

He mentions having made tea "from a bush I found growing at Port Phillip which tasted as good as any black tea I have ever known". Grove also busied himself in making soap and shaping ornaments from driftwood. His reference to a bush from which he made tea, however, is of great interest.

A mystery surrounds the spread of the ti-tree which grows only between Point Ormond and the Mornington Peninsula, there being a popular belief that this tree did not present itself until after 1850. Grove's mention of it, coupled with that of members of the MacCrae family (at the foot of Arthur's Seat in 1841), provides an interesting lead into research on the subject. Tuckey's suggestion that gold might be found in the Port Phillip District, although only a romantic notion which he himself couldn't have expected to materialise, was the first suggestion that a gold rush might one day take place.

The only digging going on at that time or during the whole of the expedition's possession of the country was in connection with the planting of vegetable crops. Then, at long last, came the permission to proceed to the Derwent, and after ten short weeks of occupation, and before the summer of 1803 to 1804 had turned to autumn, everything was being moved in two consignments across Bass Strait and by this time Lieutenant Tuckey had lost faith in his "Elstedorado". As the sailing ship disappeared from the view of the natives and across the horizon away from the land which he had described as "country well watered, soil very rich and in many cases unencumbered by a single tree", he found other words.

Following more along the lines of the colonel, the strange Tuckey wrote as his parting words: "The kangaroo seems to reign undisturbed lord of the soil; a dominion which by the evacuation of Port Phillip he is likely to retain forever". It was a strange conclusion to a story which had, according to his earlier reports, had such a good beginning, but then there seemed to be something strange about the whole expedition -- an expedition which had been sent to establish a . . .

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