

shed, he at any rate acquired a good practical knowledge of station work, which stood him very good stead, when in due course became a Station owner himself.

Mr. Murray's next recollection has reference to Black Thursday Feby. 1851, of which he says:- " I was on the Barrabool Hills on that day. The fire came down upon us about two O'clock. It was preceded by a hot wind, which drove it in a south westerly direction; the country being open with no dividing roads or other obstacles to break its course, it swept practically unmolested, over the greater part of the colony. A man named Hooper on Horse-back was fleeing before the fire when his horse refused to jump a fence; the flames overtook him and burnt him to death. We had a great fight to save our house. Farm houses, stacks of all sorts, brush fences and all else were practically one sheet of flame. I have never seen anything to equal it. It seemed to run for hundreds of miles all over the place. A change of wind however happily saved the far west." Thought the gold fields broke out in 1851, Mr. Murray and his relatives, never went near them till some twelve months afterwards. Then, accompanied by his brother, he drove a team of bullocks from Geelong to Bendigo.