

Captain Cook landed in Botany Bay, which is a few miles south of Sydney Harbour, in 1770, and took possession of the land on behalf of the British Crown.* But Captain Cook was by no means the first to find Australia, for some hundred of years before this a Portuguese navigator is said to have landed. After this the Dutch appear to have seen a great deal of not only the coast, but the various islands, which were then named Terra Australis. Indeed, they did so much, and were so energetic in their voyages, that they were quite justified in calling the continent New Holland.

It seems now to us very strange that a people so enterprising, and at that time so prone to get and to keep territory, should have lost their hold on this great Terra Australis.

It appears that they defeated their own object by their own secrecy and selfishness. They published no records of their voyages, neither made any charts of the newly discovered continent, fearing that their discoveries, or these great possessions, should become too well known to other explorers. Consequently, even amongst themselves the doings of their sailors were unknown and unappreciated, and no national desire was created for the possession of the land.

It seems a Frenchman was the next who anchored off Cape Leewin—the south-eastern corner of the

* Trollope's 'Australia and New Zealand.'