

1820 Nov 13

(117)

These Beds have very much the appearance of  
Coal Beds - but upon close examination I found them  
to be composed of large Bodies of Timber - How  
they came into their present situation, three or  
four hundred feet below the surface of the  
Hills I cannot ascertain - I can only state the fact,  
but shall leave others to account for it - The ap-  
-pearance of this Timber extends for more than 20  
miles along the Beach - and some Roots of Trees  
are to be seen of immense Bulk when the Tide is  
down, level with the sand upon the Beach as  
black as coal, as if they had all been burnt off  
close to the ground, some of them are more than  
thirty feet in diameter - It is probable that origi-  
-nally ~~that~~ two or more Trees sprang from one Root,  
but the Roots appear now, as if they had had  
only one Tree to support - Our days Journey  
lay along the Beach - we walked very hard  
till towards evening when we turned into the Land  
behind the Sand Hills - and took up our Residence  
for the night near a fresh water Pond - we had  
seen no Persons on our way, nor any Huts or signs  
of Inhabitants - our guides told us we were not  
far from the Settlement of a Chief named Teeternan <sup>[Te Tinana]</sup>  
Thowhoo sent a Messenger to this Chief to inform  
him