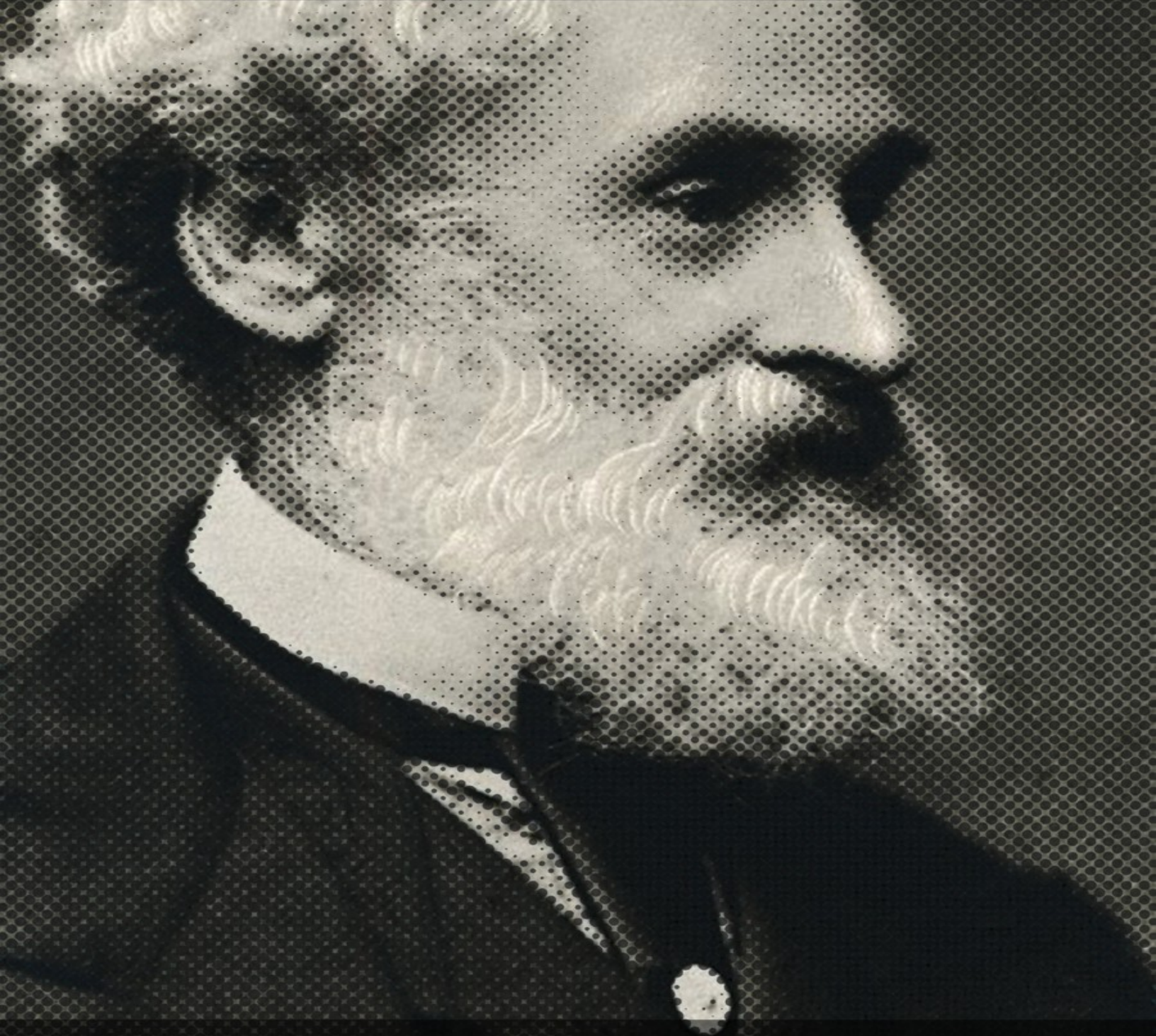


Peter Egerton Warburton



*Major Warburton's
Explorations in 1866*

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Major Warburton's Explorations in 1866



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"

Sir—I beg to lay before you a route sketch (which by the kindness of the Surveyor-General has been drawn in the Survey Office) of my late trip into the hush, and to annex a more detailed report of my proceedings than I have before had it in my power to submit.

At the Elizabeth, one of our horses, a large, soft-legged animal, was found to have injured itself so much from the hobbles, that I was obliged to leave it behind, and I subsequently sent instructions to Mr. Roe, at Port Augusta, to recover it.

Proceeding in a course a little westerly of north, we commenced our journey to Yarra Wurta. To those who do not know this country it will be sufficient to say that it is very bad travelling; but as I had before passed over it about ten miles eastward of our present course, where it was far worse, I was not obliged to execrate our position in such forcible language as my companions who had not the like advantage.

Ten miles brought us to a bit of sandhill country dotted with pines. Here an accident befell us. Police Trooper Farquhar got a most severe kick from a pack-horse just below the right knee; fortunately no bones were broken, but his pain was so acute we were obliged to halt at once. Thus we lost a whole day, and to add to our loss one of the canteens was found to have a hole in it.

I rode out to a place, about seven miles, at which I had three rare before found a little water, but there was none now, and the appearance of the country offered no prospect of my finding any. Instead of the country improving in feed and water as I advanced north, according to expectation, it appeared to be getting worse, and worse, and my expectation of water at Yarra Wurta began to be shaken.