

but it lacks shelter, and the passage at the heads is not deep enough for a large ironclad to pass through.

I made various excursions from Sydney, during our stay. One of these was to Botany Bay ; a sixpenny omnibus journey. The country here is flat and open, and the vegetation would be very like that of the Cape of Good Hope, in general appearance, were it not for the Grass-trees and Banksias. The far-famed bay is a quiet sandy inlet, resorted to for excursions and the enjoyment of sea air by the Sydney people, and now inhabited principally by keepers of tea gardens. Not far off, across the Bay, the curious Monotreme, the Porcupine Ant-eater (*Echidna*) is abundant, and can readily be found by means of terriers. Some men procured one living for Von Willemoes Suhm.

Another excursion was to the Blue Mountains. A trip to the Mountains was given as an act of hospitality by the ministers of the New South Wales Government to the officers of the "Ancona," a German war-vessel, which was at Sydney, and to those of the "Challenger." It is the custom for the Ministers thus to give picnics to parties of men, ladies not being invited.

The Blue Mountains are piles of horizontally stratified sandstone, rising behind Sydney to about 2,500 feet, with remarkably abrupt terminations on either side, and cut into extraordinary deep gullies and chasms, with perpendicular walls, which bound projecting headlands.

Prof. Dana treats at great length of the question of the mode of formation of these extraordinary gullies and precipices, in his "Geology of the U. S. Exploring Expedition," and gives various reasons for showing that the whole has been due to aqueous erosion ; as have also the exactly similarly formed harbours of the coast, with their very numerous branches. These, however, have been subjected to lowering of level, and thus filled by the sea.

These multi-ramified inlets of the sea resemble fjords in many points most curiously, but are very different in origin, being in fact cañons, which by the sinking of the land have been invaded by the sea.

The rains, both at Melbourne and Sydney, are extremely violent, and in the friable and easily decomposed soil, have a marvellously excavating effect. At Camden Park, 40 miles from Sydney, I was shown by Captain Onslow, R.N., a deep chasm in a perfectly level expanse of grass-covered land, which was at least 20 feet deep and 20 yards across. All this had been scooped out in a dozen years or so by the rain. In its precipitous walls and isolated pinnacles of undisturbed soil,