

examining carefully the faunæ of some of the rivers. Those in which *Ceratodus* had lately been discovered had the greatest interest for us, for we hoped that, besides getting a number of specimens of *Ceratodus* in various stages, we might by effective netting and other means find some additional forms of Dipnoi. Accordingly a little party, consisting of Lieutenant, now Captain, Aldrich (who afterwards commanded the sledge party which proceeded westwards from the 'Alert's' winter quarters along the coast of Grinnell's Land), Mr. Murray and myself, with Mr. Pearcey and a couple of blue-jackets in attendance, was organised to go to Brisbane during the stay of the ship at Sydney, with the view of pushing on, if time permitted, to the upper reaches of the Mary or the Burnet.

"We got information and introductions from Dr. Bennett, Mr. Hill, and others. We prepared a stock of trammel nets, lines, and other fishing appliances, a box of dynamite cartridges, fowling pieces, and collecting gear of all kinds, and we arranged to leave Sydney by the 'City of Brisbane' on Tuesday the 29th April 1874; the vessel was, however, detained by bad weather till the 4th May. We arrived at Brisbane on the morning of the 7th. An intimation of our intended trip had preceded us, and we found a kind invitation from the Marquis of Normanby to Government House awaiting us at the club, of which we had already been made honorary members.

"We stayed a few days at Brisbane seeing all that was to be seen. The Governor's A.D.C. tried to make arrangements to send us on to Gympie in carriages, but we found it more convenient to go by a coasting steamer to Maryburgh. The departure of the 'Lady Bowen,' the regular trading packet, was hurried to give us more time, and on Sunday the 10th we were steaming past a monotonous undulating coast line, the low hills crowned with dusky woods of sombre gum-trees, past Fraser Island, one of the districts given up entirely to the natives, many of whom we saw in the distance, with a fine walk and gait, but absolutely unclothed. We were disappointed that none of them swam off to the steamer as they often do.

"We reached Maryburgh on the morning of the 11th, and introduced ourselves to Mr. Sheridan, the Collector of Customs, to whom we had been referred by Lord Normanby. We found Mr. Sheridan a most pleasant companion, and a man of great intelligence and considerable special knowledge of natural science. He most kindly placed himself at our disposal during our stay, and afterwards took the trouble to collect and send home to us a valuable collection of such species as we had not an opportunity of procuring in sufficient quantity during our short visit.

"We went on in the evening in a couple of buggies through the bush of scattered gum-trees, to a little group of wooden shanties called 'Tiara,' about 20 miles above Maryburgh, on a pretty bend of the river Mary, with a good long stretch of open stream, succeeded by some irregular rapids and deep pools, and overhanging woods farther up. The influence of the tide was slightly felt for a considerable distance beyond Tiara, and some of the fishes had consequently an estuarine character.