... | ... | Wiichurong | -. | ... | Munjir |
| Periwinkle ... | Gnumatt | ... | ... | ... | Gnumatt .. | ... |  | Gnumatt |


INSECTS.



RELATIONSHIPS.
relationsmips in the chalap wuurong language.

| Male speaking. | I call. | Meaning. | Calls Me. | Meaning. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| My great grandfather by father's side . | Chuang chuang kuukuurne | Great grandfather | Kuukuumse | Great grandson |
| ", great grandfather by mother's side | Kuukuurn leunre | Great grandfather | Kuukuurne | Great grandson |
| " great grandmother by father's side . | Gnyarre kuure | Great grandmother | Gnumma | Great grandson |
| ", great grandmother by mother's side... | Chuang chuang kuka | Great grandmother | Chuang chuang kuurk |  |
| " grandfather by father's side | Kuukuurnæ | Grandfather | Kuukuurne | Grandson |
| " grandfather by mothex's side | Gnumme | Grandfather | Gnumme | Grandson |
| ", grandmother by father's side | Meemee | Crandmother | Meemee... | Grandson |
| ", grandmother by mother's side | Kuuruuk | Grandmother | Kokx | Grandson |
| ", father... | Maamee | Father | Watcheepee | Son |
| , step-father | Yaanitmam | Other father | Karrim karrim | Step-son |
| ", father-in-law | Niitchang gnaa'yak | Father-in-law | Niitchang niitch | Son-in-law |
| " mother | Baabee ... | Mother | Puupure | Son |
| " step-mother | Yaa'gnik loab | Other mother | Yas'gnik puupuup | Step-son |
| " mother-in-law | Naluunkuure | Mother-in-law | Naluunjee $\quad .$. | Son-in-law |
| , father's brother, single or married | Yaanitmam | Other father | Yamatwutcheep | Nephew |
| " father's eldest sister, single | Wardii wardiitch | Old aunt | Paapee gneakk | Nephew |
| "father's eldest sister, married | Naluukz | Aunt | Watcheepee | Nephew |
| " father's other sisters, single or | Naluukæ | Aunt | Watcheepee | Nephew |
| " mother's eldest brother, single | Churnbap | Uncle | Nunnung nup | Nephew |
| ", mother's eldest brother, married | Meemim guurk | Maried uncle | Nunnung nup | Nephew |
| ," mother's other brothers, single | Churnbap ... | Uncle | Nunnug nup | Nephew |
| ", mother's other brothers, married | Meemim gruurk | Uncle | Nunnung nup | Nephew |
| " mother's eldest sister, single | Bap kuuruuk | Aunt | Bap kuuruukæ | Child |




| Female speaking. | I call. |  | Meaning. | Calls me. | Meaning. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| My great grandfather, by father's side ... | Kuakuurn ... | ... | Great grandfather | Kuukuurn kuurk. | Great granddaughter |
| ", great grandfather, by mother's side... | Kuukuurnæ | $\ldots$ | Great grandfather | Num kuurk | Great granddanghter |
| " grandfather, by father's side | Kuakuman ... |  | Grandfather | Kuukuturn kuurk. | Grandlaughter |
| " grandfather, by mother's side | Cnumme ... | $\ldots$ | Granulfather | Nmm kuurk | ( t randdaughter |
| ", grandmother, by father's side | Meemee | . | Grandmother | Yarrie kuurk | Grandlaughter |
| ", grandmother, by mother's side | Koks |  | Grandmother | Kokic | Crranddaughter |
| , father... ... | Maamee |  | Father | Meng' ${ }^{\text {grep }}$ | Daughter |
| " step-father | Yaanitmam | ... | Other father | Yaagnek men'gep. | Other daughter |
| " father-in-law | Metchekk ... | ... | Father-in-law, 'sinall stick'... | Miitkuurk | Daughter-in-law |
| " mother | Paapa $\quad .$. | . | Mother | Ророг ... ... | Daughter |
| " step-mother | Yaagnik lob | ... | Other mother | Yaagnik puupuup... | Other child |
| " mother-in-law | Karrinjee . |  | Mother-in-law | Karrinjee | Daughter-in-law |
| " father's brother, single | Watchip ... | . | Not a father | Meng'gap ... | Daughter-in-law |
| " father's brother, marxied .. | Yaa'gnik mam | - | Other father | Yaacnik meng'gap | Other daughter |
| " father's eldest sister, single | Paapre gnek | .. | Old aunt | Pampre nee $\quad .$. | Niece |
| " father's eldest sister, married | Nulluuk |  | Aunt | Meng'gep ... | Niece |
| " fatber's other sisters ... | Nulluuk | .. | Aunt | Meng'gep ... | Niece |
| " mother's brother, single ... | Churmbup ... | $\cdots$ | Uncle ... | Chinnapung kuure | Niece |
| " mother's brother, married... .f... | Meemim kuuræ | $\ldots$ | Uncle ... | Meemim kuuræ ... | Niece |
| " mother's eldest sister, single, if older than my mother | Bap kuurongjæ |  | Oldest aunt | Bap kutrong kuurk | Niece |
| " mother's eldest sister, married | Yaagnek bab | ... | Other mother | Yaa'gnik puupuup | Child |
| " mother's other sister, single | Muung kuuræ | .. | Aunt | Chinnapung ... | Niece |
| " mother's other sister, married | Yaagnik bab |  | Other mother | Yaagnik puupuup... | Child |
| "father's brother's son, single | Waawik ... |  | Cousin ... | Kuutuuk | Cousin |
| "father's brother's son, married | Wardiitch kuurk | $\cdots$ | Cousin, married | Kıutuuk | Cousin |
| " father's brother's son, married, and with a family ... | Wardii kuurk |  | Cousin, with family | Kuutuuk | Cousin |
| " father's youngest brother's son, single | Waawee ... |  | Cousin ... | Kuutuak | Cousin |
| " father's youngest brother'sson, married | Wardii yee... |  | Cousin, married | Kuutuuk | Cousin |
| " father's youngest brother's son, married, and with a family ... | Wardii kuurk |  | Cousin, with family | Kuutuuk | Cousin |



relationships in the hudrn hopan noot lavguige.


lxxiv

| Female speaking. | I call. | Meaning. | Calls me. | Meaning. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| My great grandfather, by father's side ... | Wurowuromitkuukuur | Great grandfather | Kuukuurgna | Great granddaughter |
| 2 great grandfather, by mother's side... | Wurowuromit gnapuur | Great grandfather | Wurowuromit gnapuur ... | Great granddaughter |
| ", great grandmother, by father's side ... | Wurowuromit leehnaar | Great grandmother | Wurowuromit leehnaar' | Great granddaughter |
| " great grandmother, by mother's side | Wurowuromit kuuruuk | Great grandmother | Wurowuromit kuuruuk ... | Great granddaughter |
| ", grandfather, by father's side | Kuukuurn | Grandfather | Kuukuurn heear | Granddaughter |
| " grandfather, by mother's side | Naapuurn ... | Grandfather | Naxpuurn | Granddaughter |
| ", grandmother, by father's side | Leenyarr ... | Grandmother | Leenyarr | Granddaughter |
| ", grandmother, by mother's side | Kuuruukii | Grandmother | Kuuruuheear | Granddaughter |
| , father ... ... | Peep, or peepii | Father | Gnaart | Daughter |
| ", step-father ... ... | Wamman peep | Other father | Karrim karrimneear | Other daughter |
| ", father-in-law ... | Tukuæ kunnukk | Father-in-law | Tukur kunnaheear. <br> 'small stick' | Daughter-in-law |
| " mother | Kneerang | Mother | Gnaart ... | Daughter |
| " step-mother | Wannang kneerang | Other mother | Wannan tukur | Other child |
| ", mother-in-law | Karrin | Mother-in-law | Karrin ... | Daughter-in-law |
| " father's brother, single | Kuuparr ... | Uncle | Gnaart | Niece |
| " father's brother, married .. | Wannan peep | Other father | Wannan gnaart | Other daughter |
| " father's eldest sister, single | Kullart nan peep | Old aunt | Kullart nan peep | Nipce |
| ,, father's eldest sister, married | Leembiin ... | Aunt | Gnaart | Niece |
| " father's other sisters | Leembiin | Aunt | Gnaart | Niece |
| " mother's brother, single .. | Nummii | Uncle | Warrang a heear . | Niece |
| , mother's brother, married... | Meemim | Uncle | Warrang a heear ... | Niece |
| " mother's eldest sister, single, if older than my mother | Bap kuuruuk | Oldest mother | Bap kuuruuk heear | Niece |
| ," mother's eldest sister, married | Waanuung kneerang... | Other mother | Tukue | Child |
| " mother's other sisters, single | Baapap ... | Aunt | Baapap ... | Niece |
| " mother's other sisters, married | Waanuung kneerang... | Other mother | Tukure | Child |
| " father's brother's son, single | Wardii | Cousin ... | Kokoheear | Cousin |
| " father's brother's son, married | Wardiitch | Cousin, married | Kokoheear | Cousin |
| " father's brother's son, married, and with a family ... | Wardilheear | Cousin, with family | Kokoheear* | Cousin |




## NAMES OF PLACES.

IT is deeply to be regretted that the opportunity for securing the native names of places has, in many districts, gone for ever. In most localities the aborigines are either dead or too young to have learned the names which their fathers gave to the various features of the country; and in those parts where a few old men are still to be met with, the white inhabitants, generally speaking, take no interest in the matter. With a very few worthy exceptions, they have done nothing to ascertain and record even those names which appertain to their own properties. How much more interesting would have been the map of the colony of Victoria had this been attended to at an earlier period of its history.

The following are the native names of some conspicuous places in the Western District, and, as far as could be ascertained, their meanings. It must be noticed that rivers have not the same name from their source to the sea. The majority of Australian streams cease to flow in summer, and are then reduced to a chain of pools or waterholes, all of which, with their intermediate fords, have distinguishing names. The river which connects these waterholes in winter has no name. Every river, however, which forms one continuous stream during both summer and winter has a name which is applied to its whole length. For example, Taylor's River, or Mount Emu Creek, is called "Tarnpirr," "flowing water," from its source in Lake Burrumbeet to its junction with the Hopkins. At the same time, every local reach in these rivers has a distinguishing name.

| Aboriginal Name. |  | Meaning. |  |  |  | Description, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Baaweetch murn... |  | Burning skin | ... | ... |  | Locality of Yangery House, near Tower Hill <br> Mouth of Curdie's River <br> Mount Shadwell <br> Bank between Lakes Bullen Merri and Gnotuk. A gap in this dividing bank is said to have been made by a bunyip, which lived at one time in Lake Bullen Merri, but, on leaving it, ploughed its way over the bank into Lake Gnotuk, and thence at Gnotuk Junction to Taylor's River, forming a channel across the country |
| Barrat |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bo'ok |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bukkar whuurong |  | Niddle lip | ... | ... | ... |  |
| Bulkkiin kat |  | Bone | $\ldots$ | .. |  | Large lagoon between Farnham and the sea coast |
| Bullen meri |  |  |  |  |  | Upper lake near Camperdown |
| Buloin mering |  |  |  |  |  | Surrounding banks of Lake Bullen Merri |
| Buulok ... |  |  |  |  |  | Lake Boloke |
| Buunong |  | Ti-tree ... |  | $\ldots$ | . | Locality of Koort-koort-nong House |
| Cherang a bundit... |  | Twigs of spear | tree | $\ldots$ |  | River near east side of C'ape Otway |
| Deen maar |  | This blackfello | here |  |  | Julia Percy Island |
| Deen merri |  | This stone her |  |  |  | River Moyne, where it enters the lagoon at Rosebrook |
| Djerinallum |  | Sea swallow, or | tern |  |  | Mount Elephant, from flocks of these birds frequenting the marshes in the neighbourhood |
| Gnaakit gnummat |  | Sea view | $\ldots$ | ... |  | Locality of Yangery village |
| Gnarnk kolak |  | Sandy river | ... | ... |  | Moyne River, from the sea to lagoon |
| Gnallo kat |  | Backbone |  | ... |  | Waterhole between Farnham estate and the sea coast |
| Gnarwin |  | Windy | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | . | Island in swamp between Farnham estate and the sea coast |
| Gnotukk |  |  |  |  |  | Lake near Camperdown Cemetery |
| Gnotukk |  |  |  |  |  | Camperdown Public Park |
| Gnulla milip |  | Big mouth | ... | ... |  | Waterhole in Merri River |
| Gnummi |  |  |  |  |  | Site of Glenormiston House |
| Gnuura buurn buturn |  | Name of a pla | grow | there |  | Neighbourhood of Glenormiston House |
| Kaakeear wart |  | Shoulder blade |  | , |  | Waterhole in Spring Creek |





| Aboriginal Name. |  | Meaning. |  |  | Description. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Warrnatts |  |  |  |  | Camperdown Township |
| Warmatts |  |  |  |  | Spring in Camperdown Township |
| Warndaa |  |  |  |  | A boggy gully two or three miles west of Merrang House : the scene of a massacre of aborigines in 1842 |
| Warra gnan |  |  |  |  | Waterhole near the mouth of the River Merri |
| Wilann ... | ... | Black cockatoo | $\ldots$ |  | Hill at the mouth of Curdie's River |
| Wirkneung |  |  |  |  | Warrnambool Cemetery |
| Wirn wirn | ... | Back tooth | $\ldots$ | . | Mount Taurus |
| Wirngill | . $\cdot$ | Bear ... | $\cdots$ |  | Clump of ti-tree in the lagoon between Farnham and the seacoast |
| Wirpneung | ... | Mouth of river ... | ... |  | Mouth of River Hopkins |
| Wirrang | . |  |  |  | Locality of Wooriwyrite Bridge |
| Wirrang cering ... |  | Sheoak bank | $\ldots$ |  | Locality of Aringa House, near Belfast |
| Wirrang'gurut ... | ... | Point ... | $\ldots$ |  | Point of land to the west of the month of the Merri River |
| Wirring ii |  | Noise | $\ldots$ |  | Site of Kilnoorat Church |
| Wirrwhork | ... | Wrist | ... |  | Waterhole above Wooriwyrite Bridge |
| Wirt parreetch | ... | Back water | $\ldots$ |  | Spring of water on western shore of Lake Gnotuk |
| Wiyeetch |  |  |  |  | Rivulet near Yangery Village |
| Wuakuurn |  | Lazy frog | ... |  | Darlington Township |
| Wuuriwuuriit |  | Banksia tree | ... |  | Locality of Kilnoorat Cemetery |
| Wuuriwuuriit |  | Banksia tree | $\ldots$ |  | Glenormiston old home station |
| Wunurna weewheetch | ... | Home of the swallow | $\ldots$ |  | Point of land on west side of Lake Bullen Merri. To this spot Queen Fanny, 'Bareetch Chuurmeen,' was pursued by the white men, who murdered nearly all of her tribe at Puuroyuup, on the banks of Taylor's River, and pursued the remnants of them to Lake Bullen Merri. She had a child with her, and yet, burdened as she was, she swam with it on her back across the lake to a point called Karm Karm, below where Wuurong House now stands, and thus escaped |
| Wuurom birng yaar |  | Long waterhole ... | ... |  | Waterhole in Merri River, at Woodford |
| Wuurum killing ... |  | Long water ... | ... |  | Waterhole in Spring Creek, opposite Quamby |
| Wuurong killing ... | . ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | Lip of waterhole | ... | ... | A spring on Mount Fyaus Station, where the bunyip lives |



## GRAMMAR AND SENTENCES.

The Native Grammar is very meagre, and will be best understood by an examination of the accompanying illustrative sentences in the 'Kuurn kopan noot' language. In the following illustrations the first line shows the original sentence, the second its translation into the aboriginal language, and the third a literal re-translation into English. It will be observed that, from the poverty of the language, the re-translation often fails to embody the full meaning of the original sentence. Hence, also, it is impossible to account for many discrepancies in the application of words in sentences. It is right, however, to say that, though much trouble was taken, it was found very difficult to make the aborigines understand what was wanted. It is on this account that so many illustrative sentences have been given. From these sentences the reader may form his own conclusions independently of the writer.

## ARTICLES.

Sometimes the pronoun 'this,' 'deen,' is employed where in English 'the' would be used; and occasionally the numeral 'one,' 'kiiappa,' is used where in English the indefinite article is employed. But there are no articles, properly speaking.

## NOUNS.

Gender is distinguished by 'heear,' 'feminine,' after the specific name, but this affix is only used where we would use the word female. The possessive case is represented by the affix 'gnat,' 'belonging to.' There is no distinction of numbers in nouns. When numbers are intended, the numeral adjectives are used, e.g., spear one, spear two, spear three, \&c.

SENTENCES ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE CASES OF NOUNS.
An opossum runs up the tree.
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { Kan } & \text { beewætnan } & \text { wuurotæ } & \text { kuuramuuk. } \\ \text { Going } & \text { up } & \text { tree } & \text { opossum. }\end{array}$

My dog bit the leg of the opossum.

| Buundan pirn'guunong | kuuramuuka | kaal | gnan. |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Bit | leg | opossum | dog | mine. |

Give the opossum to the dog.
Wuukake kaal kuuramuuka. Give dog opossum.
Take the opossum from the dog.
Kuuruin kartakæ kaal kuuramuuka.
Take from ilog opossum.
The opossum sits on a branch of the tree.

| Kannæ gneengannæ | kuuramuuk <br> opossum | wurkæ <br> branch | nuung. <br> on. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

The opossum has a young one in its pouch.
Kuuramuuk hnat tuukuæyuung paanætnuung.
Opossum of young one pouch its.
The young opossum sits on its mother's back.
Kuurna kuuramuk gnuurn gnuurn gretnong kneerangatong.
Young opossum sitting on back mother of it.
The young opossum sits on the tree with its mother.
Kannæ gnæng gannæ kuurna kuuramuuk kneerangænong. Up sits young opossum mother its.
The young opossum runs away along with its mother.
Karkuuran kuurna kuuramuuk puulæ wætnanda kneeraneung. Run young opossum two together mother its.
Take the young from the opossum.
Mannakæ kuurahneung kuuramuuk gnat.
Take young one opossum belonging to.

## ADJECTIVES.

There is no distinction of cases or genders in adjectives. There is no comparative degree, and the superlative is expressed variously. See Illustrative Sentences.

SENTENCES ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE USES OF ADJECTIVES.
My dog is better than yours.

| Yang'æ yang'æ | gnuuteung <br> good | kaal <br> dog | gnan <br> mine | gnuutook gnat. <br> yours. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

GRAMMAR AND SENTENCES.

This dog is the best.

| Kiiappa | deen | gnunteung | kaal. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| One | this | good | dog. |

Good, very good.

| Gnuuteung | yange yange | gnuuteung. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Good | very | good. |

High, very high.
Kannæ kannæ puuræ.
Up up far.
That is a very high tree.
Wuurambet kannak deen wurrot.
Long stick this tree.

## Very old.

Wuulæ wuulæ kuurn.
Very old.
That is an old man.
Nuunambe gnarram gnarram.
That old man.
That is a very old man.
Nuunambæ gnallam.
That old man.
An old opossum rug.
Puurnoitch.
Rotten rug.

## PRONOUNS.

| I ... | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Gnatook. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| My | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Gnan (affixed to noun). |
| Mine | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Gnatonghatt. |
| Me | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Gnan (affixed to verb). |
| We | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Gnatook. |
| Our | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Gniiyæ (affixed to noun). |
| Ours | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Gnatook gnat. |
| Us | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Gniiyæyuung. |
| You (those) | $\ldots$ | Gnutook, or gnin. |  |
| Yours (thine) | $\ldots$ | Gnutook gnat, or gnu (affixed to noun). |  |
| You-plural | $\ldots$ | Gnutook gnutzen. |  |


| Yours-plural | Gnuutæn. |
| :---: | :---: |
| He-this one | Didnæ, or deelaræ. |
| Him-this one | Didnan. |
| His-belonging to | Gneung gnatbee, or gneung (affixed to noun). |
| They-these | Didnanre. |
| Them-these | Didnanæ. |
| Theirs ... | Gnu gnallan gnatbee. |
| This | Dææゥ. |
| That | Nuubee. |
| That one near you | Noolambee. |
| That over there | Didne. |
| They ... | Drelakanaree. |
| These here ... | Dee'gnalla gnannæ. |
| Those | Noolakanambee. |

They two stole my shield.
Puuliitcha kattang
Two of them

| mananda | malkar | gnan. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| took they | shield | mine. |

They all are bad.
Gnummæ gulleen deen.
Not good this.
Their children are bad.
Gnummæ kuutnan deednan tukuæ tukuæ. Not good these children.
I will not speak to them.
Pang'iitch deen kueewakk. Will not to them speak.
That man will kill them.
Purtiicheen nuulambee. Will kill that one.

This man will take their spears from them.
Kuuroænæchin tiiyæra. Will be taken spears.
Is this spear his own?
Gnarnatta deen tiiyærong.
Who owns this spear?

```
GRAMMAR AND SENTENCES.
```

Are these spears their own?

| Kiiyong geetch | tiiyæra <br> spears | gnu gnallan gnatbee <br> Many |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| their own, |  |  |

She is a good mother.

| Gnuuteung |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Good | kneerang <br> mother | | -neung. |
| :---: |
| it. |

Her son loves her.

| Muute | wanuung | kneerang <br> Loves | neung. <br> he |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| mis. |  |  |  |

This is her son.

| Deen | kuupri | neung. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| This | son | hers. |

Is this her own son?

| Nuubee | tukuæ | gnu. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| This | son | yours? |

That woman killed her own son.

| Partanuung | tukuæyuung | teelang | tunnumbura. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Killed | her son | this | woman. |

I kill an opossum.
Burtanno kuuramuuk.
Kill I opossum.
My waddy killed the opossum.

| Waarwharang | gnan | burtanong |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Waddy | mine | kill |
| opossumut. |  |  |

The opossum bit me.
Buundang gnan kuuramuuka.
Bit me opossum.
We two-you and I-will go away.
Yannang'all.
Go will we.
We two-he and I-will go away.
Yannang'along.
Go will we.
We will all go away
Wakuumba wan.
Go all of us.

## AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES.

It is gone away.
Wakuutanong.
It is gone.
They will look for us.
Weetka kuurtnayæ.
Look for us.
They will not find us.
Bang ayre tambuurtakoot.
Not us find.
They will find our dwelling.
Tambuuratakoort wuurn gnatnæn.
They find dwelling ours.
This shield is my own.
Deen mallhnan gnatonghatt.
This shield mine.
This dwelling-place is our own.
Deen wuurn gniiyæ.
This dwelling our own.
You are good.
Gnuuteung gain.
Good you.
Thy name is Louisa.
Nobee gruak leegno Louisa.
There it is name Louisa.
He will kill thee.
Parta hno.
Kill you.
You two are going away to-day.
Puularneeapuula gninduuk puulang teenbee.
Two of us you go away to-day.
You all go away.
Nu deen wakuumbaawhaar.
You these all go.
They were looking for you.
Wueetchkan hnuun gnuutka.
Looking they for you.

```
gramMLAR AND SENTENCES.
```

They will find you.
Tumbuurtan kuunhnuutin. Find you they you.

They will burn down your dwelling.

| Pappakuut | wluurn | gnuutææn. <br> wurn |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| wourn | yours. |  |

Some blackfellows will burn your dwelling.

| Marra | papakuut | wuurn | gno. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Blackfellows some | burn will | wuurn | yours. |

Is this waddy thine own?

| Nuutook hnat |
| :--- |
| Yours | | deen |
| :--- |
| this |$\quad$| warwhaar. |
| :--- |
| waddy. |

This dwelling is mine.
Deen wuurn gnan.
This doelling mine.
This is his dog.
Deen kaal ong.
This dog his.
The dog bit him.
Puundan deen kaal a.
Bit
dog
Give the spear to him.
Wuukakee tiiyeera.
Give spear
Take the shield from him.
Karoin kartakæ maika.
Take from him shield.

VERBS.
There are three Moods, Indicative, Imperative, and Potential ; and two Participles, the Present and the Past. The Passive Voice is formed by the Past Participle with the Pronoun. The Indicative Mood has two Tenses, Past and Future. The Present Tense is the same as the Past. The only difference between an interrogative and an assertive sentence is in the inflexion of the voice.

## ILLUSTRATIVE VERB 'TO GO,' ' YAN.'

To go, van.
Going, yannak.
Gone, yannan.
Indicative Mood.
I am going to Terang to-morrow.
Yannako mullæbaa Terang o.
Go will I to-morrow Terang to.
Thou art going.
Yannak gnin.
Going you.
He is going.
Yannak ditnanæ.
Going this.
We two are going.
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { Puularneea } & \begin{array}{ll}\text { gnatook } & \text { hnaaye }\end{array} & \begin{array}{l}\text { yannak. } \\ \text { Two }\end{array} & \text { we }\end{array}$
You two are going.
Puularneeapuul yannak.
You two going.

We all are going.
Paaruung kuurneawan
All of us
yannak.
going.
You all are going.
Wakuumbawar nuunanbewar yannak. Away them going.
They two are going.
Deen gnulla'gnin puularneakk yannak.
These two of us going.
They all are going.
Wakuumbakot yannak.
All going.
I went away yesterday.
Gnaakat gniitch yimnan.
Yesterday self gone.

```
grammar and sentences.
```

Thou didst go to Geelong.

| Nuu | gnuurabee | gnok | Geelong | nguura. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| You | about | there | Geelong | at. |

He went to Geelong.
Puura Geelong kutta.
Away Geelong at.
She went to Geelong.
Puura Geelong kutta.
Away Geelong at.
We two went away.
Puularneea yunna gnuluung.
We two went away.
We all went away.
Wakuumbaawanuung.
All gone.
You two went away.
Gninduuk puulang yunna puulang.
You two went away.
You all went away.
Nuunumbeewarr wakuumban.
They two went away.
Poreena.
They all went away.
Wakuurneeanuut.
I shall go away to-morrow.
Mullæbaa mirtakk.
To-morrow I go.
Thou wilt go away.
Yanna'gnin gauutuuk.
Go will you.
He will go away.
Yanna'gnin gnuutuuk.
Go will he.
We two will go away.

| Gnatook | hniyæ yuung | janna | gnulluun. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| We | both | go | away. |

We all will go away.
Waakoobawhaan yannak.
All go.
It is all gone.
Wakuumbanoot.
It all gone.
You two will go away.
Puularneearpuul yannak.
You two
go.

You all will go away.
Wakuurneea katto.
Will depart.
They two will go away.
Puularneeapuul yannak.
They two
go.
They all will go away
Wakuurneeawan.
They will go.
You tell me that you go away to-morrow.

| Kuetka mahneenann | mullæbaa | yannahninuung. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Tell me | to-morrow | you go. |

Tell me if you are going to-morrow.
Kuetka maakin nubee'gna yanna gnin mullæbaa
Tell me there you going to-morrow.
I may go next week.
Yanna kueeya gnaakii mullænuung.
Go will I I think day or two.

```
ILLUSTRATIVE VERB 'TO KILL,' 'BURTEEN.'
Indicative Mood.
```

I killed the dog.
Burtano kaal.
Killed dog.
You killed the dog.
Gnuutooka burtang'in kaal.
You killed dog.

He killed the dog.

| Burtanong'ook | kaal. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Killed he | dog. |

We killed the dog.
Burtang'along kaal.
Killed we
dog.
You killed the dog.

| Burtakakæ | gnuutooka | kaal. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Killed | you | dog. |

They killed the dog.
Burtanoot dæelakanare kaal.
Killed the dog.
I will kill the dog.

| Burtako | noobæ | kaal. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Kill I | that | dog. |

You will kill the dog.
Gnootoka burtake kaal.
You kill dog.

He will kill the dog.

| Deelare | gnoom | burta | kaal. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| He |  | kill | dog. |

We will kill the dog.
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { Gnatoong } & \begin{array}{l}\text { hayye } \\ \text { We }\end{array} & \text { burtang'al } & \text { kaal. } \\ \text { will } & \text { dog. }\end{array}$
You will kill the dog.
Gnuutooka gnuutæn burtakato kaal.
You will kill dog.

They will kill the dog.
Noolakanabæ burtapuul kaal.
They themselves kill dog.

Imperative Mood.
Kill the dog.

| Burtakæ | gnuutooka | kaal. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Kill | you | dog. |

## AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES.

## Participles.

Killing the dog:
Burtano kaal.
Kill dog.
The dog is killed.
Burtatanoot kaal. Killed dog.

Potential Mood.
I might kill the dog.
Burtakuuyang an kaal.
Kill might dog.
You might kill the dog.
Gnuutoka burtaka kaal.
You kill dog.

He might kill the dog.

| Burtakang | ong'aan <br> Kill | deelaræ <br> might | he kaal. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| he | dog. |  |  |

We might kill the dog.

| Burtakueaa watna | kaal. <br> Kill | might |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| dog. |  |  |

You might kill the dog.
Gnuutoka burtaka kaal.
You kill dog.
They might kill the dog.

| Burtakuuta | watna | didnanæ | kaal. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Kill | might | this | dog. |

## NUMERALS.

## I. CARDINAL NUMBERS.

The aborigines represent cardinal numbers from one to one hundred by a combination of words and signs.

In the Chaap wuurong language the names for units are :-
One ... ... Kæp yang gnuurak.
Two ... ... Puuliit whummin.
Three ... ... Kartorr.
Four ... ... Puuliit baa puuliit-two and two.
Five ... ... Krep mun'ya-one hand (outspread).
Six ... ... Kæp tulliyær mun'ya-one finger, hand.
Seven ... ... Kæp mun'ya baa puuliit-one hand and two.
Eight ... ... Kæp mun'ya baa kartor-one hand and three.
Nine ... ... Kæp mun'ya puuliit baa puuliit-one hand, two and two.
Ten ... ... Puuliit mun'ya-two hands (outspread).
Between ten, twenty, thirty, and on to one hundred, units are not named, but are indicated by holding out the fingers and thumbs.
Eleven commences the combination of words and signs, and as there is no name for it, or any number up to and inclusive of nineteen, the word for ten is named and one finger is held out; for twelve, the same word and two fingers ; for thirteen, the same word and three fingers; and so on by words and signs to one hundred.
Twenty is called kæp mam-one twenty.
Thirty ... ... Kæp mam, ba puuliit mun'ya-twenty and two hands.
Forty ... ... Puuliit mam-two twenties.
Fifty ... ... Puuliit mam, baa puuliit mun'ya-two twenties and two hands.
Sixty ... ... Kartorr mam-three twenties.
Seventy ... Kartorr mam, baa puuliit mun'ya-three twenties and two hands.

## AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES.

Eighty ... Puuliit mam, baa puuliit mam-two twenties and two twenties.
Ninety... ... Puuliit mam, baa puuliit mam, baa puuliit munya-two twenties, two twenties, and two hands.
One hundred*... Larbargirrar, which concludes expressed numbers; anything beyond one hundred is larbargirrar larbargirrar, signifying a crowd beyond counting, and is always accompanied by repeated opening and shutting the hands.

In the Kuurn kopan noot language the cardinal numbers are:-
One ... ... Kiiappa.
Two ... ... Puuliitcha.
Three ... ... Baaleen meea.
Four ... ... Puuliitcha baa puuliitcha-two and two.
Five ... ... Kiiapp marrang-one hand (outspread).
Six ... ... Kiiapp marrang baa, kiiappa-one hand and one.
Seven ... ... Puuliit tulliyerr marrang-two fingers, hand.
Eight ... ... Kiiapp marrang baa baalen meea-one hand and three.
Nine ... ... Kiiapp marrang puuliitcha baa puuliitcha-one hand, two and two.
Ten ... ... Puuliit marrang-two hands (outspread).
Twenty ... Kiiapp peep.
Thirty ... ... Kiiapp peep baa puuliit marrang-twenty, and two hands.
Forty ... ... Puuliit peep-two twenties.
Fifty ... ... Puuliit peep baa puuliit marrang-two twenties and two hands.
Sixty ... ... Baaleen meea peep-three twenties.

* I need scarcely point out that this is wholly at variance with the statement made by Mr. E. B. Tyler in his 'Primitive Culture,' that 'Among the lowest living men-the savages of the South American forests and the deserts of Australia-five is actually found to be a number which the languages of some tribes do not know by a special word. Not only have travellers failed to get from them names for numbers above two, three, or four, but the opinion that these are the real limits of their numeral series is strengthened by their use of their highest known number as an indefinite term for a great many.'- Vol. i., p. 220.


## NUMERALS.

Seventy ... Baaleen meea peep baa puuliit marrang-three twenties and two hands.
Eighty... ... Puuliit peep baa punliit peep-two twenties and two twenties.
Ninety... ... Puuliit peep baa puuliit peep baa puuliit marrang-two twenties and two twenties and two hands.
Intermediate units between the tens are not named, but are indicated as in the Chaap wurong language.
One hundred ... Barbaanuung.
Any farther number is wuurt baa dærang wuurt baa dærang, which means a great many beyond count, and is accompanied by holding out the hands, repeatedly closing and opening the fingers, and saying, 'Kæ, kæ, kæ.'
II.-ORDINAL NUMBERS.

Ordinal numbers are used by the aborigines only in numbering the days of a month in making appointments; and, as their months are marked by the re-appearance of the moon, their ordinal numbers do not go leyond twentyeight. They are indicated both by signs and words. The signs are made by touching with the index finger certain parts of the hand, arm, neck, ear, and head; commencing with the space between the thumb and first finger of the left hand, going up the arm, over the head, down the right arm to the right hand, and then to the thumb and fingers of both hands. 'First,' is represented by touching the space on the back of the left hand between the thumb and forefinger: 'second,' the left wrist; 'third,' between the left wrist and the elbow; 'fourth,' the elbow; 'fifth,' space between the left elbow and the shoulder; 'sixth,' the left shoulder ; 'seventh,' the left side of the neck; 'eighth,' the left ear; ' ninth,' the left side of the head above the ear ; 'tenth,' the right side of the head above the ear; 'eleventh,' the right ear ; and so on to eighteenth, the space between the right thumb and forefinger; then, 'nineteenth,' the little finger of the left hand; and so on to 'twenty-eight,' the little finger of the right hand. The names of these numbers are the same with those of the different parts which are used as signs. Thus, in the Chaap wuurong language, 'first,' is paapee munnya, 'father of hand;' 'second,' tartkuurt, 'wrist;' 'third,' peepuulæ gnarram, 'fat of arm ;' 'fourth,' kukukutt chukk, 'elbow ;' 'fifth,' kallgneeang
gnuurakk ; 'sixth,' karrup karrup palk ; 'seventh,' chaarkum; 'eighth,' wartwhirngbuul ; 'ninth,' towillup; 'tenth,' titit. The remaining numbers down to the eighteenth are the same as those representing the opposite side. 'Twentyeighth ' is kiiapp warteep tannyuuk, 'one moon.'

In the Kuurn kopan noot language the numbers are-'first,' gnærang marrang; 'second,' kaanang kuurt; 'third,' muurtmcetch; 'fourth,' puulkuyeetch ; 'fifth,' millæwuurk; 'sixth,' warratpeenyakk; 'seventh,' tarkuurn; 'eighth,' waawing; 'ninth,' mirngmirnitt; 'twenty-eighth,' kiiappa kuurn-taruung, 'one moon.'

In making appointments, the day is indicated by both name and sign, by touching the part, and mentioning the word which represents both the part and the number. When an appointment is made through a messenger, the number is sometimes distinguished by affixing some mark to the part representing it on his body, in order to obviate any mistake on the part of a stupid or forgetful messenger.

## N 0 TES.

## (Translation by Professor Strong.)

## A.-NOTE TO CHAPTER XI.

QuUM violata est pudicitia, si in mulierem sit vis illata, penes maritum est jus mortem in violatorem inferendi. Sin autem violata sit innupta, testimonio ejus a primoribus tribuum, quibus intersit ipsa cognito, si quidem pro probato teneantur quae objecta sint, violator ille prope ad mortem a necessariis mulieris fustigatur atque ducere ilam cogitur. Quod si violatorem vel amici vel necessarii ejus defendere conantur in eos pari modo animadvertitur. Inde non raro pugna universa oritur cujus neque femine expertes sunt.

Femina que levitate quadam morum famosam se praebet, vocatur 'Karkor neegh heear' atque a necessariis ejus culpatur et poenâ afficitur. Post hoc nisi se melius gerit inter se consilium habent necessarii ejus, atque si probata sit culpa, avunculus ejus, vel quidam e consanguineis (excepto patre vel fratre), arreptâ occasione ex improviso plagam illi in posteram colli partem sublato ramo infert. Tum corpus uritur, sparguntur cineres neque cuiquam illam lugere licet.

## B.-NOTE TO CHAPTER XI.

Is quibusdam tropice Australiæ partibus circumciduntur pueri qui in pubertatem initiantur: hic autem mos indigenis in hoc libro descriptis ignotus est.

## C.-NOTE TO CHAPTER XII.

QUE nupta est per menstruandi tempus, sola per se e parte adversa foci domesticid dormire cogitur, neque vel cibum vel potum aliuscujusque capere permittitur. Neque quisquam est qui vel cibum vel potum ab illâ tactum consumere velit, ut qui illos invalidos reddat. Innupta autem vel vidua quæ idem patiatur in eandam legem quoad cibum et potum cogitur; eadem caput pingere atque corpus usque ad medium rubro limo cogitur; neque junioribus innuptis domum menstruantis

## AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES.

inire licet. Eadem si cui in semita occurat, exire debet. Ambulare quidem atque interesse amicorum colloquiis licet neque moleste turbari, neque tamen saltare aut cymbalum agitare in corroboreis licet. Itaque natura ipsa videtur easdem leges indigenis nostris docuisse quæ Moses ille divino spiritu aflatus tulit ad sanitatem Israelitarum conservandam.

## D.-NOTE TO CHAPTER XII.

Mulier quæ se parturire sentiat dormire cogitur adversa e parte ignis domestici a marito separata, neque illi licet tangere ut edere anguillas kangarosve vel aves. Cibus ejus ea oposso constare debet, animalibus minoribus atque radicibus. Post natum infantem liberata est ab hisce legibus. Sed tamen lex ilia de cibo non semper observatur. Atque maritus sæpe numero inducitur ad satisfaciendam uxoris appetentiam certi cibi, imprimis anguillarum quæ in deliciarum numero habentur. Laqueos ad anguillas carpiendas a vicinis paratos violare hanc in rem creditur bonam sortem auferre. Si igitur quis suspicionem habeat quod laqueus suus anguillis destitutus sit culpam facti ejusin nuptum virum injicit cujus mulier in ea conditione sit ut suspicionem illam confirmet. Atque non aliam ob causam sæpe numero ultio fit.

## E.-NOTE TO CHAPTER XIII.

Quvm mulier in ipso partu sit, in humo resupina sedet inter nutricis brachia, tanquam in sellâ quâdem motoriâ esset. Si secundæ tardius se a corpore separaverint, tum corpori in pronum flexo lapides calidi adponuntur, quorum calor plerumque separationem efficere solet. Secundas semper sepelire mos est. Funis umbilicarius nervo halmaturi (kangaroo) ligatur, atque conchâ muricis exacuti secatur. Deinde vulnus unguento quodam ungitur, facto e carbone pulverato, cum adipe commixto, in quod deinde limus adustus, in tenuem pulverem contritus, conspergitur. Funis in tenues partes secatur, pars quæque in fragmento parvo pellis didelphidis contegitur. Hæ suspenduntur per collum illius a quo infans nomen accepturus est atque per colla fratrum infantis si puer sit; sin autem puella in sororum colla. Post paullum temporis aut incenduntur aut sepeliuntur.

## NOTES.

## F. - NOTE TO CHAPTER XIV.

THE CIRCULATION OF THE BLOOD.
There is no doubt that the aborigines had a knowledge of the circulation of the blood from the heart through the arteries, and of its return by the veins. To these blood-vessels they give distinctive names. An artery is called 'gnullman;' a vein is called 'karkuuran kuureek,' 'running blood.' Very careful inquiries have been made into this subject from the most intelligent of the aborigines; and it is evident that they recognize the connection between the heart and the pulse, and the fact that, while the arteries carry the blood from the heart, the veins return it to the heart again. On its being hinted to them that they may have got this information from the white man, they said that they knew all about it long before the white man came. It need scarcely be said that they have no idea of the circulation of the blood through the lungs, or of the functions of the different parts of the heart, as brought to light by the researches of Servetus, Le Vasseur, and William Harvey.

## G.-NOTE.

REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS OF ABORIGINAL SCHOOLS.
As a fitting conclusion to this work, and in corroboration of the very high estimate which the author has formed of the intelligence of the aborigines, he has the greatest pleasure in giving the following summary of a number of reports of the Government inspectors of the Victorian State schools, and of remarks which have been kindly written by them for his use.

At each of the aboriginal stations there is a State-school, which is periodically examined, along with other schools, and on the same footing with them, by the Government inspectors of schools. The experience of these gentlemen is that, up to a certain age, the aboriginal children are quite equal to those of European parentage in their capacity for learning the ordinary branches of an English education. Indeed, the former excel the latter in those studies which depend on memory and power of imitation; but, on the other hand, those branches of knowledge which require abstraction, and in which a greater demand is made on the reasoning faculties, are learned by them with difficulty. In reading, writing, spelling, singing, and geography, they distance white children in rapidity of
attainment, their penmanship especially being of unusual neatness and excellence, and the accuracy with which verses are repeated being very remarkable; but grammar and the higher branches of arithmetic are very puzzling to them. In respect of discipline their conduct is excellent; good order and steady application to books is secured with ease, and for class or military drill they show great liking and aptitude.

The inspection of the aboriginal school at Ramahyuck, in Gippsland, during the last eleven years, gives a percentage of results higher than the other State schools in Victoria; and while, no doubt, this excellence is largely due to the regularity with which the children attended school, and to the skill and zeal of the gentlemen who taught them, it fairly shows that aboriginal children are at least equal to others in power of learning those branches of education which are taught in the State schools of Victoria.

The reader will be interested to learn, that, on several occasions of examination by a Government inspector, the percentage of the Ramahyuck school was a hundred-a result unparalleted by any other school in the colony.

THE END.

Walker, May, \& Co., Printers, \& Mackillop-street, Melbourne.

