

Władysław Noskowski

STRZELECKI¹
Radio feature by Wł. Ad. Noskowski¹

NARRATOR: The famous Polish explorer Count Paul de Strzelecki arrived in Sydney on April 25, 1839,² and a few days later called on the Governor, Sir George Gipps,³ with a letter of introduction from the British Resident in New Zealand.⁴

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SIR GEORGE : And tell me, Count, is it long since you left England?

STRZELECKI : Nearly six years, Your Excellency. ⁵

SIR GEORGE : Is that so? And where have you been all these years?

STRZELECKI : First of all I travelled on the continent, - France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, - then I went to the United States, visiting Boston, New York, Washington and Niagara Falls, then I retraced my steps to the shores of Lake Ontario and down St. Lawrence River to Montreal and Quebec. .

SIR GEORGE : Exploring all the time?

¹ Footnotes by Witold Łukasiak. The radio feature has been given to Waclaw Ślabczyński by Władysław Noskowski for unlimited use and inherited by Ślabczyński's son Tadeusz.

² "The Sydney Gazette" reported on Saturday, April 27, 1839: *From the Bay of Islands, on Thursday last, whence she sailed the 10th instant, the French barque Justine, 265 tons, Captain Bernard, with 18 tons potatoes from New Zealand, and 300 bushels of Chilean barley. Passengers, Messers Abercrombie and Uhr, Monsieur le Comte Traliski (late of the Polish Army) and Mr Rowe...* Name of Strzelecki has been quite often misspelt.

³ Sir George Gipps (1791–1847), Private Secretary to the First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Auckland (1834-35, Commissioner in Canada (1835-37, Governor of New South Wales (1838-1846), first Governor of New Zealand (1839-41).

According to Lech Paszkowski: *We do not know exactly when Strzelecki met Sir George Gipps. Ślabczynski suggested that Strzelecki had a letter of introduction from James Busby, the British Resident in New Zealand, to the Governor of New South Wales. Lady Franklin wrote that when she met Strzelecki at Government House in June 1839, he was "much esteemed by Sir George Gipps" and in another letter that "he was in high favour with Sir George". Without doubt "Strzelecki passed the test and Gipps introduced him to his deputy [Charles La Trobe] as "a man of science, and certainly a gentleman". Phillip Mennel, FRGS, maintained that Sir George Gipps "persuaded him [Strzelecki] to undertake the exploration of the interior of Australia". Paszkowski Lech, *Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki. Reflections on his life*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne 1997, p. 62.*

⁴ British Resident in New Zealand governed mostly the North Island, but had huge influence in the South Island. At that time James Busby (1801-1871) served as British Resident in the Bay of Islands, the main port of New Zealand (in the first half of XX c.), located at the headland of the North Island. In this port a barque *Justine* arrived with Strzelecki. Strzelecki became friendly with Busby. After he carried out research in New Zealand, Strzelecki ... *left Waitangi in April 1839 being provided with letter to Busby's brothers in Sydney...* See: Ramsden, *Busby of Waitangi*, Wellington 1942, p. 219. Busby described Strzelecki as *most gentlemanly and knowledgeable person*. See: W. L. Havard *Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki*, "Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Australian Historical Society", 1940, part I, p. 20–97. Most probably, Strzelecki had a letter of introduction to Governor Gipps.

⁵ Strzelecki began his ten year long trip around the globe on 8 June 1834, embarking from England on the 'Virginian', a 620 tonne ship commanded by Captain J. Harris. He had originally purchased a ticket to sail on the 'Warsaw' - departing the same day, but when he realised that the 'Warsaw' was slower than the 'Virginian', he changed his mind. After six and a half weeks, the 'Virginian' arrived in New York on 22 July, 1834. Strzelecki's 37th birthday had been celebrated whilst on the Atlantic Ocean close to the American mainland. On the passenger list he is shown as *De Strzelecki, age 35, Occupation: Gent.* Waclaw Ślabczyński, *Paweł Edmund Strzelecki, Podróże – Odkrycia – Prace*, PWN, Warszawa 1957, p. 65.

STRZELECKI : Yes, Your Excellency. And it was very interesting. Returning to New York I went to Havana, Vera Cruz, Mexico, New Orleans and up the Mississippi and the Ohio rivers to Cincinnati.

SIR GEORGE : So you have seen quite a lot of the United States.

STRZELECKI : Yes, I really have, and eventually I went by ship to Brazil, exploring the provinces of San Paulo and Villa Rica. Then after visiting Montevideo and Bueons Ayres, I crossed the Argentina Republic, where I examined various minerals, and I ascended the Cordilleras and walked to Valparaiso. From there by ship I explored the Pacific coast, Lima, Panama and Californian peninsula.

SIR GEORGE : That sounds most fascinating to me, and such interesting territory, too. You must have done quite a lot of mountaineering, Count, haven't you?

STRZELECKI : Yes, quite a lot.

SIR GEORGE : And tell me, how did you manage to explore the Pacific coast so extensively?

STRZELECKI : I was fortunate in being invited by Captain George Grey of the H.M.S. "Cleopatra" on which I spent 10 months. Shortly after returning to Valparaiso, Captain Grey introduced me to Captain Russell Elliot, commander of the H.M.S. "Fly", who asked me to travel with him, and we sailed for the Sandwich Islands, where I ascended and measured the huge Kilauea volcano. After visiting various islands of the Pacific, I arrived early this year in New Zealand, and at last here I am.⁶

SIR GEORGE : You have certainly had a most varied experience, visiting so many interesting places. And tell me, count, what are your impressions of Sydney?

STRZELECKI : We'll, Your Excellency, since I arrived in Sydney I am continually asking myself if I am really in what has been represented as most demoralised colony in the history of nations. All I have read has been completely misleading. The evening I arrived, I left my watch and purse behind and I armed myself with a stick, being resolved to encounter inevitable danger with the least possible risk! However, that night in the streets of Sydney I found decency and a quiet, which I have never witnessed in any other port of the United Kingdom. No drunkenness, -no sailors' quarrels.

SIR GEORGE : I am delighted to hear that, especially coming from such distinguished traveller as you.

STRZELECKI : I am not exaggerating, Your Excellency, - I was most favourably impressed.

SIR GEORGE : And what do you think of the town itself?

STRZELECKI : I was frankly amazed. Your George Street, the Regent Street of Sydney, seems to display houses and shops modelled after London. But nowhere did its lamps and also the numerous lamps in the shop windows betray any signs of a corrupt state of society, common to the streets of other capitals. Since than I witnessed many nights like the first in which the silence, the feeling of perfect security and the delicious freshness of the air mingled with nothing that could break the charm of a solitary walk...

SIR GEORGE : Your comments are most flattering, Count, and I am sure the Colonial Office would be very interested to hear your opinions. I must tell my officers, who, no doubt, will also greatly appreciate your favourable comments, for we are all trying to do our best for the welfare of this colony. ⁷And now, please tell me Count, what do you intend doing here? And in what way can I assist you?

⁶ The numerous places and countries - from New York to Sydney that, he visited and researched - is chronologically presented in an incomplete letter (undated and missing the beginning) to Adyna Turno. The date of the letter can however, be determined from the text: *'.....I sailed to New Zealand, and then to N.S.W., where I have been for four days, having arrived in Sydney on 25th April, 1839.'* It can thus be deduced that the letter was written to Adyna on 29th April, 1839. He writes further *'.....during my travels, which I am describing only by listing the names of places visited, I crossed the equator six times. I saw a lot, and endured even more'* Noskowski knew the letter, as proven in source number 68 in the Bibliography of the book *'Paul Edmund Strzelecki - Travels, Discoveries, Work'* by Waclaw Slabczynski: *Noskowski W. A. 'An Explorer's Letters', Sydney Morning Herald on 25th July 1936; 1st August 1936, and 24th June 1939. The first two of these articles relate to the then newly discovered letters by Strzelecki to Adyna Turno.* Waclaw Slabczyński, Paweł Edmund Strzelecki, *Podróże – Odkrycia – Prace*, PWN, Warszawa 1957, p. 30.

⁷ In his book *Physical Description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land*, Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, London 1845, p. 2, footnote, Strzelecki wrote: *Since my arrival in Sydney, I cannot cease asking myself, am I really in the capital of that "Botany Bay" which has been represented as "The Community of*

STRZELECKI : My main object is to examine the mineralogy and possibly the geology of this continent. Of course, it is such a huge continent that it would take a life-time to explore it all. I think therefore, that I shall confine myself to a belt about 150 miles from the coast and right down into Van Diemen's Land. I very greatly appreciate Your Excellency's kind offer to help me

SIR GEORGE : You may rest assured, Count, that it will be my pleasure to help you in your work in New South Wales, which I shall follow with great interest, and I shall give you letters of introduction to various prominent settlers, as well as our own officials, to assist you and to extend their hospitality to you. And please do not hesitate to call on me whenever you desire. ⁸

Felons," as "the most demoralised colony known in the history of nations," as "a possession which adds a tarnish rather than a lustre to the British Crown."

Let the authors of these and other epithets contained in the numerous works which they wrote on New South Wales congratulate and applaud themselves: My mystification was complete. The evening I effected my disembarkation in Sydney, I did it with all imaginable precaution, leaving my watch and purse behind me, and arming myself with a stick; being resolved to encounter inevitable and imminent dangers with the least possible risk!!

I found, however, on that night, in the streets of Sydney, a decency and a quiet which I have never witnessed in any other of the ports of the United Kingdom. No drunkenness, no sailors' quarrels, no appearances of prostitution, were to be seen. George Street, the Regent Street of Sydney, displayed houses and shops modelled after the fashion of those in London; but nowhere did its lamps and the numerous lights in its windows, which reflected upon the crowd, betray any of those signs of a corrupt state of society common to the streets of other capitals. Since then how many nights like the first did I not witness, which the silence, the feeling of perfect security, and the delicious freshness of the air, mingled with nothing that could break the charm of a solitary walk! At ten o'clock all the streets are deserted: to the bustling industry of the day succeeds a happy repose; and to that again a day of fresh struggles, successes, or failures! Extraordinary race! the only people who - to speak the language of one's own craft - seem subjected to atomic laws, immutable and independent of the varieties of climate; aggregating by a kind of molecular attraction, constantly in the same order; and expanding, however dispersed, into a similar social structure, thus everywhere preserving those properties and tendencies which nature assigns to their primitive form.

Other races, like true children of the soil, identify themselves with it, draw from it their sustenance, their power, and their nationality; call it country; love and cherish it as such, and cling to its bosom, though at the cost of freedom, of comfort, of property, and even of life. Banished from it, they become but lost wanderers, and soon degenerate; like the alpine rose, which when transplanted even to more genial regions loses its blossoms, and sends forth only thorns.

The hardy nature of the Anglo-Saxon race is proof against the effects of transplantation: for it does not depend on the soil either for its character or its nationality: the Anglo-Saxon reproduces his country wherever he hoists his country's flag.

*The United Kingdom is far from furnishing a just idea of this race. The traveller there is like one buried in the entrails of a colossus. It is in the United States, in the West Indies, in the factories of South America and China, in the East Indies, and in this town of Sydney, that the prodigious expansion of the Anglo-Saxon life, the gigantic dimensions of its stature and the energy of its functions, are fully perceived and appreciated –MS. Journal of the Author. P. E. de Strzelecki, *Physical Description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land*, Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, London 1845, p. B 1-2.*

⁸ In *Physical Description* ...p.52 Strzelecki wrote: *The excursions undertaken with a view to that object, led me through a very wild and broken country, often difficult of access, rarely permitting a rapid progress, or affording compensation for no slight degree of labour, fatigue, and privation. Indeed, the scarcity of simple minerals was such as might have discouraged the most ardent and persevering mineralogist who ever devoted himself to science. But, although the scope for extensive mineralogical researches was thus narrowed, the country was soon found to present a vast field for a most exciting and interesting geological investigation. Viewed through the medium of Geology, it at once assumed the aspect of an historical ground, where, in the absence of monuments and records of human generations, nature unfolds annals of wonders; not indeed, that they can be so called, as furnishing new lights thrown upon the origin of things, but yielding additional evidence that the structure to which they relate is analogous to that of the rest of the globe.*

I entered therefore eagerly on a geological examination of New South Wales, as on terra incognita, without guide or guide-book, as I had not the good fortune to be acquainted with any of the previous observations upon the geognosy of the country. Hence, although the whole of that country appeared equally interesting to explore, still, unassisted as I was in a labour of such magnitude, I could not but prescribe boundaries to my survey. The

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NARRATOR During the next few months Strzelecki explored the country around Sydney and in September he walked up the valley of Grose, ascending Mount King George, Mount Hay and Mount Tomah. The weather was very bad and he was delighted to unexpectedly find a lone farmer, who received him very hospitably.⁹

geological description and map, which at the outset I had in contemplation, has in consequence been ultimately confined to the country running parallel with, and stretching 150 miles inland from the sea coast, and comprehended between the 30th and 39th degrees of south latitude.

However, Strzelecki expended the scope of his exploration (p. 52 – 53):

When, however, the course of my perambulations brought me to the edge of that promontory, and thence to the islands of Bass's Straits, and from these again to Cape Portland, Van Diemen's Land; when, further, the survey of Van Diemen's Land led me winding east and west down to Research Bay, I found such striking correspondence of parts to the explored track of New South Wales, that as I went on I could not resist the temptation to extend my inquiry until it finally brought me to South Cape, Van Diemen's Land, and thus joined that island and New South Wales in one geological survey. P. E. de Strzelecki, *Physical Description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land*, Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, London 1845, p. 52-53.

According to Slabczynski, the Governor Gipps supposedly promised government refund half (if not in full) of the Strzelecki's expenses providing that the results of the exploration are beneficial for the Colony.

As we know the results were very beneficial eg. the discovery of minerals including coal, copper, gold, discovery new regions of fertile land etc., the promise, however, was not fulfilled. Waclaw Slabczynski, *Paweł Edmund Strzelecki, Podróże – Odkrycia – Prace*, PWN, Warszawa 1957.

When Strzelecki was leaving Melbourne, an article was published in "Port Philip Herald" of July 10, 1840 with the ending: *...It says but little for the Port Phillipians that Count Streleski leaves the province without some token given him of public respect - without even a silver snuff box, or a public dinner, the common reward of common-place merit. The benefits which the Count has conferred, entirely at his own charges, on the community at large, and on this province in particular, surely merited a better return. Such, however, is not the reward his noble efforts in the cause of science must ultimately receive.* Lech Paszkowski, *Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki. Reflection on his life*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne 1997, 141.

⁹ Strzelecki describes in details his stay at farmer house, *Physical Description...* p. 58 – 60, footnote:

*Captain Town's Farm, Mount Tomah,
8th September, 1839.*

The current of the river Grose and its precipitous banks frustrated all my efforts to regain Mount King George, on the side of Mount Hay, and obliged me to go round by the source of the river, crossing on the way all its tributary torrents and plunging anew into those savage solitary defiles which remain in the same state as when the black men first surrendered them to the white.

Some days spent in toilsome climbing and scrambling brought me at length to Mount King George. Mount Tomah appeared quite close to it; but immense ravines lay between, and torrents of rain in a great measure concealed the view. To proceed onwards was, however, my only alternative. I therefore redoubled my pace; ascended and descended; climbing, sliding, and clinging, until at length I found myself in the midst of a forest of high and thick fern, bending beneath the weight of the still falling rain, and my progress through which resembled the act of swimming rather than of walking. The temperature, however, had hitherto rendered that progress bearable; but on approaching the summit of the mountain it changed; showers of hail began to fall, and were soon succeeded by a frost. My clothes stiffened on my limbs; the latter began to feel numb, and I soon felt it would be necessary to abandon the prosecution of the observations I had wished to make. I therefore began to descend the mountain, anxiously seeking, right and left, for some friendly cavern where I might be able to kindle a fire and dry my clothes. Three hours were vainly spent in search of one - night approached - the heavens lowered - the rain and hail continued to pour. The nearest habitation, as I had been informed, lay eighteen miles off, in the direction of the river Hawkesbury: fortunately for me, one, of which I had heard nothing, presented itself suddenly before my eyes. To perceive it - to utter a cry of joy - to encourage my exhausted and helpless servant and to fly towards it, was the act of the same moment. To recognise our state of distress and to relieve it, was a part the owner of the dwelling performed with equal promptitude.

He took off my wet clothes, wrapped me in others from his own wardrobe, placed me before a blazing fire, brought me food, and surrounded me with every comfort, without once asking who I was, whence I came, or what might be my business!! My memory furnishes me with the recollection of few transitions so sudden and so agreeable; few states of discomfort transformed within the space of a few minutes into one of comfort so complete, and still fewer traits of hospitality so truly primitive.

The Evening of the 10th of September.

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STRZELECKI : (heavy rain is heard) How wonderful! A dwelling at last ... And there must be someone in, for I see smoke coming out of the chimney (knock at the door).

A VOICE : Who is there?

STRZELECKI : Only a traveller seeking shelter from the rain.

FARMER : (opens the door) Be welcome who ever you are. Come in!

STRZELECKI : Thanks. Oh, how wonderful to see a fire. I was nearly frozen...

Shall I presently show you a letter from the Governor. You will see you have nothing to fear.

FARMER : I don't want to see any letters. You are welcome guest and that is all that matters. And before you have a rest let me remove your wet clothes. You are drenched ... Just like that ... Put this over your shoulders and sit in front of the fire. You will soon feel better... I will get some food for you.

STRZELECKI : You have made me wonderfully comfortable. I really do not know what I would have done, had I not found your home. I have spent several days climbing hills and mountains, eventually reaching Mount King George. Mt. Tomah appeared quite close, but immense ravines lay between. I descended and ascended, climbing, sliding and clinging to the wet foliage. On approaching the summit the rain changed to hail. It was so cold that my clothes stiffened and I was forced to look for some cavern to kindle a fire and dry my clothes. And now I have been fortunate enough to find this haven.

FARMER : Where you will be able to rest a few days. To-morrow I shall kill a pig, for you must rest here until the weather clears.

STRZELECKI : But really, this is most kind of you, especially as I am a complete stranger for you.

FARMER : Don't worry. My wife and I will look after you and give you provisions if you intend going further afield,

STRZELECKI : This hospitality is remarkable... Tell me, how long have you lived here?

FARMER : I came to this colony 10 years ago, as a labourer for the old country. I worked hard, saved up some money, got married and settled here. I have two small farms and assigned servants to do the work. I treat them we'll, I work in the paddocks with them and we eat at the same table. Poor devils! They are not bad, if you treat them we'll.

STRZELECKI : I couldn't imagine you treating them badly...

In a Cavern of Mount King George.

The host who so generously received me the day before yesterday, and with whom the state of the weather obliged me to remain until to-day, is a true son of the globe. He was born in the fields, took root there, and has there flourished.

He arrived in the colony ten years ago as a simple labourer, and is now the successful cultivator of two farms, surrounded with all the rude abundance of rural life, and having servants under him; though he by no means aims at playing the part of a master; but, on the contrary, eats at the same table with his dependents, accompanies them to the field, and sows and reaps with them as in former times, whether from an innate love of the occupation or as a grateful recognition of the prosperity with which he has been blessed.

The attentions he showed me, though somewhat 'empressés' were as benevolent and as simple as is the nature amongst whose works he dwells. His language was characterised by the unerring signs of that simplicity. I can fancy that I see him now, as he appeared yesterday entering my room, his head covered with an old hat, carelessly worn on one side, and broken in at the crown; the sleeves of his shirt tucked up, and holding in one hand a knife, in the other a fine piece of pork, fresh killed, while he good-humouredly addressed me:-

"There's going to be more rain - it already falls in the mountains - so I just killed a pig; for I thought to myself, our stranger can't leave to-day. Come, you'll stay - Yes! yes! you must stay! - Shall we boil or roast this piece?" Whereupon, without waiting for any reply, he called out to his wife, "I say, mother! he'll stay - get dinner ready!"

*To-day I left his house - my knapsack completely stuffed with fresh provision, and both myself and servant entirely recovered from our fatigue and sufferings. The debt of hospitality alone remains to be settled; for every effort to induce my host to accept a pecuniary recompence failed. He belongs to a class often calumniated; most frequently poor, and everywhere considered at the foot of the social ladder; but amongst whom - be they Pagan or Christian, idolaters or true believers - hospitality and charity are viewed as one and the same thing, and are practised as the most sacred of duties. P. E. de Strzelecki, *Physical Description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land*, Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, London 1845, p. 58-60.*

FARMER : Why should I? After all, I am grateful for the prosperity I enjoy. So different from the old country! And where are you off to?

STRZELECKI : I am on the way to see Mr. James Walker of Wallerawang, but on the way I am exporting and measuring mountains.

FARMER : I will show you the way to descend into the valley to the west.

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STRZELECKI : (dogs barking) Is your master home?

SERVANT : Yes, Mr. Walker is inside. Whom shall I announce?

STRZELECKI : Tell him I am from Sydney town with a letter of introduction. Oh, how nice to be here. This is the first civilised place I have seen for a long time.

WALKER : Welcome, Count!

STRZELECKI : I am very happy to meet you, Mr. Walker, but how did you know who I am?

J. WALKER : (laughs) This not very difficult to guess. I had a letter from the governor's ADC advising me to expect you shortly. In fact I thought you would have been here long ago. Where have you been? Lost?

STRZELECKI : It was very thoughtful of His Excellency to think of me and I was very grateful for the interest he has taken in my humble person. Where have I been? I arrived here from Mt. King George over the wickedest, most crooked and sharp edged range of mountains, with toes peeping out from worn out boots, drenching every day and almost frost bitten on Mt. Tomah (laughs). I am glad I explored these ridges, but nothing in the world would make me do it again, - except for love, perhaps.

J. WALKER : (laughs) You can't tell me anything new about our wild mountains and ravines! For I have just returned from the bush with my domestic retinues after having spent several days tramping up and down gullies and mountains to round up three bushrangers, who were spreading terror and confusion in the neighbourhood.

STRZELECKI : And were you successful in apprehending them?

J. WALKER : Yes, we were, with the help of the soldiers. One of the bushrangers is supposed to be Lambert the Famous, a notorious criminal. Tell me count, do you propose to stay with us for a few days at least?

STRZELECKI : No, unfortunately, Mr. Walker. To-morrow, or they after, I want to push on to Bathurst and to explore the district.

J. WALKER : You are most welcome to stay here as long as you desire. Three years ago I was very happy to extend my hospitality to another distinguished visitor, Mr. Charles Darwin, who stayed with us several days. Anyhow, if you feel you must push on, I shall be very pleased to give you introductions to various station owners in the Bathurst and Wellington districts.

STRZELECKI : This is very kind of you, sir, and I shall be very grateful.¹⁰

¹⁰ According to Lech Paszkowski: *On passing the present town site of Lithgow, Strzelecki probably went along the route of the modern Great Western Highway to Walerawang and the farm of James Walker. In the Mitchell Library there is preserved a letter by Strzelecki written to his close friend Stuart Donaldson of Sydney. This letter, dated September 17, 1839, is certainly worthy of quotation in extenso:*

My dear Donaldson

Since my scrambling & rambling in the Mountains - Walerawang of Mr James Walker is the first civilised place I came across - which offers decent means of scribbling a letter - Pen - paper sealing wax are luxuries mental I mean I longed for, with much more anxiety than for those material one's of which during four weeks I was most d. deprived - It is odd that with my health which now a days is not the best & clearly on the decline - I could have undergone privations & fatigues which put my two most robust, servants hors de combat. I arrived this moment here from Mt George over the wickedest - most crooked & sharp edged range of Mountains - with toes peeping out from worn out shoes - drenched every day & almost frost bitten on Mt Tomah; at any rate I was stiff that is my cloths were, because ducked at the foot when at the top of the Mountains, the sudden change of temperature transformed them into a sheet of ice - which through the almost impenetrable reeds & ferns rattled on me like the scales of rattle-snake. I am glad I had explored this part of the ridge as I have done but nothing in the world would let me rebegin it - & return my steps - love except - As a woman could alone repush me into the gullies - starvation - pushing over & over again; but in this blessed country of yours I don't risk any such push: their minds - their hearts are too much cribbed & cabinet by biblious contemplations, retrospections & prospections - which I respect as I respect the Shakers posture and every thing connected with religious

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NARRATOR : After exploring the country beyond Bathurst and measuring the altitudes of various mountains, Count Strzelecki discovered gold in the Wellington district. He returned to Sydney several weeks later¹¹ to report his observations to Sir George Gipps.

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STRZELECKI : Look Your Excellency. These are two specimens of gold I found near Wellington. I feel quite certain that a very extensive gold fields exist near Bathurst and if Your Excellency should desire, I shall be pleased to...

SIR GEORGE : (interrupting) I might as we'll be quite candid with you, Count. The discovery of gold is most interesting and, no doubt, it might ultimately be of great importance to the colony, but do you realise what would happen if we allowed this report of your discovery to be made public? The rush for gold would create a most serious problem, for we simply have no sufficient soldiers to control the convicts if they became unmanageable. Nothing fires the imagination of people more than the thought of finding gold... A most serious position would result and for that very reason, I must ask you, Count, to give me your word of a gentleman to keep your discovery secret.

STRZELECKI : Just as Your Excellency desire. As a scientist and explorer I have reported having observed outcrops of coal near Mount York, and also having discovered gold near Wellington. If Your Excellency does not wish the presence of gold being made public, I shell definitely keep the secret.

SIR GEORGE : Thank you, Count. This secret will only be known to you and to me until such time as the gold rush will no longer imperil the safety of this colony... ¹²

affections.... Since I left Sydney I saw good deal here & there of them - all alike; The men or the gentlemen as you please just as in Sydney shut up hermetically within a dry circle of utility and most infernally "inoculated with the disease of domestic felicity." - That's all right - perfectly correct & as laudable as admirable for them - but for a poor peregrinating solitary dog like myself such a system of life - does not even leave even a bone of all the happiness they enjoy - And you how are you going on with your enjoyments & McKenzie? - You Siamese twins did you remember from time to time your absent and wandering Friend? - "I say unto you" if you did not you are a pack of shabby fellows which deserve a fulminating excommunication - because I did - and oftener than you believe & ought to expect. - How are our Friends? - I have not received any intelligence whatsoever from any quarter; t'is painfull but natural consequence of my mutability - to-morrow I shall be underway again for Bathurst and Goulbourn river & the Hunter & Port Stephens & from thence helm up for Sydney - then what. all this about the Tories Ministry as soon got out as in? & it seems even sooner; strange events now a days - the time is pregnant with diabolical offsprings; One ought to expect every thing and not be astonished at any what may happen - I hope you are prosperity going in the path of love & busin[ess] most diverging path's - but which you nevertheless keep most marvealously & so much so that if a fate will call me to the Throne of Marocco I will call you to the station of a Minister of Exchequer & Master of ceremonies - Adios Amigo... Do write me a line to Leslies station on the Goulbourn - or to Joneses for which I am about to steer: tell me how you are with McKenzie - & how the Barney's & Family - the Jone's the Plunkets give to them all my love that is to the ladies of course - and reserve the greetings - sincere regards - kind remembrances to the gentlemen. Tell to Cpt King I will write him from Bathurst & send him my Geognostic & orgetognostic despatch: my time is short here I scribble in haste & hurry - Do pray give a good hearty shake to McKenzie by the hand-arm or shoulders from my part. Adieu

(-) E. P. de Strzelecki.

Just as I am closing this letter Mr James Walker returns from the bush with three of the Bushrangers which spread terror and confusion in this neighbourhood & which he with his domestic retenue and assistance of two policemen happily caught this morning at day light - One of them they say is Lambert the Famous - If you like to know why famous - inquire at the records of Bushranging Heroism. (The original of this letter is kept in the Mitchell Library, Sydney. Original spelling retained.). See: Lech Lech Paszkowski, Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki. Reflection on his life, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne 1997, 141, p. 67.

¹¹ It is very well documented, that Strzelecki already was in Sydney on November 29, 1839 and lived in the Australian Club, on the corner Bent and O'Connell Street. He was made an honorary member. John Hood, who visited Club in 1842, wrote: *It is the only place for meeting with the gentlemen of the town and country...* In Sydney Strzelecki met James Macarthur of Parramatta, son Hannibal Macarthur. They agreed to travel together to Port Philip (now Melbourne) across then not yet discover Gippsland, and subsequently they set a meeting at Hannibal station, Ellerslie. Lech Paszkowski, *Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki. Reflection on his life*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne 1997, p. 67.

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

NARRATOR : Having decided to explore the Great Dividing Range and to proceed onward to Port Philip, Strzelecki left Sydney and spent Christmas at Camden Park with James MacArthur.¹³

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

STRZELECKI : I am greatly enjoying my stay with you, Mr. MacArthur, for I have found in your home all the comforts we love to find in the cities: society, books, fine house, a lovely garden and plenty of fruit.

MACARTHUR¹⁴: And what did you think of my vineyard?

STRZELECKI : I was frankly surprised to see the six neat little cottages surrounded with gardens, which you had especially built to accommodate the German vine dressers, who emigrated with their families.

MACARTHUR : Yes, they are very comfortable there, and were they not excited when you spoke German to them ...

STRZELECKI : They told me that if they could express their gratitude in English they would tell you how they appreciate your generosity and Mrs MacArthur's kindness.¹⁵

¹² Strzelecki discovered gold in 1839. The discoveries were revealed to Governor Gipps by presenting him with gold found in Wellington County and the Clywd Valley. The Governor feared an outbreak of 'Gold Fever' and mutiny should the convict prisoners hear about the discoveries, and urged Strzelecki to keep them secret. In 1851 E.H. Hargraves discovered gold in Bathurst, in the same region where Strzelecki had made his own discoveries back in 1839. In 1853 the Legislative Council of New South Wales awarded 10 000 Pounds to Hargraves for being the first to make a discovery. This award was made after debating the issue, and a vote was taken which gave Strzelecki 7 votes, and Hargraves 24 votes. Waclaw Ślabczyński, *Paweł Edmund Strzelecki, Podróże – Odkrycia – Prace*, PWN, Warszawa 1957, p. 121.

¹³ 'Count Strelski, the Naturalist left the Australian Club on Sunday morning for Golbourn (sic), taking with him a covered cart, two horses, and a servant. It is his intention to explore the country south of Yass to Port Phillip. He will then proceed to Launceston, exploring the interior of Van Diemen's Land as he goes along. He expects to return from Hobart Town to Sydney in about four months, when we hope to be able to lay before our readers some valuable information respecting the southern parts of the Colony. The Count will be accompanied part of the way by Mr. James Macarthur.' Lech Paszkowski, *Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki. Reflection on his life*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne 1997, p. 97.

According to Lech Paszkowski: *This note was reprinted in the Melbourne Port Phillip Gazette of Wednesday, January 8, 1840, in the column 'Sydney News'. The note is important, because it gives the exact time and date of Strzelecki's departure from Sydney. None of his biographers gave this date correctly, ranging the day from December 21 to Christmas Eve. It is interesting that Strzelecki had two horses. The letter to Donaldson quoted previously in Chapter 8, mentioning 'one foot in a stirrup' suggests that one of them was a riding horse. James Macarthur in the letter to The Argus, March 14, 1856, stated that Strzelecki arrived at Ellerslie 'with one pack horse'. If this is correct then the second horse was lost or left behind somewhere between Sydney and Yass, together with the cart. Why this happened no one will probably be able to say. Anyway, taking a cart into the mountainous areas was certainly not practical.* Lech Paszkowski, *Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki. Reflection on his life*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne 1997, p. 97.

¹⁴ Do not mistaken, James Macarthur of Camden with James Macarthur of Parramatta, his younger cousin, who accompanied Strzelecki.

¹⁵ Strzelecki on the meeting with German settlements, *Physical Description...*, p. 380 – 381: *I had gone with my host to look at the farm, the fields, and the vineyard, - contiguous to which last stood in a row six neat cottages, surrounded with kitchen gardens, and inhabited by six families of German vine-dressers, who emigrated two years ago to New South Wales, either driven there by necessity, or seduced by the hope of finding, beyond the sea, fortune, peace, and happiness, - perhaps justice and liberty. The German salutation which I gave to the group that stood nearest, was like some signal-bell, which instantly set the whole colony in motion. Fathers, mothers, and children came running from all sides to see, to salute, and to talk to the gentleman who came from Germany. They took me for their fellow-countryman, and were happy, questioning me about Germany, the Rhine, and their native town. I was far from undeceiving them. The sincere, the heartfelt pressure of hands which I received, under the idea that I was a German, was too delightful to permit me to destroy the illusion. I felt truly their friend, and was willing that they should call me their countryman, treat me as such, offer me their Christmas cake, present to me their children, and say to them, 'This gentleman comes from After talking of various matters, they at length all simultaneously cried, 'But are you not come here to stay with us? Oh, do stay! we shall not then be so alone!*

MACARTHUR : I am very pleased to hear that indeed. And now tell me, count, where do you propose to go from here?

STRZELECKI : Amongst the many places I desire to explore are: the country around the Wollondilly and the Shoalhaven rivers, Lake George, the Yass plains, the course of the Murrumbidgee River and to follow up the Murray Valley into the Snowy Mountains.

MACARTHUR : And then?

STRZELECKI : After ascertaining the altitudes of the highest peaks of the Snowy Mountains, I will proceed across unexplored country to Port Philip.

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxxx

NARRATOR : According to pre-arranged plans, Strzelecki with his servant met James MacArthur, a cousin of MacArthur of Camden Park, a 19 year-old Englishman James Riley, an aboriginal Charlie Tara and a servant, on February 5, 1840, at Eilerslie Station near Adelong.¹⁶ The party with pack horses, expect Strzelecki, who preferred to walk with his valuable instruments on his back, proceeded along the Murray river for about 50 miles. Leaving the others in a camp, Strzelecki and MacArthur began the arduous ascent of the high range. And you will hear Strzelecki relate what he wrote in his journal.¹⁷

MUSIC : xxxx xxxx xxxx

STRZELECKI : The steepness of the numberless ridges, intersected by gullies and torrents, rendered the ascent a matter of no small difficulty, which was increased by the weight of the instruments, which for safety, I carried on my back. On February 15th about noon I found myself on an elevation of 6510 feet above sea level,¹⁸ seated on perpetual snow, a lucid sky above me and below an uninterrupted view over 7000 square miles. This pinnacle, rocky and naked, predominant over several others, affords a most advantageous position for overlooking the intricacies of the mountains around.

Never shall I forget the expression of their faces on hearing my negative: they looked at each other as if to say, 'We ought to understand this, - he has reasons for returning to Germany; we, alas! know none but those which forced us to quit it!

And yet, in a material point of view, their condition is more happy. Abundance, health, security, liberty, and justice procure for them advantages with which they were very imperfectly acquainted in their native land. P. E. de Strzelecki, Physical Description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, London 1845, p. 380-381.

The knowledge of German language by Strzelecki was on such a high level that it was assume by German settlements that he was their countryman.

¹⁶According to Lech Paszkowski :... *on December 14, 1857, Strzelecki delivered a speech before the Royal Geographical Society of London in which he said 'it was my lot on one occasion to travel through a country untrodden by white men. The party consisted of seven men and six pack-horses, carrying our supplies...' Who was the seventh man? The two convict-servants were temporarily left at Welaregang but a native guide, Jacky, was added to the party before the trip to the High Country. Clews wrote: 'It is probable that Macarthur's aborigine, being from Goulburn country, was not acquainted with the topography of the mountains, where as the local man [Jacky] had accompanied other aborigines on their trips up the mountains to feast on the Bogong moths.' It is certainly true that Charlie Tarra had no knowledge of either the Snowy Mountains or Gippsland. After a few days Jacky was returned to the Welaregang station, so he was not the seventh man. Strzelecki had one servant, a tiny Irishman, named James Folan or Keena. According to the research of Dr Keith Bowden the name of Macarthur's servant was John Kent. It is not clear whether Strzelecki's memory failed him in 1857 or whether Macarthur had with him another servant? L. Paszkowski, Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki p. 102*

There is a plaque, from 1927, on the obelisk of Strzelecki in Corinella, listening all names of the participants of the expedition.

¹⁷ Report to Governor Gipps, June 2, 1840, manuscript known as *Count Strelesky's Journal* Mitchel Library, Sydney.

¹⁸ According to Lech Paszkowski: *Macarthur's 'Diary', ends with the words 'He fixed the height he had reached [at the summit] as 7,800 feet'. The same height was given in the Port Phillip Herald of June 2, 1840, but in the report to Governor Sir George Gipps Strzelecki gave the height as 6,510 feet. Clews commented that 'It is possible that he discovered an error in the instrument [due to falling while descending from Kosciusko] when checking back at the camp where Riley was waiting. Not realising that the error had arisen after the Kosciusko reading, he probably endeavoured to correct his Kosciusko height and made it 800 feet too low.'* L. Paszkowski, *Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki*, p. 108.

This eminence struck me so forcibly by the similarity it bears to a tumulus elevated in Cracow over the tomb of the patriot Kosciuszko,¹⁹ that, although in a foreign country, on foreign ground, but amongst a free people, who appreciate freedom and its votaries, I could not refrain from giving it the name of Mount Kosciuszko. Thus I have reserved and consecrated as a reminder for future generations upon this continent a name dear and hallowed to every Pole, to every human, to every friend of freedom and honour, - Kosciuszko.²⁰

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

NARRATOR : Descending the Snowy Mountains the Strzelecki party arrived on March 2nd at McAlister's station on the Tambo river.²¹

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

MCALISTER²²: So it is already over three weeks since you discovered Mount (hesitates) Kosciusko. And where do you propose to go now and when?

STRZELECKI : Much as it is delightful to enjoy your hospitality, Mr McAlister we must push on tomorrow. As I wish to continue my exploration of the Dividing Range, my friends and I intend leaving in the morning on our way to Corner Inlet and thence to Western Port and Melbourne.

RILEY²³: One thing, Mr McAlister, the count never believes I wasting time on resting anywhere for long.

MCALISTER : You are quite right. He seems to be animated by an indomitable spirit urging him to move on and on.

STRZELECKI : (laughs) Well, you can't exactly blame me for that. Being an explorer I might as well be on the move.

MCALISTER : You have a long and dangerous trip before you, gentlemen. You know that MacMillan has explored some of that country, most of which is absolutely unknown, however. Tomorrow I shall accompany you just for one day to show you MacMillan's tracks and places where you can ford the rivers. You know that this is the very last station before you reach Western Port. From here onward it is all unknown territory, where only blacks have roamed for countless centuries...

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

RILEY: What a lovely morning. It seems weeks since we left McAlister's station and we are still tramping on and on.

STRZELECKI : To-day is the 15th April, so that it is nearly six weeks since we left him. I do not know what you think gentlemen, but to me it has been most interesting. This country is one of the richest and most picturesque we have seen so far. We have followed the Tambo river for miles, we explored around Lake King, and do you realise we crossed and named five rivers? It has been very uneventful so far. We haven't seen any monstrous animals, nor aggressive blacks and it has been only very moderate arduous.

MACARTHUR : Not too bad, but there seems to be dense scrub ahead.

RILEY : Yes, I noticed that too.

STRZELECKI : Oh, that is nothing. It may only be for a few miles and then we will have probably more open country like this.

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

RILEY : Oh, I feel tired, very tired ...

MACARTHUR : You shouldn't complain. You are the youngest of us all.

TARRA : Massa him be no more tired than other massa... Him be young..

STRZELECKI : Tired, or not, we have to resume our journey. We cannot retrace our steps...

MacARTHUR : Do you think it is wise to continue our journey to Corner Inlet?

RILEY : We have few provisions left.

¹⁹ The tomb of Kosciuszko is at Wawel, Cracow (Poland).

²⁰ From the *Count Strelsky's Journal*, partially from the Strzelecki's letter to Adyna Turno, Launceston, August 1, 1840. Pawel Edmund Strzelecki, *Pisma wybrane*. Zebrał i przypisami opatrzył Waclaw Słabczyński, PWN, Warszawa 1960.

²¹ The cattle station Numbla Munjee which belonged to a squatter, Captain Lachlan Macalister (1797-1855).

²² The nephew of Capt. L. Macalister, Matthew Macalister, who was temporarily in charge of the station.

²³ James Riley (1821-1892), pastoralist.

MacARTHUR : Even the horses are exhausted.

RILEY : I am young and I decidedly do not want to leave my bones in this forsaken country ... I want to see civilisation again.

STRZELECKI : Well, gentlemen, if you think so, I am ready to abandon our plan to proceed to Corner Inlet and we shall proceed direct to Western Port.

RILEY : Hurrah! Hurrah!

STRZELECKI : Although I do not think we are far from Western Port ... Perhaps only a few days ... Still we must be prepared for eventualities and, therefore, it is imperative to be most economical regarding our food. I propose to have only half rations from now on, that is 2 lbs of bread daily between us and two thin slices of bacon, are you agreeable?

MacARTHUR : Quite.

RILEY : And so am I.

STRZELECKI : Besides we can always shoot these tree monkeys and eat them.

RILEY : You mean the little animals some people call native bears?

STRZELECKI : Yes. We had one yesterday. It wasn't bad ...

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

MacARTHUR : It is already a week since we changed our course and still this confounded dense growth and scrub and there seems to be no end to it ...

RILEY : Do you realise how little we have progressed in the last few days?

STRZELECKI : We have approximately averaged two to three miles a day, for we had to cut our way through so much undergrowth.

RILEY : I tell you, what I find particularly trying: the crossing of these accursed creeks. Do you realised how many times in the last few days we had to unload the horses, carry everything on our backs and than we had to get the bogged horses out ...

STRZELECKI : If you like to know I have been seriously thinking of abandoning our horses,

RILEY : (horrified) What?

MacARTHUR : And what? Walk like you have been doing?

STRZELECKI : (laughs) I don't think you have done very much horse riding lately. Yes, may be a few hundred yards ... And then more scrub ... and so on ... But what else can we do? The horses are completely exhausted, worn out and weary.

RILEY : Surely we will not abandon them here?

STRZELECKI : (firmly) Not here, but we must. My plan is as follow: let us descend into the plain below and leave the horses where there is grass. We will hide our saddles, instruments and belongings in the trees and only take what is absolutely indispensable. Worn out as we are at the end of each day, at least we shall not have to clear a space for horses every night.

RILEY : I feel so sorry to have to leave our horses behind us ...

STRZELECKI : There is no alternative. As soon as we arrive at Western Port, we will send a party to bring back the horses and belongings.

MacARTHUR : Very well then.

STRZELECKI : We will only take with us a clean shirt, our guns, ammunition and blankets.

RILEY : To-day is the 27th April. Two months exactly since we left McAlister. And the last 12 days have been nightmare ... Moreover the scrub seems to be getting thicker and thicker, and more difficult.

STRZELECKI : According to major Mitchell's maps we must be about 25 miles north east of Western Port, but owing to the cloudy weather I have only twice been able to take latitude observation. At three miles a day we should reach Western Port in 8 days.

MacARTHUR : And we only have enough food for eight days ...

STRZELECKI : (laughs) Well, to be truthful, we only have enough bacon for three days ... And I suggest making three dampers with the remainder of flour ... And with the help of three monkeys we shall survive ...

MacARTHUR : (gloomily) That sound very grim to me.

TARA : Me nebber leave you massa ...

MacARTHUR : I know Tara ... But I am beginning to wonder if we will ever get there, for if we run out of food ...

STRZELECKI : (firmly) Mr. MacArthur, don't give way to despair. We are still strong and well. A few days might see the end of our struggles.

RILEY : I hope so ... This thick undergrowth is terrible ...

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

RILEY : This is the tenth day since we left our poor horses and we have walked and walked through this endless undergrowth and still no relief ... I beginning to lose hope we will ever see a human being again ...

MacARTHUR : And I also ... I feel completely worn out ...

STRZELECKI : (brightly) Courage! Courage! Gentlemen, trust in Providence. We shall not parish. Western Port cannot be very far now...

RILEY : You said that a week ago ... And now I don't care how far we are, if we have no more food. We finished our bacon ... The damper is mouldy...

STRZELECKI : (laughs) What about our favourite delicacy, the tree monkey ... Charlie caught Two yesterday and now he is up a tree, looking for one ...

RILEY : (irritably) I can hardly bear to think of them ... hungry as I am ... To think we had to eat them raw, after Charlie had skinned them ...

STRZELECKI : (laughing) That is not because you are developing into a cannibal, but simply because we had been unable to make a fire owing to such excessive dampness.

MacARTHUR : No wonder you have tramped all over South America with your inexhaustible energy and spirit. Did you ever eat anything there, I wonder?

STRZELECKI : (jokingly) Sometimes ... But what is the use of getting despondent?

MacARTHUR : Count, I marvel at your spirit ... You never seem to be depressed but always bright, and cheerful.

STRZELECKI : (brightly) I am tired, but why should I feel despondent? The going is rough admittedly, but when I feel somewhat depressed I look round and get my inspiration by looking at the trees around us. What glorious blue gum and other trees ... How valuable they will prove to this colony ... And how privileged we are to see them!

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

RILEY : (very depressed) Another day and yet another day ... And still this confounded scrub ... It is even impossible to describe the roughness of the ground ... We seem to be completely lost ...

MacARTHUR : Possible ... But for him we would already have been lost ... He alone never loses heart ... He is always cheerful and tells us stories ... I don't know How he does it ...

RILEY : I am no longer interested in him, anybody, or anything ... This is utterly hopeless ... Nine weeks since we left McAlister and since I slept in a bad, or sat at a table, ... Or had decent food ... We are lost ... lost ... ugh, those raw native bears...

MacARTHUR : Is it as long as that? Let me see ... To-day must be about the 12th of May and we have walked, half starved for 20 days since we abandoned our horses ... I wonder if they are still alive ... I wonder will we be still alive in a week's time? ...

RILEY: Oh, Mr. MacARTHUR, things are not quite as desperate yet ... I still have faith in the count...

MacARTHUR : But you must realise that we have no more provisions ... and what will happen if in another day, or two, we won't be able to even find a native bear? Will we feed on leaves, or tree bark?

...

STRZELECKI : (brightly) I am just back with good news. I have shot some bird that looks like a big crow.

RILEY : I wonder what will it taste like raw?

STRZELECKI : My dear James, the main thing is that we have a little food. The taste is of secondary importance.

RILEY : Oh, what would I give for a real roast dinner with vegetables! And a knife ... and a fork ... and a chair ... I doubt at times if we will ever see a human dwelling again and people, who look like human beings, and not like gaunt bearded scarecrows...

MacARTHUR : (very gloomily) 44 days since we saw McAlister ... 44 days of privations ... Three weeks' tramp through this vile, tough country this tangled undergrowth ... cutting our way through it ... Wouldn't it make anyone disheartened? We thought we were only 25 miles from Western Port a week ago and how many have we done since?

STRZELECKI : (cheerfully) I think we must have travelled about 70 miles through this scrub ... Just look at my boots ... My toes are right out (laughs) yet what can I do? The shops are a bit too far away!²⁴

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

RILEY : To-day is the 12th of May. Although I am the youngest of the party I almost feel I can walk no further ... Not another day ... I feel completely worn out, and exhausted ... And the monotony of this vile scrub ... these rough hills ... It's terrible ... terrible...

STRZELECKI : (warmly) Cheer up, James ... It has been very trying, I know, but we must not lose heart ... Victory might be within our groups and then we will tell everyone .. What is this? ... Why is Charlie running towards us so excitedly? What is wrong, Charlie?

TARA : (out of breath) Massa, massa, me been hear dogs bark ...

RILEY : What?

MacARTHUR : (excitedly) Really?

STRZELECKI : (calmly) Tell us about it, Charlie.

²⁴ Lech Paszkowski, in his *Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki...*, p. 120, placed the Riley's letter: *Beside those official press communications there are preserved the contemporary words of James Riley, a participant of the expedition, who wrote to his mother in a letter dated 'Melbourne, May 30th, 1840.'* This description, therefore, was not yet affected by the previously quoted newspaper articles:

'After travelling for three days [apparently from March 16 to 19], we came to a change of country - instead of fine open plains we came to thick forests and through that to dense brush, which entirely stopped our travelling on the plains and forced us to take to the ranges, which were little better, but we could cut and force our way through after great labour and exertion.

Through this scrub we forced our way for 14 days, during which time we made about 70 miles, so you may imagine we had difficulties to contend with, sometimes not making 3 miles in one direction, sometimes having to go 6 or 7 miles to head a creek, and after all to unload and carry everything over on our backs and then have to pull the horses out which get bogged - and at night to break a place down in the scrub before we could stretch our weary limbs, and to tie our poor horses to trees, without a mouthful for them to eat the whole night for fear of them straying away.

In this state of things we came to the conclusion of leaving the poor animals on the first spot we could find where they could get some subsistence, and for this purpose we descended again into the plain, and were fortunate enough to find a little grass and water not far distant.

We determined to leave them here, as they only delayed us, and that they were in such a state from starvation that it was madness to take them on, and leaving them here we had a chance some day of recovering them.

We were feeling the strain and were quite as exhausted as the horses. We had been on half rations for five weeks, two pounds of bread to three people per day, which when divided was but little to sustain life and strength, and for meat we had only two thin slices of bacon. The Count fortunately succeeded in taking latitude observation, and from that we were (by Major Mitchell's maps that were laid before the House of Commons) at about 25 miles to the N.E. point of the Harbour at Western Port to which we were steering, and which was about the spot where we supposed to find the old settlement - but by referring to the Navigation Book we found that some of principal points did not quite agree. This made us a little doubtful of the Major's map, but we hoped for the best. Instead of finding it 25 it proved 70 miles, and the scrub increasing upon us instead of growing better. It took 21 days instead of 7, from the day we left our horses till we arrived at Western Port on the 12th of this month.

At this time we had eight days' provisions at the above mentioned rate. We took a day to arrange and stow away our saddles, &c., in trees, and only taking what we absolutely required, such as a clean shirt, our blankets and guns. We left everything else that was not of the most importance (of course the instruments for observation we were forced to carry). We made the remainder of the flour into three dampers, and each man had his half damper to carry. Of bacon we had enough for three days. We were never more than a day without food. In the country through which we passed there was but one animal, it is the size of a small dog, and lives in trees, it is called the monkey or native bear. These we procured sometimes by shooting, sometimes by the native climbing the trees after them. We ate them raw when we could not make a fire which was difficult because dry fuel was scarce.

Some convicts who had escaped from Van Diemen's Land were occupying the buildings of the Corinella settlement of 1826 and which were abandoned a year or two later. They shared what food they had with us, and showed us the way to Messrs. Massie and Anderson's station [the present Tooradin].' Lech Paszkowski, *Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki. Reflection on his life*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne 1997, p. 120.

TARA : Come, come that way ... Me hear dogs and smell smoke ... (dogs barking)

MacARTHUR : We are saved!

RILEY : Thank goodness!²⁵

STRZELECKI : A man is coming through the scrub towards us ... And look to the left ... water ... It must be Western Port at last!

BERRY: Welcome to you all. Who are you?

MacARTHUR : We are a party of explorers from Sydney town ...

BERRY : Goodness gracious me! And you got through this unknown land? That is wonderful!

MacARTHUR : Yes, we got through, but only owing to him. This is count Strzelecki the famous explorer. We owe our lives to him ... To his indomitable spirit and courage. We would have given up long ago, but for his inspired leadership.

STRZELECKI : (brightly) Don't praise me too much. We all owe our lives to each other ... It was splendid teamwork ... And what is your name, sir?

BERRY : My name is Berry. I settled here at Western Port a few years ago with other settlers. But come with me ... you must be half starved ... and look worn out...

MUSIC : xxxx xxxx xxxx

NARRATOR : After a rest of several days at Western Port, Strzelecki and his party were rowed across the bay and they continued their journey through Dandenong to Melbourne,²⁶ where they were lionised, for their hardship caused a sensation. One evening in Melbourne Strzelecki writes a despatch to Sir George Gipps.

MUSIC : xxxx xxxx xxxx

STRZELECKI : (writing) I take the liberty of naming the country, which has been my lot to discover, - Gippsland in honour of Your Excellency. I scarcely know of any spot in New South Wales that can boast more advantages than Gippsland. It has 250 miles of coast, two already known harbours, Corner Inlet and Western Port, eight rivers, a navigable lake, lagoons, 3600 square miles of forest plains and valleys, which in richness of soil and pasturage cannot be surpassed. It has wonderful timber, blue gum and black but without parallel in this colony...²⁷

²⁵ „The Port Philip Herald” of June 2, 1840, published an article *The Progress of Discovery*. In the full story about Strzelecki’s discovery one reads: *On the twenty-second day after they had abandoned their horses the travellers came in sight of Western Port, and the sensations which were created by the first view of water on which a small vessel was riding at anchor, and the blue smoke curling among the trees, may be more easily imagined than described. - It was upon Mr Berry's tent the party had stumbled, and to his hospitality and kind attention to their wants they owe their recovery to health and vigour.* Lech Paszkowski, *Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki. Reflection on his life*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne 1997, p. 116.

²⁶ According to Lech Paszkowski: *Strzelecki himself dismissed the whole journey through Gippsland in a few sentences:*

From the River La Trobe the course to Corner Inlet was resumed; the utter exhaustion, however, of the horses began to impede our progress; in a few days, after crossing the river, it was necessary to abandon them. The men, too who for five weeks had been already on half allowances (one biscuit and a slice of bacon a day), manifested symptoms of wear and tear, which, coupled with the loss of the six horses and packs, and the remainder of our provisions being only sufficient for four days, forced me with regret to relinquish our intended course, and to take the nearest to Western Port, where new supplies might have enabled me to prosecute my researches into the geognostic nature of the coast range, and also that of inlets, outlets and harbours. The direct course which necessity obliged us to pursue led us, during 22 days of almost complete starvation, through a scrubby and, for exhausted men, a trying country, which, however, for its valuable timber of blue gum and black butt has no parallel in the colony. The ascent of the dividing range was gradual, the descent towards Western Port easy; all the great protuberances which characterize that range elsewhere, either in elevation, or windings, or bold features among the spurs and ramifications, began to cease. Some minor spurs on the western side of that range formed an extensive valley to the N.W. of my route, almost opposite to that watered by the River La Trobe on the eastern side of the range. Some others, which, on ulterior examination, proved to be divisions of creeks running in the direction of Cape Liptrap and Western Port, were the sole elevations composing the rest of the fine undulating country through which I passed. Lech Paszkowski, *Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki. Reflection on his life*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne 1997, p. 121-122.

²⁷ Actually, in his Report dated June 26, 1840, Melbourne, Strzelecki wrote: *At 17 miles from Omeo to the S.S.E., and at the crossing of the dividing range begins the third division, which the meridian 148° limits from*

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

NARRATOR : Having completely recuperating in Melbourne,²⁸ we find Strzelecki in August 1940 at Government House, Hobart, talking to Sir John²⁹, the governor of Van Diemen's Land. It was the beginning of a long and deep friendship between the two eminent men.

SIR JOHN : It is a wonder you escaped with your life after all these weeks of privations in Gippsland. I hope you will not encounter such difficulties in Van Diemen's Land. I can assure you, that I shall do everything in my power to assist you in your scientific exploration and research. It is seldom that we have the benefit of such a distinguished explorer in our midst.

STRZELECKI : You are the last person to say that, Sir John, for you are yourself a most distinguished scientist and explorer and I shall consider it an honour to have your most sympathetic assistance.

SIR JOHN : My dear count, Lady Franklin and I are most deeply interested in your work and I can assure you, that you are a most welcome guest at Government House.

STRZELECKI : I am very grateful to you and to Lady Franklin for your kindness and hospitality.

SIR JOHN : Moreover, I am happy to tell you that I have procured a mountain barometer, which will be at your service. It is not a new one, but I hope it will prove useful to you.

STRZELECKI : I am quite certain it will be most useful and many tanks, Sir John.

MUSIC : xxxx xxxx xxxx

NARRATOR : In the next 12 months Strzelecki had explored practically all of Tasmania with the exception of the West Coast. He travelled with two servants and three pack horses. As was his custom, he walked everywhere himself. He had dispensed with a tent in N.S.W. But found a tent indispensable in Van Diemen's Land. Once again he is at Government House, Hobart,

MUSIC : xxxx xxxx xxxx

STRZELECKI : The lakes are beautiful, especially Lake Marion. I am sure Lady Franklin would love to see it.

N.E.; the sea-coast and the dividing range from E. and W.; Corner Inlet and Western Port from the S. and S.W. - a division which, on account of the extensive riches as a pastoral country, its open forests, its inland navigation, rivers, timber, climate, proximity to the sea-coast, probable outlets, and more than probable boat and small craft harbours, its easy land communication, the neighbourhood of Corner Inlet and Western Port, the gradual elevation, more hilly than mountainous, and finally, on account of the cheering prospects to future settlers which this country holds out, and which it was my lot to discover, I took the liberty of naming, in honour of His Excellency the Governor, Gipps' Land. Lech Paszkowski, Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki. *Reflection on his life*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne 1997, p. 115.

²⁸ Strzelecki departure Melbourne on the brig *Emma* on July 10 and arrived in Launceston on July 24, 1840. The farewell article was published in the "Port Phillip Herald" of July 10, 1840: *Count Streliski, the gallant discoverer of Gipps Land, leaves Port Phillip for Van Diemen's Land, by the first ship, in the confident expectation of receiving from His Excellency Sir John Franklin, that assistance in the prosecution of his scientific researches which he has failed in obtaining at the hands of Sir George Gipps. The Count purposes (provided he finds that Sir John Franklin will, as is expected, place one of the Government vessels at his disposal) continuing by water the prosecution of the discovery he has already so successfully followed up by land. He will proceed in the first instance to Sealers' Cove and Corner Inlet, the probable outlets of the numerous rivers and creeks which intersect the noble country through which, the Count travelled, and there ascertain from actual observation the existence or non-existence of means of communication from the sea with the interior of Gipps' Land. Thence he purposes returning to Western Port to examine the capabilities of the country, particularly with reference to the current reports regarding the existence of coal and iron-ore, which there is every reason to believe is procurable in great abundance in the immediate vicinity of the harbour. These generous efforts to advance the interest of the province the Count undertakes at his own expense, and without the most distant prospect of ultimate remuneration.*

Sir John Franklin, himself a traveller of no mean note, will not, we feel confident, refuse to a brother labourer in the field of scientific research, such assistance as is in his power to offer, particularly as the objects the Count has in view are of a nature calculated to prove eminently conducive to the advancement of both, this colony and Van Diemen's Land. Lech Paszkowski, *Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki. Reflection on his life*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne 1997, p. 141.

²⁹ Sir John Franklin (1786-1847), British Royal Navy officer, Lt. Governor of Van Diemen's Land (1837-1843), explorer of the Arctic, perished during the Northwest Passage expedition (1845).

SIR JOHN : I am sure she would.

LADY FRANKLIN³⁰: Of course, I would. I have listened fascinated to your vivid description. What a pity there is no road to the Lakes. I would far sooner travel to see the beauties of this island, than stay at Government House. Oh, how I envied you when you accompanied my husband to Port Arthur.

STRZELECKI : I wish you could have accompanied us, Lady Franklin, but I can assure you that it was strenuous, as when I spent a whole week on top of windy Ben Lomond to complete observations.

SIR JOHN : I greatly doubt whether Lady Franklin would have enjoyed this experience!

STRZELECKI : Lady Franklin, -when climbing and descending mountains I often tried to visualise Van Diemen's Land in a hundred years' time. What a wonderful island it will be! But, Sir John, irrigation is necessary to develop the country. Take for instance Lake Arthur 2600 feet above the sea level. What wealth that would mean to settlers, who realise the necessity of calling to aid that powerful agent of agriculture, - irrigation.

SIR JOHN : You are certainly a dreamer and a visionary, count! What a fascinating picture of the future you have woven!

LADY FRANKLIN : You have, but there is one drawback: not one of us will be here to see it ... But, by the way, count, to-morrow night there is a dance here and I expect to see you, instead of staying in your room, checking the altitudes of Van Diemen's Land.

STRZELECKI : I shall only be too happy to accept your gracious command. (laughs) Surely you don't think I have become such an outcast and recluse in my tramps from coast to coast, that I am no longer fit for civilised company!

LADY FRANKLIN : I am delightful to hear it, count, for I was beginning to have doubts myself ...

DANCE MUSIC : (voices and laughter heard)

LADY GUEST : What a lovely evening!

ANOTHER : It is most enjoyable.

LADY : Lady Franklin, no doubt, is a wonderful hostess and always so kind and considerate to all. Here she comes with count Strzelecki ...

LADY FRANKLIN : I enjoyed the waltz very much ...

STRZELECKI : No, Lady Franklin, the pleasure was mine, for you dance remarkably well. It reminds me of long , long ago, when I was very young in Poland.

LADY FRANKLIN : Tell me something about your youth. The ladies of Hobart have a very high opinion of you, count, but often wonder if you shun the fair sex? Tell me, are you so intensely wrapped up in your scientific work, that a beautiful face means nothing to you?

STRZELECKI : (with forced laugh) No, not at all ... I am not as bad as that, I assure you ... Yes, I was deeply in love once ... In fact I still am ...

LADY FRANKLIN : That sounds very romantic to me. Are you disposed to tell me something about it?

STRZELECKI : Yes, I will ... (very earnestly) Lady Franklin, you and your husband have been wonderful friends to me ... and I feel I can fully confide in you ... How often under the starry sky in NSW and in Van Diemen's Land, laying on a blanket, I thought of her ...

LADY FRANKLIN : (very warmly) My instinct tells me that you will feel ever so so much better when you confide in me ... and you know me well enough to trust me implicitly ...

STRZELECKI : (sadly) I know, Lady Franklin, I know ... My story is very simple ... I was a young man living with my parents in Poland. We had a small estate ... Life was easy and comfortable ... A wealthy and influential family Turno lived near us ... They had a daughter Adyna ... She was beautiful and sweet ... I was romantically disposed ... Is it a wonder that we fell in love? ...

LADY FRANKLIN : (very kindly) I suppose you proposed to her?

STRZELECKI : (music heard from ball room) Yes, but only secretly... You see, they were very wealthy. I was a young man without an independent fortune and without prospects ... The parents were looking for a wealthy husband for Adyna ...

LADY FRANKLIN : (with sympathy) And I suppose she married someone else?

³⁰ Lady Jane Franklin nee Jane Griffin (1791-1875) married Sir John Franklin in 1828. When he fail to return from his 1845 Northwest Passage expedition she sponsored seven expeditions in search of him.

STRZELECKI : No, not at all ... Realising that we could not obtain her parents' consent, we decided to elope ...

LADY FRANKLIN : (aghast) Surely you did not ...

STRZELECKI : (sadly) No, it did not succeed ... We made arrangement and I met Adyna in a carriage not far from her residence, but her father had discovered her disappearance and set of in pursuit. The servants told him they had seen her leaving in a carriage with a few belongings. The father galloped after us in a terrible rage and overtook us ... After a dreadful scene he took her home. Shortly after that I left home, and went abroad.³¹

LADY FRANKLIN : (with great sympathy) And have you seen her since?

STRZELECKI : No, I left Poland for good ... But we correspond. I cannot write direct to her, because her parents are very bitter ... But we write to a mutual friend who forwards the letters.

LADY FRANKLIN : You made me feel quite sad ... But what would her parents say now, when you have become such a famous explorer?

STRZELECKI : I am afraid it would make very little difference to them. They are very obstinate and very bitter. Besides, I am in no position to marry Adyna and to give her all the comforts to which she has been used since childhood.

LADY FRANKLIN : What a great pity! I feel very sorry for you...

STRZELECKI : Thank you, Lady Franklin. I know how genuine you are ... You realise how I feel ... I always think of her ... I named a peak near Mt. York in the Blue Mountains of NSW after her.³² When I named the highest mountain in Australia after a great Polish patriot, I sent her a wild alpine flower with the words "Here is a flower from Mt. Kosciuszko, the highest peak of the continent ... You will be the first Polish woman to have a flower from that mountain. Let it remind you of freedom and love"...³³

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

NARRATOR : Strzelecki continued his zig-zag exploration of Tasmania and by the middle of 1841 he had walked over 2000 miles. Sir John Franklin was keenly interested in his work and in his reports on coal.

MUSIC : xxxx xxxx xxxx

SIR JOHN : I am always looking forward to your letters and scientific reports, Count, and I am very pleased you have joined our Tasmanian Society, which fosters science.

STRZELECKI : I am very honoured indeed to be a member of the society, Sir John.

SIR JOHN : I would very much like to visit the coal near Jerusalem with you and I also want you to come with me to the coal mine at Recherché Bay. Your commitments will be of great value to me. Here are some specimens of Recherché Bay coal and I will much appreciate if you will analyse it for me.

STRZELECKI : I shall only be glad to do it for you. And now, Sir John, what about my projected exploration of the Bass Strait islands?

SIR JOHN : I am sorry I had forgotten to mention it to you. Everything is ready. You will travel on the survey ship "The Beagle" and captain Stokes will look after you and give you every assistance. But I wish you would return to Hobart for the Regatta, for it is well worth seeing and you will be a very welcome guest.

STRZELECKI : Many thanks, Sir John, but I doubt whether I will be able to come. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to explore the Bass islands and I shall send a report to you on my return and then...

SIR JOHN : (interrupting) Here is my wife. Good morning, my dear.

LADY FRANKLIN : Good morning John, and good morning Count.

STRZELECKI : Good morning Lady Franklin.

LADY FRANKLIN : Are you two gentlemen conferring or confiding?

³¹ Adyna Turno (1800-1882), according to the journal of Adam Turno, Adyna's father, the elopement with Strzelecki did not take place. Adam Turno. *Pamiętniki* (rękopis, Księga VII, 13814/III/7), Inwentarz Rękopisów Biblioteki Zakładu Narodowego im. Ossolińskich we Wrocławiu, 59/65/7.

³² Adine is the Aboriginal name.

³³ Excerpt from Strzelecki's letter to Adyna Turno, Launceston (Van Diemen's Land) August 1, 1840.

SIR JOHN : We are merely discussing our friend's proposed visit to the Bass Strait islands.

LADY FRANKLIN : Before you leave, count, I want to refresh your memory regarding our Franklin Museum in Hobart. You have honoured us by your kind interest and will, I am sure, continue to do so by your patronage and support. It would have given me exceeding great pleasure to have had your signature in the parchment, which is buried in the foundation stone, but there will be still a niche for you in their interior. So please, do not forget...

STRZELECKI : I definitely will not forget, Lady Franklin.

SIR JOHN : That reminds me of something ... Mr. Murchison, the President of the Geological Society has requested my assistance in collecting for him specimens of fossil remains in the colony. Well, you can guess what I am going to say, count. I know of no one who has the power and inclination more effectually to help me than yourself. Will you be so kind to say whether you can?

STRZELECKI : Of course, I can, Sir John. I shall be only too happy to assist you.

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

NARRATOR : Strzelecki's three years' exploration of Tasmania was coming to the end. He had completed his exploration of the Bass Strait islands, where captain Stokes³⁴ named in his honour the highest mountain on Flinders Island, - Strzelecki' Peak.³⁵ For over half a century Strzelecki's keen observations subsequently published in London were considered the standard scientific information on Tasmania. His description of various coal basins were most accurate, and his collection of fossils revealed a remarkable knowledge and forms the basis of Australian palaeontology. Strzelecki's geological observations, clear and concise, are as good to-day, as they were a hundred years ago. As he had decided to sail from Launceston, Sir John Franklin wrote to him a farewell letter on September 29, 1842.

SIR JOHN : (writing) "On reading your letter I felt a renewal of that regret with which I received the first communication of your intention to leave the Island. I cannot let you go without assuring you that in your departure I shall miss the comfort of having a sincere and highly judicious friend, to whom I could impart many of my inward thoughts, and find sympathy and sound advice on subjects of deep interest to me and to the Colony, which is indebted to you for the valuable contributions you have made during the progress of your researches. Lady Franklin desires me to offer you her affectionate regards, - she looks forward as I do and with equal desire towards the renewal of your society on our return. We can then talk over causes and effects as exhibited here, with the unrestrained range, which, except to a few like yourself, prudence would forbid our doing here. Again let me say everything most kind from Lady F and every member of my family, - Ever yours most sincerely ... John Franklin"

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

NARRATOR : Back in NSW³⁶ Strzelecki completed his exploration of the Hunter River valley³⁷ and in April 1843, a few days before his departure from Australia, he called on his friend Philip King, commissioner of the Australian Agricultural Society, to say goodbye.

KING³⁸: All good things come to an end and it seems that we are going to lose you.

STRZELECKI : Yes, Philip, I am leaving, having completed my work here.

KING : And tell me, have you really enjoyed your long stay in the colony?

STRZELECKI : Yes, it has been wonderful and most interesting. People have been most hospitable and helpful to me. I have only one complaint...

KING : (surprised) And that is.

STRZELECKI : The high cost of living. Everything is very expensive here. Homes, living, travel, - even by steamboat, so ridiculously low in the USA and Europe, - is much higher her.

³⁴ Captain John Lort Stokes, (1812-1885), explorer, officer in the Royal Navy, he took part in a marine survey of South America (1826-32), in journey around the world (1833-36), exploration of the coasts of Australia (1837-1842). He published *Discoveries of Australia* (London 1846).

³⁵ Strzelecki Peaks (782/779 m), named by Captain J. Lort Stokes in 1842.

³⁶ Strzelecki left Tasmania (Launceston) on board of the steamer *Sea Horse* on September 29, 1842 with his servant/convict, James Nolan, and arrived in Sydney on October 2. Before departing the colony Strzelecki obtained an absolute pardon for Nolan.

³⁷ It was Strzelecki's last Australian journey.

³⁸ Philip Parker King (1791-1856), British naval officer, hydrologist, explorer, member of the New South Wales Legislative Council (1839).

KING : You are probably right. And what have you done in the last 5 months since your return from Van Diemen's Land?

STRZELECKI : I have been busy as per usual ... I made a geological survey of the Hunter river valleys, Port Stevens, Raymond Terrace, I have investigated the Newcastle coal basin, have found traces of coal at Lake Macquarie, have analysed soil here, there and anywhere...

KING : You certainly haven't wasted your time.

STRZELECKI : No. I have visited the most northerly farms in the colony situated at Stroud and Booral. The soil is well adapted for wheat and barley, as well as fruit. In short a situation most favourable to the application of irrigation, which will render the district one of the richest and most important in the colony, whilst I think Newcastle harbour is excellent.

KING : And when are you leaving us, Paul?

STRZELECKI : The day after to-morrow, on the 22nd April by the barque Anna Robertson of 317 tons.³⁹

KING : And any regrets?

STRZELECKI : Very many. To leave so many wonderful friends ... Especially dear Sir John Franklin ... He has been marvellous to me ...

KING : You must feel tired after these strenuous last few years?

STRZELECKI : Tired? No! (laughs) I feel remarkably well, although I have travelled at least 7000 miles on foot during the last four years!⁴⁰

MUSIC xxxx xxxx xxxx

NARRATOR : 18 months later, at the end of 1844, Strzelecki is sitting at his desk in London writing his "Physical Description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land". His servant comes in bringing a large sealed envelope.

STRZELECKI : What is it, John?

JOHN : Sorry to interrupt you, Sir, but here is a letter, or something ... just received from the post office.

STRZELECKI : Thank you, John. ! what is it? ... From Hobart ... That will be interesting ... I must open it ... (opens and reads) "We the undersigned cannot suffer you to depart without presenting to you assurance of our sincere regret. The benefits which you have conferred upon our Country have added other motives to those of private friendship, which call for a public and united expression of our esteem. We are conscious that much is owing to your scientific knowledge and to your indefatigable exertions; much that will henceforth advance the progress of science and the development of the natural resources of Tasmania. Permit us as your friends, bound to you more especially by the interest, which you have attached to our adopted home to offer our contribution towards the completion of yours labours" ... many signatures ... Sir John Franklin ... £400 ... And what is this inscription ... (reads) "We the undersigned Ladies of Tasmania fully concurring in the sentiments of esteem and regard, expressed by the Gentlemen of the Colony for Count Strzelecki, desire to participate in the honour of contributing towards the testimonial" ... ⁴¹(very moved) Friends ... Wonderful friends ... indeed ... (dreamily) I seem to see it all again ... The Grose Valley ... Gippsland ... the long walk ... Western Port ... beautiful Hobart ... the Murray River Valley ... and rising above all, Mount Kosciusko ...

³⁹ On Saturday, April 22, 1843, *Count Streliski*, as reported by the "Sydney Morning Herald", left Port Jackson on board of the barque *Anna Robertson* aiming for China. Lech Paszkowski, *Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki. Reflection on his life*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne 1997, p. 197.

⁴⁰ From *Preface to Physical Description...*, p. vii: ...*This "Description" comprehending the fruits of five years of continual labour, during a tour of 7000 miles, on foot, is divided into eight sections, or parts...*

⁴¹ The entire letter was featured in Strzelecki's *Preface* to his book (p. vi):

...On my return to England, I had the honour to receive, through hands of Francis Corbould, Esq., the Following address from the Tasmanian Public, dated Van Diemen's Land, June, 1843:-

The signatures to this address were headed by that of His Excellency the Governor, Sir John Franklin, R.N.; His Honour the Chief Justice, Sir John Pedder; the Colonial Secretary, G. Boyes, Esq.; and comprehended those of most of the settlers in Van Diemen's Land.

To the very flattering expressions and hearty good wishes which this address breathes throughout, was added a subscription amounting to 400£. sterling, 100£. of which was contributed by Sir John Franklin himself.

THE END

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¹ Władysław (Ladislav) Adam de Noskowski (1892-1969), journalist, editor, music critic, teacher, educator. He attended Chrzanowski's private high school in Warsaw, continued his education in Switzerland and later studied at the University of Warsaw and Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques in Paris. He arrived in Sydney on 24 April 1911 and was naturalized on 4 May 1914. The same year he travelled to California where in Hollywood he played in few movies, among them *Macbeth* (1916). In that year Ignacy Paderewski employed him as a secretary to work for the Polish National Committee. Noskowski was also secretary of the newspaper *Free Poland*, sponsored by the Polish National Alliance. In February 1918 he returned to Sydney and married on 4 March Beatrice Barnett (d.1960). Until 1919 he was a translator and interpreter for the Australian Military Forces censor. He taught French, history and geography in various high schools in Sydney (1920-26). From 1919 he had been music critic for the *Sydney Mail* and wrote for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Evening News*, *Art in Australia*, *Home*, *Shakespearean Quarterly* and *Musical Australia*. He also worked as a critic and an editor of *Australasian Phonograph Monthly* (1925-29). During 1927-33 he contributed columns on music to *Sydney Morning Herald*. It was during 1929-31 that he published his own monthly *Australian Phonograph News*. He also contributed to Chicago based *Musical Leader*. Between 1933 and 1945 he was honorary consul-general of the Republic of Poland in Australia, New Zealand and Western Samoa. Noskowski co-operated with A. E. Dalwood to establish the Polish-Australian Chamber of Commerce. Together they visited Poland in 1935 and attended Marshall Josef Pilsudski's funeral. During the World War II he organized the Polish Relief Fund, which raised £30,000. He also encouraged the Australian government to grant £10,000 to the Polish Red Cross. In 1942-45 he edited the monthly *Polish and Central European Review*. After the war he initiated musical programmes for the Australian Broadcasting Commission's radio and later became an examiner in French. In 1959 he prepared two text-books for senior high school French classes. In 1966 he began to write a 'History of opera in Australia' but unfortunately, the nearly completed draft disappeared in unknown circumstances. Noskowski died on 29 July 1969 after being struck by a car. L.K. Paszkowski, *Noskowski, Ladislav Adam de (1892-1969)*, Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol. 11, (MUP), 1988; Władysław Noskowski, *Dziennik z pierwszych tygodni w Australii. Rok 1911*, Edited by Bogumiła Żongołowicz, Polsko-Australijskie Towarzystwo Kulturalne w Australii Zachodniej, Perth 2011.