

From James Henty, Fremantle to Thomas Henty, 20 March 1830. James' letter of this date (about Leschenault) received in very torn condition. The wrapper is endorsed in Mrs Henty's hand? Jane Henty's? : not Thomas Henty's.

Fremantle
Western Australia
March 20 1830.

My dear Father,

I send you this by the "Egyptian", Capt. Lilburn & by the same conveyance I hope you will receive a box of Letters also, which were intended to be sent by the Minstrel & Skerne. Capt. Lilburn has obligingly delayed the sailing of his Ship in order that dispatches and Letters might be sent by her which may probably be of some importance as we this morning returned in the "Eagle" with the Governor, Mrs Stirling & a large party from the Southward where we have been to establish a new settlement, the good Land in this neighbourhood being found quite inadequate to meet the demands of the large body of Settlers which are daily arriving, before I go further let me strongly recommend Capt. Lilburn & his Ship to your notice, both himself and his Ship are every way calculated for the Voyage, his Passengers have presented him with a Silver Snuff box to testify their approbation of his conduct which is the only instance of the kind on record in the Colony.

We have been absent about 17 days in the "Eagle" our party consisted of the Governor, Mrs Stirling, Mr Roe (Surveyor General), Lt Preston & a boat's crew of the Sulphur. Dr Collie of the Sulphur, Lt Willis of the Cruiser, a Detachment of the 63 Reg^t, myself & Five or Six more as interested parties, after taking a supply of provisions from the Government Store at Garden Island we sailed steadily out of the passage with a fair breeze off the Land at 3PM, on the 3 March and arrived off Port Leschenault (our destination) at about 8 AM the next day, having a fair Wind the Governor determined to proceed into Cape Naturalist & return to Port Leschenault taking Port Vasse on our way back. Cape Naturalist is high land & forms I think one end abutting into the Sea of what has hitherto been called Darlings Range, like the Downs at

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Brighton: the Range is in fact not unlike our South Downs when viewed from below, Birtly, although the Geological formation of them is wholly different, being composed instead of Chalk of hard Granite with here & there a little Soil & near to Cape Naturalist they are bare of Trees, higher up towards Port Leschenault their character is completely altered, at the latter place they are composed chiefly of Granite & covered with good Soil almost every where affording good Sheep Pasturage & thickly timbered (generally), at Port Vasse the entrance to the Estuary is very insignificant but after a mile or two it opens & the water stretches across for a Mile or two and I have no doubt terminates in a River or two. The Land is generally speaking low with sound land but I have little doubt if we had time to explore it, plenty of Natives welcomed us on landing & walked with us the greater part of the Day they are friendly & appeared similar to those we had seen in our own district.

We arrived at Port Leschenault (17 Miles) the next morn^g & immediately prepared to land the Soldiers & Cargo. The Bar as at all the Rivers on this Coast extends across the Mouth of the Harbour: about $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile up the Estuary opens & a highly pleasing & picturesque view presents itself, Islands, Bays, Points & Creeks, Low Land & well timbered; ascending the Estuary on the right a small River the "Preston" opens & beyond that, Two Miles, another River the "Collie" is seen. The Estuary continues along the coast for Seven Miles & nearly Two Miles broad forming altogether a beautiful sheet of Water. Between it & the Sea there is a succession of Sandhills high & in some places not more than 100 yards across varying from that to a half Mile. I got a seat in the Governors Whale boat & proceeded with him the first morning up the "Preston". The Land on its Banks is very beautiful being more or less composed of rich sandy loam, the high lands are generally sandy near the River: ^{Banks} it is navigable for about 5 miles to which point at this Season it is a short distance beyond however it is perfectly fresh & continues so to its source (the Mountains). On the left Bank, there are sandy flats as there are throughout the whole Country; the following day the Governor proposed an expedition to be comprised of Volunteers: first, to ascertain the

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source of the "Collie" ascend the Mountains & stretch right across the Country back: a party of Ten was formed in about as many minutes & the following morning at 7 every man was ready with his pack at his back. My load was as follows:- A Gun Shot Belt full, Powder Horn D^o, Copper Caps, 3 lbs Pork, 3 lbs Bread, Tea, Sugar, Bottle of Rum, D^o Water, Knife, Spoon, Tin Pannikin, Compass, Burning Glass, Towel, Soap, Scotch Cap, Blanket, Pipe & Tobacco, Shooting Jacket & waistcoat, duck Trousers & Three small cooking Kettles were carried alternately by the party, this I assure you is a tremendous load when walking through brushwood in a warm climate, our party consisted of Lieut.^s Preston & Willis, Dr Collie & myself, (rather cronies) Messrs Lennard, Talbot, Dale 63rd Reg.^t, Surveyor General, Kellum & a sailor Copollan (Cohollan?). We ascended with the Governor 9 Miles up.....

[here portion of letter missing] far as the boats could go - the lower land of which good, where we stopped & dined. The land here good & the Governor proposes to lay out a Tou..... we started about 1PM the Governor cordially shaking hand & wishing us a pleasant journey, some often pa..... a lively tune & off we went merrily at about 4 the soon slackened to 2½ the usual brush walking 5 & 6 we bivouacked on the "Collie" in the Mountains the Riv.... abo..

& running a cool stream about as much as runs into Pond, the Water was delicious & we drank to our he..... the Land from the spot we started to our plac.. was one continued track of fair upland well sheep), or at least better than any I have seen in the..... the Vallies near the River are rich & good & the Hil. covered with the Daviasia or Wild Pear, & other wholesome... they are thickly wooded & generally afford a pretty good..... of Water. The Collie running down the whole way through the land has induced me to apply for a Grant of 60,000 Acres I have seen no tract in the Country at all to be compared to it, if possible I shall get in a half mile of navigable frontage & if so shall be within 12 Miles of the Town & harbour. The Governor has taken his own Grant about 20 Miles to the South & reserved to himself a delightful Villa Grant close to the Town for a Summer residence adjoining which I am to have another?

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I have also the promise of a Town allotment & tomorrow my applications will go in, in form. Many are waiting for our report & many will instantly ship themselves for the place, it is doubtful how soon I may be able to begin there perhaps not till the Spring, the Climate is also much cooler than this though only 90 miles South, the heat here during the Summer has been almost insupportable. In the event of your taking a Ship up to come out here you must be sure to reserve to yourself the option of taking her on to Port Leschenault provided you require her to go when you arrive here it may be a saving of several Hundred Pounds besides the risk & trouble, & no vessel would be charged more for on that acct. You might also reserve a right to ship any thing from this place down there, another great advantage for you to possess.

The Warrior has arrived & Two Vessels from Bombay. If you care to bring out 100 or 200 Barrels & leave out of Bond it would pay well, it is to be bought much cheaper than at V.D. Land. I shall write again by the Protector which leaves this for the Mauritius shortly: Pray let me have plenty of warning that I may be prepared for your reception. I would recommend you not to bring too many married people & none with large families, household Servt.^s are much wanted, one or two could be very usefully employed by us. I am quite recovered from a violent attack of Dysentery. The Lads and all the people are well - grumbling is the order of the day with labourers generally. With kind love to my Dear Mother, Jane & the Lads believe me to remain ever

Your affectionate Son

(Sgd.) JAMES HENTY.

Letter addressed to: Thomas Henty Esqr.^e

West Tarring

WORTHING SUSSEX.

Per Egyptian

20 March

India Letter

Gravesend