

NATIVE NAMES OF PLACES IN VICTORIA.

(BY GIDEON S. LANG, ESQ.)*

Mr. Lang says :—The following names were obtained by Mr. John Currie, from a very intelligent black at Queenscliff, a few years ago, and are very expressive :—*Ballarat*, *Balladurk*, *Ballarine* (corrupted *Bellarine*), were favorite and extensive camping places ; *Balla*, signifying elbow, or the attitude of reclining on the elbow.†

Boona-tall-ung, Point Nepean, signifies “kangaroo hide,” descriptive of the angular shape of the point, like a stretched hide.‡

Woorang-a'look, Swan Island, describes the rushing sounds of the surf through the narrow opening between the island and mainland.

Euro-Yoroke, St. Kilda, the name is given from the sandstone found there, which they used to fashion and sharpen their stone tomahawks.

Koort-boork-boork, Williamstown, signifies “clumps of she-oak,” the country being formerly dotted with them.§

Yowang, Station Peak, signifies “big hill.”—(See page 199.)

Bunning-yowang, corrupted *Buninyong*, “big hill, like a knee;” *bunning* signifying “knee.” The hill, seen from certain directions, resembles a man lying on his back with his knee drawn up.||

Warrenyeep, corrupted *Warrenheip*, “emu feathers,” from the peculiar appearance given to the hill by the ferns and foliage upon it.¶

Burrumbeet (Lake), “muddy water.”***

* *The Aborigines of Australia*, by Gideon S. Lang, Esq., 1865.

† “Elbow,” in the Melbourne dialect, is *Ko-rum*; in that of the Coast tribe, *Thirrong'atha*; and in that of the Upper Loddon, *Bol-loitch*.

‡ *Tallang* is the word for “tongue.” The tongue of land terminating at Point Nepean is fitly described by the word. “Hide” or “skin,” amongst the Coast blacks, is *Tatbee*.

§ The word for “she-oak,” as given by Thomas, is *Tur-run*; amongst the Upper Loddon people it is *Koo-loitch*; and in the Western district, *Bruk-bruk*. The name quoted by Mr. Lang is therefore probably formed from the latter.

|| The word for “knee,” amongst the Yarra blacks, is *Barreng*; amongst the Western Port people it is *Barding* or *Burdin*; and in the Western district it is *Parring*. *Bun-nin-bun-nin* is the word for “back” in the dialect of the Melbourne tribe.

¶ *Wir-ren* is the word for “feathers,” in the dialect of the Upper Loddon tribe.

** *Booreen-beek* is “dark soil;” and lakes are sometimes named by the natives from the character of the soil or clay that is found in or near the lake. The country is volcanic, and the color of the soil is a dark-chocolate. *Purrumbete*, another lake in the Western district, is also within the volcanic area. *Buranbeet* is the name of a shrub, *Platylobium obtusangulum* (H.).—(See also page 205.)