

SPORT IN HOMERTON.

There is a spot easily reached from Portland where excellent sport is to be obtained, and at a small expenditure of money and time. It is a rocky and swampy region in the south end of the parish of Homerton, on the Darlot River, and between Ellangowan and Ettrick. Two Portland sportsmen had a good time there last week, and one of them, Mr. James Shevill, jr., supplies the following account of their trip:—

Albert Row and myself left Portland at ten minutes past ten o'clock on Tuesday morning, January 14, for the Stones, about 18 miles from this, arriving there about half-past two the same afternoon. As soon as we arrived, after getting our guns and ammunition ready, we proceeded to see what sport could be obtained around the adjoining country, and before we had gone very far we found kangaroo to be there in abundance, and shot after shot was fired which told considerably on them. Within a space of two miles about twenty had fallen victims to our guns. Thinking it wise to look for variety of game as well as quantity, we visited the swamps lying around. Ducks were plentiful, but very shy. We shot several, though there being plenty of other wild-fowl about we amused ourselves with them, viz., moorhens, ibis, &c. We also saw specimens of the white ibis, which has recently been spoken about in the papers as a rare visitor. We managed to shoot one, but were unable to secure it on account of the boggy condition of the ground. We shot until 8 o'clock in the evening, our afternoon's total being 38 kangaroos, 17 ibis, several wild ducks, besides moorhens. The ibis is a bird of beautiful plumage and of stately appearance, standing about three feet and a half high and measuring four feet six inches from wing tip to wing tip. We greatly admired it, never having seen a specimen of the same species before.

That evening we were hospitably entertained by a resident, Mr. Hanson, and started again at 4.45 next morning. We shot till 1 p.m., and were again very successful, securing twelve kangaroos and a few wild ducks and moorhens. We had plenty of walking for our sport, and were very footsore when we returned, the rocks being exceedingly rough on the feet. Visitors to the "Stones" should be provided with very thick boots and leggings, for besides the rough walking snakes are very plentiful round the margins of the swamps and among the boulders. We shot six snakes during the excursion of between five and six feet

boulders. We shot six snakes during the excursion of between five and six feet long, and killed many smaller ones. Sportsmen shooting in this should also be accompanied by a dog to retrieve their game, for the swamps are most difficult to penetrate, being thickly clothed with undergrowth and very wet. On one swamp we noticed a floating island. This particular bog is very dangerous, and the blacks have a mortal dread of it, there being a legend current among them that two of their race once ventured into it and never came out again.

We observed several wild pigs, but although we fired many shots at them the distance was too great for our shot guns to have deadly effect. Had we been provided with rifles the result would probably have been worse for the pigs.

We arrived in Portland about 8 o'clock on Wednesday evening well satisfied with our two days outing, having scored a total catch of between 50 and 60 kangaroos, 17 ibis, a quantity of moorhens and ducks, besides other small game and snakes.