

24ft. long by 13ft. wide, divided into two rooms of 13ft. by 12ft. They will have double walls of palings, paling roofs, and soft wood floors, doors, and windows. Their inside walls will be lined and papered. The chimneys will be of slabs lined with brick to a height of 4ft. 6in.; the hobs and hearths will be bricked. The closet arrangements will be improved. At present these are neither very good nor very bad. They are sufficient for decency, and that is more than can always be said in regard to similar conveniences outside Coranderrk. The worst that I saw about them was that the receptacles are sometimes mere holes in the ground. None of those should be permitted to remain in use, but moveable pans be adopted instead. At present there are no bathing appliances on the station, although there is a most plentiful supply of excellent water. There should be at least four bathrooms provided, one each for male and female adults, and one each for boys and girls. It would not cost much to provide these, and they would soon repay their cost in the improved health and increased comfort which their free use would bring about. A common washhouse would also be a great convenience and saving, and perhaps also a common kitchen. At present there is much waste of food and fuel and labour, through each family doing its own cooking at home. The women's time is almost wholly absorbed in household work, whereas, if better arrangements were made, they should have several hours of every day to devote to work that would bring in some money.

This leads up to the consideration that the efforts of the superintendent are not at present adequately backed up by the *employés* who act under him. These do not seem to be the right kind of people. The Tasmanian half-caste woman who acts as matron and cook, and generally handy person in the school, is very well so far as she goes, but it would be much better if she had placed over her a European matron of some education and some refinement. A competent person in this capacity could also act as work-mistress, and teach the black women many useful feminine arts by which they might earn a little money. The farm management also seems to lack energy and enterprise. In field and hop ground, garden, vineyard, and orchard, there are altogether about 75 or 80 acres of land under cultivation this year, which is but little to show as the result of the labour of the men and horses and working-bullocks that are on the station. There should be two or three times this area under crop, and then the station would be self-supporting in regard to the articles flour and oatmeal. Making every allowance for the shiftlessness of the blacks, and their indisposition to hurt themselves with hard work, it can scarcely be but more could be got out of them if there were a competent working overseer in charge. For instance about £300 is about to be spent in fencing the station—why could not they be made to do this work? There are men among them who earned good wages on stations before they came to Coranderrk, and could again if they were to leave the place to-morrow—why cannot they also work on the station?—perhaps not so well as they would be made to work in private employ, but, say, half as well? The best pieces of land on the station are alluvial flats by the margin of the Badger Creek and the Yarra, but these are under water during a portion of the year, which they need not be if the escape of the flood waters were assisted and hastened by the cutting of drains. The blacks have shown that they are capable of doing this kind of work by making an excellent ditch round the hop-garden, and also some cross and diagonal drains, and so rendering it comparatively dry.

The fact which impresses itself most forcibly upon the mind of a reflective visitor to Coranderrk is, in the first place, that there should be no such establishment at all; and in the second that granting the establishment as an inexorable circumstance,

three-fourths of its inhabitants have no business to be there. Some of the men have worked on stations, and one has distinguished himself in shearing by putting through 100 sheep a day in workmanlike style. Another is a skilful horsebreaker. A third has been a sealer, beachcomber, and general speculator in the islands of Bass's Straits, and is, besides, a good rough carpenter. Others have capacities for usefulness in other directions. That such men should be made pensioners of is absurd. They are as fit to earn their own living as the average white man, and they would probably be happier and more contented fighting their own way in the world than they are now. For the married women in the community no change for the better is possible unless their husbands determine to go away and work for their living, and take their families along with them. The case of the single girls is different. These should certainly be drafted out so soon as they are fit for work, and placed as servants in families where they would be well looked after and taught domestic arts. Many of them are fair enough and comely enough to marry advantageously in course of time, and if they were married to white men, what little black blood they have in their veins would be bred out in a generation or two. But under existing arrangements the black is perpetuated as a pauper class, instead of being merged or absorbed in the general community, as he might be. There is one couple in Coranderrk with children of all ages between five and 25, and with both sons and daughters who are married and rapidly surrounding themselves with children. There is no reason whatever why this numerous family of three generations should be so injuriously treated as to be maintained at the public cost. The members of it are as handsome and as intelligent as the generality of people, and quite as well entitled to the privilege of working to earn their bread.

One fruitful cause of trouble to the Coranderrk management is that the blacks are possessed of very extraordinary notions in regard to their position on the station, and in regard to their rights and privileges. They are under the impression that the land they occupy belongs to themselves, and also the buildings, the stock, and all that is on the station. They regard the board and its white *employés* partly as usurpers and intruders, and partly as more or less inefficient and dishonest administrators of their (the blacks') estate. How they acquired these ideas can be partly traced and partly guessed. One of the half-caste men told me that he was induced to come to Coranderrk, from the Murray, partly by threats and partly by false representations. He said he was assured that if he "came in" he would be supplied with all he required, have no work to do, and white men to wait upon him. On the other hand, if he refused he would be arrested by the police and sent to the station a prisoner. At the time all this happened the man was a shearer, and by beginning far north every season and working south he could do duty in three sheds every year, and thus earn in three months as much money as some rural Church of England clergyman can make in a year. Of course, all this may not be strictly true. I relate it as it was told to me, in illustration of the kind of feeling that prevails on the station. Another man was also a station hand, and a valuable one. He came to Coranderrk some years ago to look for a wife, found a girl to his liking, married her, and has been there ever since, raising a family to be a burthen to the state, and fiddling with a fork among hop vines when he should be subduing the forest or tilling cattle. A girl with a child was rescued from an irregular life some time ago, and sent to Coranderrk for safety. There she married, and is having more. A young woman who had lived with a station-overseer up country for years, and had three children by him, quarrelled with her protector and ran away to Melbourne. There she was picked up, and sent to Coranderrk. The father of her children followed her, and desired to get her back.

She was willing enough to go, but the board or its officers objected. The man then said that if the board would detain the woman they must also take her children, and sent them to the station. They are there now, and the woman is married to a Coranderrk man. These examples are given to show how the station is recruited—that is, how otherwise than by what is called "natural increase." The community is extremely mixed so far as colour goes, and no one could take it upon himself to say in what proportions its members are of black or white blood. They taper away from black to white so gradually that the gradation cannot be accurately noted or differentiated as to its successive stages, and nothing is to be gained by inquiring too curiously into the subject. The people are there as nature and circumstances made them, and what has now to be done is to make the best of them and ask no idle questions.

In finishing my Coranderrk narrative I have to tackle the most difficult part of the subject. I have to venture upon delicate ground, and shall tread it as lightly as is consistent with a sufficient and proper examination of it. I now concern myself with the morals of the establishment, in regard to which I know that there exists in the public mind an insatiable and not quite unnatural thirst for information. At a social *séance* at which I once had the pleasure to assist, a man related the experiences of some years that he had spent among certain South Sea Islanders, with what appeared to his interlocutors to be unnecessary particularity. But all the time he evaded the main point. At length a Scotchman of the party went to the root of the matter, and gave concrete form to the general sentiment of the gathering, by demanding, with some degree of impatience, "But what are the social facilities?" Coming somewhat abruptly to the point indicated by the Scotchman's query, I have to state that at Coranderrk the "social facilities" are not great. The married women live so much under each others' observation that they have no opportunity to misbehave if they were ever so willing, without being immediately found out. The black men are in so far philosophers that they are prepared to accept the inevitable. If a personable member of the dark fair sex comes upon the station with a baby in her arms, and another at foot, both perfectly unexplained, she will nevertheless by-and-bye find a husband, and no questions asked. In regard to the single girls on the station, it is to be remarked that they are under close observation all day.

There are of course scandalous stories about Coranderrk and its female inhabitants flying about the surrounding country. This is not to be avoided so long as human nature continues to be what it is. The comparatively vacant mind delights in stories, and all the more if they are improper. Then, the centres of white population that are nearest to Coranderrk are Lilydale and Healesville, both charming villages but rather uneventful than otherwise. The main street of either is a stage on which no more thrilling drama is enacted than the arrival or departure of a stage coach, and it naturally transpires that when a new naughty tale with local flavour, reaches either of them, it is seized upon with the utmost avidity, and rolled under the general tongue as a most sweet morsel. The riciest of these tales reached my ear in the course of my travels in the district, but a little examination of them taught me to attribute them partly to a period some years by-past, and partly to the exaggeration in which village gossipers are prone to indulge. Of course I cannot say that the black and whitey-brown matrons and spinsters of Coranderrk are all strictly virtuous—that is what no conscientious reporter could safely predicate of any community whatever, whether white, black, or copper-coloured. But this I can safely say, that so far as I could observe, or find out, there is no reason to believe or suspect that the Coranderrk people are worse behaved than other folk.

21<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1876 *Age* 5

THE LANGUAGE AND CUSTOMS OF THE ABORIGINES.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

For good or for evil, our aborigines are disappearing from the land. The last of the Tasmanians has gone to the land where all men are equal, and it seems not improbable that the present generation will witness the extinction of the few hundreds of natives still remaining amongst us. Civilisation has discovered that it is a law of nature that the gin bottle shall advance its conquests, and that the natives shall disappear proportionately, and be no more seen amongst us. Now, it is desirable to point out that, in view of this speedy extermination of our natives, some measures should be taken to get all possible information respecting their languages, customs, traditions, and religions. The philologists of England are eagerly looking out for such information, and would cordially thank any Australian man of science who would undertake to send home such information as that indicated for the benefit of science in Europe. Professor Max Müller expressly calls attention to this fact in his last volume of the *Chips From a German Workshop*, remarking that—"To the student of language, the dialect of a savage tribe is as valuable as Sanskrit or Hebrew; nay, for the solution of certain problems, more so; every one of these languages is the growth of thousands of years, the workmanship of millions and millions of human beings. If they were now preserved, they might hereafter fill the most critical gaps in the history of the human race." Now, it need hardly be said that it is not the business of Government to give more than a general countenance to the prosecution of such researches. There may be particular cases in which Government might properly step in and aid some society, or some private individual, who might be prevented, by want of means, from publishing facts which he had special opportunities and aptitude for acquiring; but, as a rule, we must look to the unaided efforts of enthusiasts to collect for us information upon the languages and customs of Australia. It is understood that at least two important treatises upon these subjects are already being prepared by two highly competent authorities in this colony; but it would be unreasonable to ask any one to be omniscient, and science, it is known, is best advanced by its different branches being distributed among specialists, that each of them may bring his own branch as near to perfection as possible. Now, Professor Max Müller is the great English specialist in language, and it is the task of his life to arrange and shape all the rough material provided for him by those who quarry in the mines of philology. It is obvious that much labour may be saved to the master mind, whose business it is to arrange and classify, by presenting him his materials in the quantity and in the form in which he may deal with them with the least possible trouble to himself. The chief points on which philologists would wish for accurate information are the following:—Firstly—A full list of all the common words in use, in any particular tribe, with their pronunciation appended. Dialogues should be added, and a portion of some simple and popular author rendered into the language of the tribe. It should also be satisfactorily proved that such version had succeeded in rendering itself intelligible to the average natives in question. The next thing to be dwelt on would be the dialects of the neighbouring tribes, and those words should be mentioned which agree with the language which is described in detail. There are good reasons for thinking that the dialect of each tribe differs materially from that of every other, but that those tribes who dwell on vast plains, unbroken by ranges or rivers, are more or less capable of understanding each other. Then the dialects of the natives, as must be the case with every nation which has no literature, are perpetually changing. Therefore, it would be interesting, though extremely difficult, to ascertain the extent to which any given language had changed in the lifetime of one person who spoke it. Further, the reasons for such changes should be given. It is said, for instance, that the savages of Australia have a great talent for mimicry, and are much given to catch up words uttered in jest by one of their number, and to perpetuate these in their language. In fact, their languages would seem to be in a perpetual

state of decay and reconstruction by an agency much resembling modern slang. How far is this true? Again, how far has the custom of "tabooing" words really been in vogue, and in what tribes? It is mentioned that among the Tasmanian blacks the names of men and women were taken from natural objects and occurrences around, as for instance, a kangaroo, a gumtree, snow, hail, thunder, the Waratab, &c.; that when a person bearing the name of such object died, the word fell into disuse, and might never be used again. Was this curious custom in common use in Australia, and if so, how were new words coined to take the place of the obsolete ones?

Further, it would be good to know whether any tribes had the means of counting above three or four, and if so, how far their powers of numeration extended. In what way they formed abstract words, such as goodness, justice, sleep. How they expressed past time. If by means of inflexions (as it is certain in some cases that they did), whether these inflexions were themselves independent words or unintelligible suffixes; and, lastly, whether they had any words to express the name of any deity or spirit, and if so, whether such name was transferred from any material object. Another inquiry of the greatest interest would be whether the tribes in the north of our continent speak a language in any way resembling any languages spoken in New Guinea, and it would be important to ascertain whether there exists any one word by which the natives of Australia distinguish themselves from other natives, such as "Murri," by which it is known that certain tribes mark their identity of origin. If several independent workers in different parts of Australia would employ themselves in furnishing replies to such queries as the above, they would benefit science very much, and the employment would prove not uninteresting to themselves.

Some light might be thrown upon the extent to which certain customs prevailed. In how many tribes, and in what districts, did or does the practice of circumcision prevail? What tribes raise scars on their bodies like the African tribes? Are there any tribes to whom the boomerang is unknown? In what tribes is the custom of barring marriage in the female line customary? Such are only a few of the interesting questions to be answered by anti-quarians.

Pioneer of Victoria

Mr. Edward Henty has settled the question as to who is the "pioneer of Victoria." A large picnic of school children was held by invitation at his residence, Burswood, Portland, on Wednesday last, when, according to the *Portland Guardian*, he addressed the young people as follows:—"I have invited you all here to-day, as I wish to impress on your minds the fact that I was the pioneer of this colony. When you are grown up, and hear people talking about this matter, you can say you knew Mr. Henty, the pioneer—you were brought up in the town with him. That I am the oldest Victorian is proved by this book, 'the Old Colonists' Address' to Prince Alfred, signed by 700 old colonists; it will show you that I anchored in the bay on 19th November, 1834. I hope to be spared to meet you again, and even when I am not here I hope you will still meet to celebrate this day. The settlement of Portland Bay led to the settlement of Victoria. I brought here the first cattle and first sheep, and planted the first vine. The introduction of the pastoral industry led to the discovery of gold; but the discovery of gold was not equal in importance to the discovery of the golden fleece. In time the pastoral will give way to the agricultural interest, and the colony will in time become the happy home of millions." The children cheered the "pioneer," and presented him with an address, occupying the remainder of the day, we are told, in juvenile sports, "interspersed" with sandwiches, buns, ginger-beer, and other sumptuous fare.

*Mr Henty died on the 7 August 1878*

"SHEARING DIFFICULTIES" AND THEIR CURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN.

Sir,—The shearing season of 1875, and the difficulties connected therewith, being now at hand, I send you herewith a cure for many of these difficulties in the form of an agreement (revised by a member of one of the leading firms of solicitors in Melbourne), for the benefit of those of the readers of *The Australasian* whom it may concern. The document is similar to what I have used myself, and found to answer remarkably well. I do not pretend to inflict it on any one, and it is not meant for those who know more about these matters than myself; but there are many sheepowners to whom it will be useful. I may mention that it is not necessary to have the rules and conditions the same as those I have inserted; it is entirely a matter of taste. Trusting you will find space in your valuable paper for this letter and the agreement referred to, I am, &c., ALLAN MACLEAN.

1875.

"We, the undersigned shearers, each and all of us, hereby agree and undertake to shear for \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the county of \_\_\_\_\_ and colony of \_\_\_\_\_, or his authorised agent, the whole of the sheep now depasturing on the said \_\_\_\_\_, or such other sheep as the said \_\_\_\_\_ may wish to have shorn on the said \_\_\_\_\_ during the shearing season of 1875, and continue the said shearing from the time of commencement until the whole of the said sheep are shorn, and comply with the rules and conditions annexed hereto, and forming part of this agreement. Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1875. That is to say—

"1. That the price of shearing shall be after the rate of \_\_\_\_\_ shillings for each 100 sheep shorn to all shearers who shall give satisfaction.

"2. That shearing hours shall commence daily at 6 o'clock in the forenoon, and continue till 6 o'clock in the afternoon. Sundays, and any other days or parts thereof the person in charge of the shed may appoint, excepted.

"3. That all sheep shall be carried from the pens to the shearing board, and shorn thoroughly well in a proper workmanlike manner, by shearing off the belly pieces first, and without cutting the staple of the wool or breaking the fleece.

"4. That any shearer who shall injure any sheep, by cutting or otherwise, shall have the price of such sheep deducted from the money due to him at the time of settlement.

"5. That no shearer shall be allowed to kneel upon, kick, or in any way ill-use any sheep.

"6. That any sheep the person in charge of the shed shall deem badly shorn shall not be paid for.

"7. That no appointed time shall be made by the shearers for discontinuing work to smoke, or for any other reason; and that not more than five shearers shall stop work to smoke at any one time.

"8. That no obscene language shall be used, no spitting on the shearing-board, and no unnecessary noise made.

"9. That no money shall be advanced on account of work done till the shearing is completed.

"10. That the shearers shall be supplied with good wholesome provisions of the usual kind.

"11. That any shearer who shall be drunk, bring intoxicating liquors on to the station, be guilty of dishonest practices, misconduct, or refuse to comply with the rules and conditions of this agreement, shall be discharged, and shall forfeit not less than \_\_\_\_\_ shillings for each hundred sheep he shall have shorn, to be deducted from the amount due to him at the time of settlement."

Major Mitchell

*Captain Campbell met Major Mitchell in Portland in 1836*



NWERRIN-BOOR-WORK.—Peninsula on which Queens-cliff stands. I do not know the interpretation.  
BALLA-DUIK.—Point Lonsdale.—The prefix Balla signifies the elbow, as in Balla-rat, Balla-reen (Belle-rine); the two latter names are given in connection with their being large gathering places for the tribes, and signifying—reclining on the elbow—resting places.

CRUELTY TO SHEEP.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRONICLE.

SIR.—Per favour of the Chronicle, I beg to direct the attention of proprietors and managers of sheep to an act of Parlia-

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Deaths

Name	Date	Age	Notes
First-Adam Dawson	died 21 <sup>st</sup> January 1836	88½	✓ 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug/80
✓ Francis Dawson	died 27 March 1867	72	✓ 12 <sup>th</sup> year
✓ William Dawson	died 17 June 1872	83	✓
William Dawson Junia	died 27 Feb 1875		
Margaret Hutcheson	died 16 <sup>th</sup> May 1885	84	✓ 5'2"
Adam Dawson (2 <sup>d</sup> ) of Brantford	died 1878	80	✓ 4'11"
Peter Dawson	died in Glasgow 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1887	96½	
John Dawson	" " 1878	82	

DEATH OF MRS. DAVID HUTCHESON.—The death has occurred at 4 Clairmont gardens, Glasgow, at the advanced age of 85, of the widow of the late Mr. David Hutcheson, so well known as the originator of the famous fleet of West Highland trading and tourist steamers. Mrs. Hutcheson was a daughter of the well-known family of Dawsons, of Bonnytown, Linlithgowshire, and had very considerable musical accomplishments. As an indication of her vigour at such a ripe age, it may be stated that she paid a visit to Paris some time ago, and returned to the country none the worse of her travelling.

THE NAME DAWSON.  
This is in reply to query of "One of the Clan" respecting the name of Dawson.  
In "Burke's Peerage" it is stated that a certain Knight Sir Marmaduke D'Ossone came over to England in the year 1066 with William the Conqueror. For services rendered he was granted some land in Yorkshire, where the family settled down, and where there are still a great number to be found. In the time of Queen Elizabeth, a branch of the Yorkshire family settled in Ireland.  
In course of time they spread about

Provost Adam Dawson (the second) was 18 years in office—from 1830 to 1848. Provost John Dawson held office for 14 years. Provost [unclear] served 12 years. Provost Buckney 13

53.  
1873 at 80  
died 1<sup>st</sup> Oct  
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Died 21<sup>st</sup> Aug 1830 aged 89

the name spelt as nearly as possible as pronounced, and then to give the meaning with such explanations as may be interesting. Much information of this kind may even yet be obtained from the blacks, if the residents in the country districts will only make a good use of their opportunities. But if not seized now, the opportunity will soon pass away, and for ever, for in this and the other settled districts of the colony the blacks will ere long have ceased to exist. We trust, then, that all who have an opportunity will endeavor to secure, before it is too late, as many of these native names as they can, and thus contribute to enlarge as much as possible the beautiful and only legacy these poor and vanishing aborigines will leave to the people of this continent.

Frances Dawson was born 12<sup>th</sup> May 1 a.m. 1795  
John Dawson was born 9<sup>th</sup> December 3 p.m. 1796  
Alexander Dawson was born 4<sup>th</sup> January 6 a.m. 1800  
Margaret Dawson was born 18<sup>th</sup> August 5 p.m. 1801  
James Dawson was born 5<sup>th</sup> July 8 a.m. 1806

59  
Jan 1791  
Dawson 1793



NATIVE NAMES.

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shire, where the family settled down, and where there  
are still a great number to be found. In the time of  
Queen Elizabeth, a branch of the Yorkshire family  
settled in Ireland.

In course of time they spread about, some of the  
family went north to Scotland. There are a good many  
more of the name to be found in Ireland than in  
Scotland.

ANOTHER OF THE CLAN.

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years in office—from 1830 to 1848. Provost  
John Dawson held office for 14 years. Provost  
Clark served 13 years. Provost Buckney 13  
years in two different terms. Provost Boyd  
was in office for 12 years, while Provost Gillies  
served 10 years in two different terms.  
Baillie Dowie, in advocating a Cottage Hos-  
pital for Linlithgow, is doing...

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aged 69.

May 1888 Agnes Slater is 74 years old at this date

hood that may not yet have been published. The  
model furnished by Mr Currie is an admirable one  
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BOONA-TAL-ANG.—Point Nepean.—The word signifies a

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRONICLE.

SIR.—Per favour of the Chronicle, I beg to direct the attention of proprietors and managers of sheep to an act of Parliament passed in 1865, whereby they are enabled to punish by fine and imprisonment and others who are g sheep in any way. It provides that "any person who shall be guilty of any offence in relation to sheep, or to the management thereof, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds, or to imprisonment with hard labour, for any term not exceeding two months." My object in this act under the name of the sheep is, that who permit their men to be either ignorant of the law, or are afraid to find fault with them to bring offenders, or are afraid to find fault with them to bring offenders. But I beg to direct the attention of any manager who perpetrates such offences habitually and on sheep while being of the law, guilty of an offence for the prevention of the same.

A shed but contains men, who, when caught show their temper for any fault he may be engaged, they will rise up and destroy the their knee crush the tines of the poor help-ers. As these fellows are so dull of the shed, it is a pity that others who approve of such conduct to remonstrate. It is the duty of all proprietors and shepherds to stop to such barbarity, and to punish the shearers that they may be deterred from them with impunity.

MES DAWSON.  
Responsible of the Vic-tory for the Prevention to Animals.

Some oldest daughter of Archd Park died 27th Aug/80  
~~John Dawson " 14th " 1848 " 82 years~~

William Dawson died 22 Sept 1790 aged 90

Francis Mackell died 6th June aged 52

1st Adam Dawson Esq of Dornoch born 4th May 1747; died 21 Jan. 1836 aged 88 1/2

Myrtle Thompson died 10th March 1882 aged 53.

2d Adam Dawson Esq of D. born 27th Jan 1793 <sup>1873 aged 80</sup> died 10th

~~Francis Dawson died 27th March 1867 aged 72~~

~~William Dawson " 17 June 1812 " 83~~

~~Davis Hutcheon " 18 Dec 1830 " 82~~

— Copy from Register Dunblane —

" Adam Dawson son to Mr Dawson in Head Dykes Kippendavie born 4th and baptised 10th May 1747 at Lecrifu Kirk in consequence of some repairs going on at Dunblane Kirk.

Colonel John Dawson death took place about the last day of Nov 1892 at Paxton George the residence of Lady Grant Suttie

Adam Dawson (son of my brother Peter) died in the Westminster Hospital 12th January 1894 aged 69.

John Mitchell died in Edin of Mrs Stale

Mrs Stale died in Edin 19th Nov 1896

now & his  
at present  
May 1840.

davie born 4th May  
& near 1747

83.

Reverend  
America.

Jan. 1784

Jan. 1787

Sept. 1789

of whom there must be many in this district, to forward to us the meaning of the native names belonging to their respective localities, as well as the native names of the various places in their neighborhood that may not yet have been published. The model furnished by Mr Currie is an admirable one to follow, viz., firstly, to give the name spelt as nearly as possible as pronounced, and then to give the meaning with such explanations as may be interesting. Much information of this kind may even yet be obtained from the blacks, if the residents in the country districts will only make a good use of their opportunities. But if not seized now, the opportunity will soon pass away, and for ever, for in this and the other settled districts of the colony the blacks will ere long have ceased to exist. We trust, then, that all who have an opportunity will endeavor to secure, before it is too late, as many of these native names as they can, and thus contribute to enlarge as much as possible the beautiful and only legacy these poor and vanishing aboriginals will leave to the people of this continent.

Patrick Dawson was born 26th January 1791  
Adam Dawson was born 27th January 1793  
Francis Dawson was born 12th May 1795  
John Dawson was born 9th December 1796  
Alexander Dawson was born 4th January 1800  
Margaret Dawson was born 18th August 1801  
James Dawson was born 5th July 1806

Died 27th Aug 1836 aged 89





NATIVE NAMES.

Those of our readers who feel an interest in our native names, and the meaning attached to them, will, we are sure, be gratified by the list of them which we present below. Having learnt some time ago that Mr J. L. Currie, of Larra, near Mount Elephant, had, during his long residence in Victoria, been at the pains to procure from the natives the names given by them to various places in the colony of more or less interest, together with the meaning attached to the words, we took the liberty of applying to him for a copy of the list of words so obtained by him for the purpose of publication. The request was kindly complied with. In forwarding us the subjoined words Mr Currie states that unfortunately he has mislaid the manuscript containing the complete list collected by him, which, however, he hopes to find ere long, and when he does so he kindly states that he will place it at our disposal.

The list now furnished us it will be seen is very interesting to residents in this district, inasmuch as it gives the meaning of several of our most familiar native names. That of Buninyong seems to us to be peculiarly appropriate and interesting—"The Big Hill like a knee." From the meaning of the prefix *Balla*, it seems that this town of ours was in the aboriginal days, as well as in ours, a centre of population, at certain seasons at least, and so far as the limited number of our sable predecessors would permit. The meaning of the final syllable in Ballarat is not given, but probably some of the old residents in the district—the Reverend Mr Hastie, for instance—may be able to supply it.

Mr Currie informs us that, curiously enough, he, a few days ago, met in the streets of Geelong one of the blacks from whom he many years ago procured some of his information. Mr Currie endeavored to procure more, but the condition of the man on the various occasions that Mr Currie applied to him was by no means satisfactory, Geelong hospitality, or some other elevating influence being rather too much for him. Generally speaking, however, he confirmed what Mr Currie had gathered from him in early days, before he had become quite so much of a victim to civilisation. "The only word in the list," Mr Currie says, "on which to my mind he has thrown any doubt, is *Yowang*, as applied to Station Peak. On the occasion of meeting him the other day, he applied the name to the Anakies; on my first meeting him at Queenscliff, he distinctly applied it to Station Peak. I give the greater reliance to what he stated then."

Mr Currie further states that in endeavoring to get the name of "Arthur's Seat," he ascertained that *Boona-tal-ang*—given below—applies not only to Point Nepean, but also to the land, as far as they—the natives—could see it, extending from the Point. That district, Mr Currie says, as seen from the high ground to the west of and behind Queenscliff, with the sea on one side, the bay on the other, and the background of hills, or rising ground about Arthur's Seat, or probably the horizon beyond, is almost a perfect triangle; or like—to use the figurative language of the blacks—a kangaroo hide.

We are sure that all who take an interest in this subject will feel grateful to Mr Currie for the information he has furnished and the trouble he has taken in this matter, and will join with us in hoping that he may soon be in a position to afford us further information of a similar kind. There must be many others among the old colonists who, though they have not perhaps taken up this matter so systematically as Mr Currie has done, and committed to writing the native names and meanings that they have heard, yet still may be able to supply from memory much interesting information that they have picked up in their intercourse with the natives. We take the liberty of appealing to these gentlemen, of whom there must be many in this district, to forward to us the meaning of the native names belonging to their respective localities, as well as the native names of the various places in their neighborhood that may not yet have been published. The model furnished by Mr Currie is an admirable one to follow, viz., firstly, to give the name spelt as nearly as possible as pronounced, and then to give the meaning with such explanations as may be interesting. Much information of this kind may even yet be obtained from the blacks, if the residents in the country districts will only make a good use of their opportunities. But if not seized now, the opportunity will soon pass away, and for ever, for in this and the other settled districts of the colony the blacks will ere long have ceased to exist. We trust, then, that all who have an opportunity will endeavor to secure, before it is too late, as many of these native names as they can, and thus contribute to enlarge as much as possible the beautiful and only legacy these poor and vanishing aboriginals will leave to the people of this continent.

- NEERRIN-BOOR-WOORK.—Peninsula on which Queenscliff stands. I do not know the interpretation.
- BALLA-DUIK.—*Point Lonsdale*.—The prefix Balla signifies the elbow, as in *Balla-rat*, *Balla-reen* (Bellerine); the two latter names are given in connection with their being large gathering places for the tribes, and signifying—reclining on the elbow—resting places.
- BOONA-TAL-ANG.—*Point Nepean*.—The word signifies a Kangaroo hide, its triangular shape and the peculiar and similar shape of the land terminating in the Point having apparently given the name.
- BINGOLITE.—*Indented Head*.—Name given from the stratified (ribbed) appearance of the face of the cliff.
- PA-WOOL.—*Mud Island*.—Name of Island generally.
- EURO-YOROKE.—*St. Kilda*.—Name of a peculiar stone found on the beach there, with which they fashioned their stone tomahawks.
- NARM-JAAP.—Tea Tree Scrub, where the Queen's Wharf in Melbourne is now.
- KOORT-BOOR-BOOR.—Clumps of she-oak trees, where Williamstown now is.
- P(H)ER-G-RUNG.—The rising ground about the Eastern Hill, Melbourne, now corrupted to Prahran, or "Pirann" of the cabbies.
- MORONG-MORONGOO.—Country about Station Peak, so called from an edible root, something like a parsnip, an article of food with the aborigines, and very abundant there. The word is sometimes pronounced like *Moronong* by other tribes.
- YOWANG.—*Station Peak*.—(Signification, Big Hill.)
- BUNNIN-YOWANG.—*Buninyong*.—"Big Hill, like a knee." The shape of the hill, from some points of view, bears some likeness to a person lying on his back with the knee or knees drawn up.
- WARREN-GEEP.—*Warrensheip*—Emu feathers.
- BURRUMBEET.—Muddy water.
- DHERINALLUM.—*Mount Elephant*.—Meaning, a white sea bird seen at certain seasons about the salt marshes in the neighborhood of Mount Elephant. The two consonants as in Nh, Dh, and Ph, are necessary to give the proper sound in Dherinallum.—Der or Jer, would neither of them convey the sound; it is something between the two.
- GHEERINGAE.—Yellow blossom of the black Wattle.
- MOORABOOL.—Curlew.
- WERRIBEE.—Back-bone—spine.
- BARWON.—Appearance of the flat country on the river below Geelong when flooded.
- KOORNOO.—*Barwon Head*.—The human head.
- WOORA-NAL-YOOK.—*Swan Bay*, near Queenscliff. The rushing sound of the surf through the narrow opening between Swan Island and the Main land.

CRUELTY TO SHEEP.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRONICLE.

SIR.—Per favour of the *Chronicle*, I beg to direct the attention of proprietors and managers of sheep to an act of Parliament passed in 1865, whereby they are enabled to punish by fine and imprisonment any shearers and others who are guilty of maltreating sheep in any way. The first clause provides that "any person who illtreats any animal shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds sterling, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any period not exceeding two months." My reason for bringing this act under the notice of all parties concerned is, that managers of sheds who permit their men to illuse animals are either ignorant of the law empowering them to bring offenders to punishment, or are afraid to find fault with their shearers. But I beg to remind them that any manager who permits the barbarous cruelties habitually and wantonly practised on sheep while being shorn is in the eye of the law, guilty of a breach of the act for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

There is scarcely a shed but contains reckless unfeeling men, who, when cautioned, dare not show their temper against the manager for any fault he may find, but, to be revenged, they, with their whole weight double up and destroy the spine, and with their knee crush the stomach and intestines of the poor helpless animal to death. As these fellows are generally the bullies of the shed, it unfortunately happens that others who are careful and disapprove of such conduct are unwilling to remonstrate. It is, therefore, the duty of all proprietors and managers to put a stop to such barbarity, by pointing out to the shearers that they cannot commit them with impunity.—Yours respectfully,

JAMES DAWSON.  
Honorary correspondent of the Victorian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

*On 16th Nov. 1839. James Dawson & his wife went on board the 'Glim' at Geelong and landed in Australia on 2 May 1840.*

*Adam Dawson son of Mr Dawson Head dykes Kippendavie born 4<sup>th</sup> May 1747  
Adam Dawson & Francis Mackell were married on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 1783.  
The ceremony was performed by the Reverend Dr Robertson the Historian of America.  
Agnes Dawson was born 5<sup>th</sup> Octob. 11 a.m. 1784.  
Lanus Dawson was born 3 June 3 a.m. 1787  
William Dawson was born 8<sup>th</sup> June 10 p.m. 1789  
Patrick Dawson was born 26<sup>th</sup> Januy 3 a.m. 1791  
Adam Dawson was born 27<sup>th</sup> Januy 3 a.m. 1793  
Francis Dawson was born 12<sup>th</sup> May 1 a.m. 1795  
John Dawson was born 9<sup>th</sup> Decemb 3 p.m. 1796  
Alexander Dawson was born 4<sup>th</sup> Januy 6 a.m. 1800  
Margaret Dawson was born 18<sup>th</sup> August 5 p.m. 1801  
James Dawson was born 5<sup>th</sup> July 8 a.m. 1806*

*Recd 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 1836 aged 89*

60 Average produce per Acre of Crops in Victoria to 31<sup>st</sup> March each year.

Year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Wheat Bushels	Oats Bushels	Potatoes Tons	Hay Tons
1868	15.7	18.6	3.3	1.3
1869	16.3	19.7	2.2	1.1
1870	19.8	26.0	3.1	1.6
1871	10.1	15.0	3.3	1.1
1872	13.5	18.8	3.2	1.4
1873	16.5	19.6	3.5	1.3
1874	13.6	15.7	2.9	1.3
1875	14.6	18.5	3.5	1.3
1876	15.5	21.9	3.4	1.3
1877	13.2	19.9	3.3	1.2
Average	14.8	19.3	3.2	1.3

Wheat Crops

EXTRAORDINARY RIFLE SHOOTING.—A new rifle, the peculiar grooving of which has been patterned and patented by Mr Alexander Henry, gunmaker, 8 St Andrew Street, has within the last week been tried at ranges from 200 yards to a mile, and the results have been certainly equal, if not superior, to those of any rifle we have heard of. The practice was only in the course of arranging the sights of the piece, and therefore the first two or three shots necessarily cannot be taken as fair trials. Still, at 1100 yards, out of six shots, Mr Henry hit the target with every ball in the last five, making three centres and two outers. At the mile range he hit the target which was six feet high by ten wide, three times out of seven shots. The bore of this rifle is somewhat larger than the Whitworth, and the ball is about the same length. The ball fits easily into the barrel, and there is very little recoil. The advantage of the bore seems to lie in the extent of surface which is made to present a resistance to the shifting of the ball in the slightest degree from the grooves, which give it its rotatory motion and direction, and in the perfect manner in which the expansion of the ball fills the grooves. The resistance of the air to the ball is so slight that at the marker's butt at the mile range, neither the report of the gun or the whistle of the ball is heard; and it is only by the puff of smoke from the explosion, or the ball hitting the ground or the target that the marker knows when a shot has been fired. There were present at the trials of the rifle—Major Brougham of Brougham, Penith; Adjutant Page; Mr James Miln, of Murrie; Captain Macrae, E.R.V.; Mr Leggat, and others, who all expressed themselves surprised at the extraordinary accuracy of the shooting.—*Convent.*

GALASHIELS.—The Corn Exchange building.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.

Sir,—It must completely puzzle a stranger who watches the punishments awarded in our courts of, I may say, "injustice" to understand by what scale they are meted out, and if he comes to a reasonable conclusion, it must be that there is no scale at all, and that the men appointed to award sentences are left to their own discretion, and further, that this discretion is unduly influenced in many instances by—let us say—fits of bile or indigestion, and leads to incomprehensible results, as any one may see by looking over the lists of sentences recently passed. As the press is naturally expected to enlighten the public, would it not be worth your while, Sir, to compile and publish weekly a tabulated comparative list of crimes and punishments, and by whom the sentences were passed? It would be a curiosity, and although probably still further adding to the perplexity of foreigners, could not fail to convince the community of the constant failure of justice.

—Yours, &c., J.D.  
Camberdown, Feb 24, 1879

Copy

Warrnambool 24 Jan 1872

James Dawson Esq

Dear Sir

I can corroborate Mr James Murray's statement to you about his growing wheat in this district on the same land for 17 consecutive years, and further I beg to mention for your information which you can make what use of you please that I grew wheat from the years 1844 to when I left for England in 1860 both inclusive on the same land at my property on the Farnham Survey situated between Warrnambool and Beljeet and

abundant crops during every year, and of any thing the last crop was better than any previous ones, and there was no deterioration whatever in any respect either in quantity or quality. I have never used manure of any kind, or any artificial means on the land at any time. I can positively state, that to my own personal knowledge, wheat of the very best kinds has been produced from land worked equally as long as mine in this district, and that my case is not at all an exceptional one. Yours very truly  
 - by - Richard Peattie

WHEAT

Average yield of wheat per acre in the United States of America from 1879 to 1882

In the year 1879 the yield was	13.08 Bush.
1880 " " " "	13.01 " "
1881 " " " "	10.10 " "
1882 " " " "	13.06 " "
	4) 49.25
	Average 12.31 Bush.

IMMIGRATION. 1862

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.  
 Sir,—In your summary of the proceedings which took place in the Legislative Assembly on the night of the 27th ultimo, relative to the appointment and payment of immigration lecturers, Mr. Heales—who, I presume, is an Irishman—is reported to have argued that the proposed grant of £5,000, to meet the expense was unnecessary, as the whole sum would be absorbed without an agency in Ireland—an assertion the truth of which is undoubted and undeniable by any one who has been in that country, and witnessed, as I did lately, the very poor condition of the great mass of its inhabitants, the tattered and starving swarms it perpetually casts on the shores of Great Britain and North America, and the ever readiness with which it pours forth its deluge of squalor, muscle, and pauperism on any spot of the globe willing or unwilling to receive it. Ireland, under the late "regulations," is understood to have had more than its proportion of the money voted in this colony for immigration, and it is asserted that it was only because England and Scotland did not care to avail themselves of the boon that she was permitted to exceed her limit. From this, one would infer that the Scotch people did not wish to emigrate; but such was not the case a year since, when I resided near Edinburgh, for I then could readily have procured as many respectable emigrants as would have absorbed her share had the "regulations" framed in the colony and distributed to the emigration agents permitted; but, strange to say, there existed a condition, preventing any man obtaining an assisted passage who had ever been employed in other capacity than that of labourer or farm servant, and a declaration by the applicant to that effect was required.

Now, Sir, anyone who knows Scotland must be aware that amongst the rural population, the class from which the framers of these obstructive "regulations"—which, by the way, smell very strongly of the Don faction—ostensibly wished to draw their emigrants, few good Scotsmen are to be found who have not, at some period of their lives, tried some employment beyond "clod-hopping;" for where will you find a more intelligent class of farm servants than in that country, which stands at the head of agriculture—the country of the steam-engine and threshing-mill, the reaping and mowing machines? I assert, nowhere; and now inquire how it was that these men and their families were debarred the advantage of assisted passages, and their places filled by a race of men apparently destined to be the hodmen of the world?

These regulations were very unfair towards the Scotch—let the English speak for themselves; and I could not have credited their genuineness had I not written to Mr. Childers, M.P., on the subject, and received a reply, in which he remarked—"If emigration is renewed on the present system, I agree with you that the regulations ought to be modified." I therefore trust, Sir, that, whether lecturers go to Ireland or not, these absurd obstacles may be removed; and, if so, Scotland will be found to send forth her quota of first-class emigrants, provided the agents appointed be men of integrity and honour, and do not ship cargoes of co-patriots as detrimental to the character of Scotland as they would be to the colony receiving them.

20 June 1862. ANGLO SAXON.

Curing Beef (Adam Dawson)

To cure beef temporarily, and intended to keep for three or four weeks only, make a pickle of 2 lbs salt to the gallon of water and one ounce of salt-petre to 8 gallons unboiled and cool. The beef is cut into ordinary sized pieces and thrown into the cask containing the pickle which must be drawn off in 4 or 5 days boiled and skinned and poured back when quite cold. Such pieces kept out. A little coarse sugar added makes the beef less salt.

Never throw away old pickle but always boil and use it again, as it appears to preserve the meat better than when quite new.

8th July 1876

## THE TRAVELLER.

## NOTES FROM THE CHALLENGER EXPEDITION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN.  
Sir,—By last mail I received a letter, written by Professor Wyville Thomson, and send you some extracts which you may consider worthy of publication.—Yours, &c.,  
Camperdown. JAMES DAWSON.

H.M.S. Challenger, Honolulu,  
July 29, 1875.

Whenever we got here I came at once on shore, and took up my quarters at the hotel so graphically and picturesquely described by Miss Bird. Though, perhaps, not quite what her fancy painted it, it is very nice, and one special charm is the enormous abundance of the most delicious fruit, which, after sea provisions for six weeks, is really most necessary to restore the suavity of one's inner man. The immediate neighbourhood of Honolulu is very beautiful, but it is entirely artificial. One of the judges, who had been here 25 years, told me that when he first came there were not three trees about the place, but the hot, new, easily-decomposed volcanic soil is most prolific. The people are passionately fond of flowers, and now they have quite overdone it; the villas are enclosed in thickets of flowering shrubs and fruit trees, and the air is unwholesomely heavy with the odour of flowers and of the decaying surplussage of fruit. On the table we have positively piles of strawberries, musk melons, water melons, oranges, limes, alligator pears, mangoes, pine-apples, guavas, and a lot of things I don't know, till sometimes even we think we have enough of it. I am disappointed in the country here; a great deal of it is very new volcanic, and very sterile in the meantime for want of surface water. They have stopped up one of the rivers above Honolulu and made a reservoir, and every house seems to have a pipe with great force of water in great abundance. They water their gardens with gutta percha pipes, and everything grows—flowers and fruits—under this irrigation in a wonderful way. From here we go on to Hilo, a little town on the island of Hawaii, just under Mona Loa, the largest active volcano in the world. This hotel is something new in my experience, certainly. Mr. Herbert, the proprietor, is a most kind, friendly man, and does everything for us, and I scarcely know whether to admire his wife or his daughter most, they are both so kind and nice, and so new. I never knew an American girl well before, and there is something so excessively droll in her perfect ease and freedom, combined with the quaintest practical way of looking at things. We are quite at home here, and so comfortable, and I have got some good work done, as you will see by the next proceedings of the "Royal."

Honolulu lies on a flat, with a fine range of hills and wooded gorges behind it. A road runs up one of the valleys to a pass on the ridge. I was across the pass the other day, and I think I never saw such a splendid view. A lovely plain covered with sugar canes and maize, and pretty little groups of farm buildings nestling among fruit trees; then the line of cocoa-nut trees, and the belt of pure white sand, and a bright pale-blue space of calm water, a quarter of a mile wide; and then the dazzling line of breakers on the reef and the deep blue sea beyond; but this is what we have repeated again and again all through the Pacific. The other day we were presented to the King—a very dignified, pleasant man, who speaks English perfectly. He came on board another day, and the photo enclosed will show you what he is like.

Yesterday Captain Thompson and I went and saw Queen Emma; we were introduced to her by Mr. Woodhouse, the English commissioner. She is so nice, and I think pretty. She asked me how the New Guinea people were dressed, and when I told her they were not dressed at all she laughed so. There is a singular gentleman here just now who fancies himself a great invalid, and has been going over the world looking for a place where he can live. He thinks this is the very finest climate, and I think he is right. It is very dry, and there is a constant trade wind blowing over the hills, and he is so taken with the place that he means to remain for some time. He gave us a grand dinner yesterday, and asked all the Ministers and official people. The hotel I am staying at is a wonderful place, very large, with beautiful verandahs all round it, covered with flowers. It is not a private hotel, but a Government department. The Government built it on the idea that they must hold out some inducement for people to go to the islands, or they never would go. The "proprietor," as he is called, takes it from the Government with some additional subsidy

for keeping it up, and consequently it is managed on the most liberal scale. Mr. Herbert is an American, and the whole thing is on the American plan. The people have all their bedrooms and common sitting-rooms, where—or in the verandahs—they all meet and chat and have music, &c.; and at breakfast and dinner they divide into little parties and coteries as they please at different tables. The bedrooms all open on the verandahs, and the people usually sit in their rooms in the heat of the day, and you wander, if you fancy to do so, over the hotel, and go into the different rooms and chat with an ease which is very amusing. We left Honolulu yesterday, and were very sorry to go. It is dreary being shut up in the ship again, with nothing but the same old lot of male faces, nice as they are. We are now under the island of Hawaii, and just above us the peak of the greatest active volcano in the world, Mona Loa, as high nearly as Mont Blanc. We cannot see the crater yet, for it is 4,000 feet up, and on the other side of the ridge. There is a crater on the top also, but it is not now in activity. There is a tremendous current driving against us, and we have enough to do to steam against it. I will finish this after we return from our journey to the crater, which will take three days' riding along a rough lava road.

August 17.—Back from the volcano. We started off on Saturday afternoon with nine horses and two guides, and rode for 15 miles along the worst, and, at the same time, the most beautiful, road I ever saw. A rough, broken-up lava country, with here and there patches of luxuriant forests of screw pines and tree ferns, and a splendid proteus with bright red flowers. The horses were often up to the girths in water, and generally clambering like cats over the rough hard lava. At the end of the fifteen miles, at about 10 o'clock at night, we got to a wretched little hut, the "half-way house." We had intended to remain there all night; but the full moon had now risen, and we thought it better to push on, so we rode for other fifteen miles, during which we rose 4,000ft., and got to another straw cottage about 7 o'clock in the morning. Such a glorious morning. This place we filled—half full already as it was with "Pensacola" fellows from the American flag-ship. I got a sleep in the stable, and in the evening we commenced the descent of the crater. The crater is three miles and a half across, and the lava lakes which we wished to reach were at the opposite edge, so that we had to walk three miles over the new lava, with rents every here and there, through which, as we crossed them, we could see the white hot lava running at a depth of three or four feet. It was really an awful place. At last, just before sunset we got to the top of a high bank of broken lava, and saw the lakes immediately below us, dull red cauldrons pulsating and seething all over, and dashing up against their wall-like shores in jets and surfs of white hot spray, with all the noise and look of the sea in a storm, and all this without a breath of wind. As dark, as the sun went down and it got dark, a most weird and horrible effect. I have seen many volcanoes, but never anything approaching that. After dark we got long on the bank, and all at once one of the lakes began to rise, and rose foot after foot, surging and boiling till it overflowed its bank, and a grand stream like melted iron from a furnace-door flowed over towards another molten lake at a slightly lower level. Bromley and I left the party with a special guide and started on the return track, as we were very tired. Our guide did not know his way, and led us over about half a mile of lava in a very precarious condition. We could see in the little cracks under our feet the red colour an inch below the surface, and once or twice the surface itself was dull red within a couple of yards of us. Our boots were burned, and the skin is coming off the soles of my feet to-day. When we did get over that lava our guide confessed that he had lost his way, and we nearly made up our minds to stay for the rest of the night in the crater. At last we heard our own party in the distance, and shouted to their guides to come and relieve us. Just as we got to the top of the crater wall again, our guide pointed out to us a new line of fire over the lava, and, rather scared, told us that the place which had burned our feet had all melted! We laughed rather grimly, as we are accustomed now to do when we get out of scrapes better than we deserve. Yesterday we had a rattling ride back in a drenching tropical rain, which ran down our backs, and filled our boots. I had a fine strong grey horse, and raced a Yankee colonel of marines for about three miles, and beat him, though he vows his stirrup leather broke. It was such fun over the lava and through the marshes and watercourses. Now

we go on to Tahiti—another paradise, they say. I do not expect to like it so well as Honolulu. The Pensacola leaves to-morrow, and she will take my letters, and post them at Honolulu. The chances here are few and far between—at all events, a month between, for there is now a fairly regular communication with San Francisco. There are some "Pensacolas" coming to dine with us, so I must shut up.

Santa Arenas, Straits of Magellan,  
January 16.

The mercury is rising in all of us now. The weather is refreshing, if a little cold, and we are every day nearing home. We were delighted the other day to round Cape Froward, our most distant point, and bleak and dismal enough it looked, with magnificent blue glaciers running right down to the sea. A lot of Chileno Catholics are coming off to luncheon after their mass—the Governor and his wife, and his wife's sister, such a nice little woman married to an English gold miner, but she can neither speak English nor French. We were all at a ball last night, and during the day the captain and I walked 16 miles through the forest shooting parrots and collecting plants, and we got back dead tired, just in time to dress for the Governor's party, where we danced till 2 o'clock in the morning. The Governor is very well informed and agreeable, but it is a pity the ladies could not converse with us. Tell Frank that I have a pet now I think would please him—a living puma, and such a beauty, with such lovely large eyes. I do not know what to do with him, but think I will take him home, and give him to the Zoological-gardens. We shall see what he is like after being treated by the blue-jackets for a few months. As a rule, they tame anything. I heard one roaring in the forest yesterday, and my gun was loaded with slug, in hopes of seeing one, but I did not get a chance. One of our friends, however, got a great fright in coming down to the Governor's party, when a puma roared quite close to him. They rarely attack man except at night—rarely, I suspect, even then; but they sometimes do.

## Crafting Wax

1 lb Pitch  
1 " resin  
½ " Bees wax  
¼ " lard  
¼ " turpentine  
Melt and mixed well together. When near Melt it by putting it in an earthen pan into boiling water. Spread it with a brush on sheets of brown paper and when cold cut into slips ¾ inch wide. When applied warm it with the breath and bind the graft.  
This is equal to putting and clay

## ADAMS TAIL

Truth has the following, though whether it has any foundation remains to be seen:—"A horrible discovery is said to have been made by the Old Testament revisers. The word 'rib' in the second chapter of Genesis, used in describing the creation of Eve, ought more correctly to be rendered 'tail!' This is indeed confirmation strong of the theories of Darwin."

# Fisheries

THE CANADIAN FISHERIES IN 1871.—The annual report of the Canadian Minister of Marine and Fisheries was submitted to the Dominion Parliament on 25th April. The actual value of the produce of the fisheries for the purpose of trade is \$75,732,000, an excess over that of the preceding year of \$998,160. The quantity consumed for domestic use was \$600,000 worth. The amount of capital is estimated at \$15,000,000 and the number of persons employed 87,000. The fishery collections, licences, &c., amounted to \$124,008 and the expenditure to \$42,594. The expense of the marine police amounts to \$840,000. The instructions to the Canadian cruisers have been altered in conformity with the expressed wish of Her Majesty's Government, and fishing vessels belonging to United States citizens are subject to molestation or seizure solely for their fishing within the three miles limits.

*Nearly Seventeen Million Sterling*

CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.—A Parliamentary return issued on Monday shows that out of the 24,163,644 gallons of British spirits charged with £12,081,822 of duty for consumption in the United Kingdom in 1871, 5,671,477 gallons, charged with £2,835,738, 10s., were retained for consumption in Scotland. The quantity consumed in Ireland was 5,617,435; and in England, 12,874,732. In the same year 45,123,960 bushels of malt were charged with duty in England, 2,728,574 bushels in Scotland, and 2,371,554 bushels in Ireland. Duty was also charged for 4,055,968 gallons of foreign and 3,716,352 gallons of colonial spirits in England, 300,718 foreign and 307,574 colonial in Scotland, and 343,495 foreign and 144,656 colonial in Ireland. Last year there were 836,184 gallons of British spirits exported to foreign parts from England, 753,282 gallons from Scotland, and 17,595 gallons from Ireland. Since 1868 there has been an increase of 3,155,010 gallons (763,766 gallons in Scotland) in the quantity of British spirits charged with duty for home consumption, of 1,020,166 bushels (353,465 in Scotland) in the quantity of malt charged with duty, and of 735 gallons in the quantity of foreign spirits imported. There is a decrease of 156,206 gallons in the quantity of colonial spirits imported into the United Kingdom, of which decrease 37,578 gallons applies to Scotland, where the importation of foreign spirits also has fallen off by 114,544 gallons. Compared with 1868, there is an increase of 72,909 gallons in the quantity of British spirits exported from Scotland, and of 242,906 from the United Kingdom.

## Smithfield

Years.	Beasts shown.	Prices.	
		s.	d.
1841	4,500	3	8 to 5 0
1842	4,541	3	4 to 4 8
1843	4,510	3	8 to 4 4
1844	5,713	4	0 to 4 6
1845	5,326	3	6 to 4 8
1846	4,570	4	0 to 5 8
1847	4,282	3	4 to 4 8
1848	5,942	3	4 to 4 8
1849	5,765	3	4 to 4 6
1850	6,341	3	0 to 3 10
1851	6,103	2	8 to 4 2
1852	6,271	2	8 to 4 0
1853	7,637	3	2 to 4 10
1854	6,181	3	6 to 5 4
1855	7,000	3	8 to 4 2
1856	6,748	3	4 to 5 0
1857	6,856	3	4 to 4 8
1858	6,424	3	4 to 5 0
1859	7,566	3	6 to 5 4
1860	7,860	3	4 to 5 4
1861	8,840	3	4 to 5 0
1862	8,430	3	4 to 5 0
1863	10,370	3	6 to 5 2

## SATURDAY NIGHT IN EDINBURGH OLD TOWN. 12 Aug 1871

A SPECIAL correspondent of the *Daily News*, who was in Edinburgh last week, visited certain portions of the Old Town on Saturday night, which he thus describes:—

"At 11 last night my guide met me under the shadow of St Giles's Church. The High Street public-houses were closing slowly, and reluctantly discharging their occupants. On the pavement the throng was already dense and noisy. Sobriety was the exception, not the rule. Some staggered stolidly along, muttering imbecile drivel to themselves as they lurched to and fro; others, mad-drunk, fought, and yelled, and cursed. Women were the worst—ragged, barefoot, unsexed wretches, with tangled hair, bosoms half bare, mouths full of the most terrible blasphemies. Some of them had children in their arms, whom it seemed as if they must drop at every stagger. One miserable creature, with scarce clothes enough to be decent, was picked up out of a foul gutter by the police and taken off to the cells, a policeman carrying the babe, which his mate had stumbled over when picking up the mother. The most piteous sight of all was to watch the children round the groups that fought and cursed, now scattering as some one, becoming rabid, ran amuck wildly at everything, now closing up again round two who came to close grips, tearing each other, even sometimes biting like wild beasts. The children with timorous hands would clutch the rags of a parent, and plead whenever a chance seemed to offer, 'Come awa', mither,' or 'Dinna bide, father.' Not less pathetic was it to see a little one keeping patient, weary watch by the mouth of the close over a parent, and striving to avert the attention of the police from the 'drunk and incapable' creature. Sensuality held carnival. Any attempt to analyse the medley of sound was impossible; it could not be noted with what fearful bitterness the curses came out. A drunken London mob curse lavishly, but in its oaths there is a vague aimlessness which gives a listener the idea they are mere expletives. But the whisky-maddened people of the High Street cursed each other with a hot fervour, a lurid intensity that made one's flesh creep. Quitting the pandemonium of the High Street, we passed down the West Bow into the Grassmarket. A fight was raging on the spot where the mob hanged Porteous. The guide, shouldering past a crowd of drunken dirty wretches, led the way into a narrow passage, which bears the name of Gilmour's Close. The walls of the court had been covered with a coat of whitewash; but its broken pavement reeked again with nastiness, and the smells were horrible. Two haggard beldames that were furiously cursing each other as they fought desisted from both pastimes when they saw my guide, and greeted him with tipsy familiarity. Turning to the left, we entered at once a dirty kitchen crowded with drunken beggars, male and female. We groped our way up the foul and broken staircase into a labyrinth of squalid rooms above, littered with dirty beds, and smelling inexpressibly foul. In one room two men and a woman were making rough preparations for going to bed. The woman had a bed to herself. In reply to my question, she said she knew nothing of the men who were to occupy the same room with her, and had never seen them before. In another room a mother and child were in bed. 'Where's your husband?' asked my companion. 'I havena a husband,' was the reply. 'Who is the father of your child?' 'De'il kens,' answered the woman, with a half drunken laugh. Sleep was impossible for any one in such a den on account of the din of fighting and screaming below, the rolling about and imprecations of drunken people everywhere, and the wailing of forlorn children. Quitting a place not fit for pigs, we passed into another close, and, ascending to the top of a narrow, tortuous, broken, and dirty staircase, entered a foul low-roofed room, containing not a scrap of furniture. In each corner was a little heap of dirty straw, on which nestled, tangled in strange confusion, some children. It was impossible to tell how many, but was easy to tell that all were dirty, sore, covered and infested with vermin. By the low fire crouched two cronies, both drunk and loquacious; and lower down in the same house we entered a room, the walls of which, rotten and full of cracks, were matted with torn layers of mouldy paper swarming with vermin. Across the centre of the low ceiling ran a beam, so bent and strained that it was amazing it had not broken long ago. Gaping holes in the floor were filled up by great stones, and moonlight was visible through the fissures in the walls. In another room, dirty as a pigsty, lay a bundle of foul rags, which we were told was a woman 'that had taken a drap'; her feet lay in the heap which was swept in the corner—ashes, filth, herring bones, and muck miscellaneous. Her head was in perilous proximity to a fire that burned between two loose stones. "Down the dirty stairs, and up another winding stair still dirtier and more broken, we had to pass through drunken crowds fighting and yelling in the narrow squalid court. At the top of the rickety stairs we entered a place which cannot be called a room, roofed in by the bare rafters; only where they joined was there standing room for even a small man. Here we found a widow and eight children, living on a parish allowance of five shillings a-week. The children were half nude and horribly filthy. Savages live a more cleanly life than this. Yet another stair in the same close we ascended, right to the top, stumbling over heaps of rubbish, slipping among oozy filth, till we reached a dog-hole under the rafters. Going first, my guide, for the place was nowhere more than three feet high, stumbled over a woman squatted all of a

heap. 'Who are you?' A grunt. He shook the creature by the dingy rag on her shoulders, and with a curse she slowly turned to us her bloated face, with a pipe stuck between the lips. 'What brings you here?' 'I dinna ken.' 'Do you live here?' 'Na'; and then, with another grunt, she turned her face away and would answer no more questions. There was at least one other living being up in this loathsome sky-parlour. As my guide tried a low door fastened with a padlock, a child on the further side set up a dismal cry for 'mither.' Whether the creature outside was the wretched child's 'mither,' or whether she was one of the crowd whose drunken imprecations reached us even at the height we stood, it was impossible to tell. We had to leave the child weeping for the 'mither' that never came and go forth. Thus much for 'Miss Aird's Lane' and 'Court.' We turned now for the Cowgate, before the house in which Henry Brougham's parents lived. A medley of men and women, not a sober soul among them, surged round a couple of women who were tearing each other's faces with their nails. In an old house, with a carved coat of arms above the doorway, we found grown-up men and women sleeping together on the same bundle of rags and straw. And now we were at the 'Old Meal Market Stairs.' From each landing, passages branched out like the gallery in a coal-pit, winding in and out in seemingly endless coils among the rooms separated by rotten, vermin-haunted partitions. It was nearly two in the morning, but the place throbbled again with the noise of devilry; drunken men and women tumbled about the dark and tortuous passages, shouting incoherent imprecations, and wanting even in the instinct which teaches a wild beast its way to its own den. Shouts of murder came from one room, where a gaunt Irishman, mad drunk, was throttling his wife, who was drunk too, and tore at his eyes with her nails. Through an open door were visible a couple of dead-drunk, half-naked women, lying on the bare floor. Through the smashed panel of another came the strains of a dirty chorus howled in maudlin male and female voices. Higher up the scenes were the same, right to the rooms on the top of the house, lit only by narrow skylights that cannot be opened. In these single stairs there live; I was informed, not fewer than 150 families, besides lodgers. In such a place, unprovided with the commonest appliances of civilization, decency is as impossible as quietude; there can be no domesticity in such a hell-hole, and the very thought of domesticity, the realisation of the meaning of the word home, seems banished utterly from its dismal interior. From house to house, from close to close, from wynd to wynd, we pursued our peregrinations, meeting ever with similar horrors. True, there were variations. Now it was a shebeen brothel, known as 'Gulf,' where hideous women made merry under the auspices of a bag who had been in jail so often that she had lost the count. Now it was a squalid thieves' lodging-house being rummaged by the police, its inmates all in a flutter of terror. Now a cellar, where a wan mother, sitting in a horror of great darkness, bent over a child dying on the bare boards; and still ever as we emerged from close or wynd, into the High Street or Cowgate, the discordant din was unabated, ceaseless, till after the pure Sabbath morn had risen on the impure and disgusting scene. But the details would be wearisome, and the subject is not a pleasant one. A day in the British Association for the Advancement of Science and a night in the Old Town of Edinburgh—which may be broadly described as an engine for the advancement of vice, misery, disease, and a general God-forgottenness—is a curious and suggestive contrast."

## THE NIECE OF MUNGO PARK.

The following letter has been published by a London paper:—"We have the honour, on behalf of the committee lately formed with a view to procure a life annuity for Miss Park, niece of Mungo Park, the celebrated African traveller, to invite your support to this undertaking. Miss Park is in her seventy-third year. Through losses sustained by her father, the late Mr Archibald Park, brother of the traveller, Miss Park was early thrown on her own resources, but until lately she was enabled to maintain herself in circumstances of comfort. She ministered to the traveller's widow during her last hours, while her devotedness to the memory of her distinguished relative obtained the warm approval of Sir Walter Scott, of whom her father was an honoured correspondent. Neither the traveller's widow nor other member of his family ever received any public or private acknowledgment of his enterprise and self-sacrifice. To Miss Park, a general appeal on her behalf would, the committee are aware, be distasteful, but it is proposed to address those only who are interested in geographical discovery, or who are acquainted with Miss Park personally, in support of the proposed annuity to her. An annuity of fifty or sixty pounds is aimed at, which a very moderate subscription would suffice to procure. With these remarks the committee respectfully urge Miss Park's claims on your attention. Contributions towards the annuity fund should be made payable to the treasurer, William Archibald, Esq., National Bank of Scotland, 37 Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.; or to the secretary, at the address below.—We are, sir, your obedient faithful servants, J. E. Alexander, major-general; B. W. Richardson, M.D., F.R.S.; W. R. E. Alexander, major-general; Charles Rodgers, hon. secretary; Wm. Archibald, hon. treasurer. Grampian Lodge, Forest Hill, S.E., Dec., 1876.

# AN ESSA ON THE MULE.

BY JOSH BILLINGS.

The mule is haf höss and haf jackass, and then comes to a full stop, natur diskovering her mistake. Tha weigh more akordin to their heft than enny other kreetur except a crowbar. Tha kant hear enny quicker, nor further, than the höss, yet their ears are big enough for snow shoes. You kan trust them with ehny one whose life aint worth more than the mule's. The only wa to keep them in the paster is to turn them into a medder jinein, and let them jump out. Tha are reddy for use just as soon as tha will du tu abuse. Tha haint got enny more friends than a Chatam street Jew, and will live on huckleberry brush, with an ockasional chase at kanada thistles. Tha are a modern invenshun; I don't think that the Bible deludes to them at tall. Tha sell for more money than enny other domestic animals. You cant tell their age by looking into their mouth, enny more than you kould a Mexican cannon's. Tha never had no disease that a good club wont heel. If they ever die, they must come right to life again, for I never heard nobody sa "ded mule." Tha are like some men, very korupt at hart; i ve known them to be good for six months just to get a chance to kick sumbody. I never owned one, nor never mean to, unless there is United States law passed requirin it. The only reason why they are pashunt, is because they are ashamed ov themselves. I have seen eddikated mules in a circus—that kould kick and bite tremenjis. I would not say what I am forced to sa agin the mule, if his birth want an outrage, and he haint to blame for it. Enny man who is willin to drive a mule ought to be exempt by law from runnin for the legislatur. Tha are the strongest kreeturs on arth, and heaviest ackordin to their size; i herd tell ov one who fell oph from the tow-path on the kanawl, an sunk as soon as he touched bottom, but he kept right on towin' the boat tu the nex stashun, breathin through his ears, which was out ov water about three feet six inches. i didn't se this but an auctioneer told me ov it, and i never knew an auctioneer to lie unless he would make something out ov it.

Scotch Oath as  
administered in the Courts.

Holding up the right hand  
 and repeating after the Judge.

" I swear by Almighty God  
 " and as shall answer to God  
 " at the Great Day of Judgement.  
 " That I will tell the Truth,  
 " the whole Truth and nothing  
 " but the Truth.

## MR. RAE AND THE SQUATTERS.

To the Editor of the Argus.

Sir,—My being a squatter of fifteen years' standing in this colony, and during that period having had my share of its misfortunes and prosperity, are facts which I trust will be taken as sufficient grounds for thus publicly expressing my astonishment at a remark lately made by Mr. Rae against the class I belong to in a speech he delivered at the nomination meeting in Melbourne.

Mr. Rae is reported to have said, that "it was perfectly well known that the bulk of the squatters expected to get their lands in fee simple if they played their cards well," or in other words for nothing; and as that statement has gone forth uncontradicted it must be taken for granted that he said so. It would be presumptuous in me to answer for all the squatters; but as far as my experience goes I must inform Mr. Rae that I never heard one of them put forth such a doctrine, and moreover that since the discovery of the gold I do not believe he has heard a sober, respectable squatter do so. I have had a reasonable amount of intercourse with neighbors far and near, and never perceived any particular aversion to the sale of land if required for cultivation or public purposes. I am therefore under the necessity of telling Mr. Rae that he has, in gross ignorance, misled the public, or, if better informed, has perverted facts for electioneering purposes. In either way he has unjustifiably attempted to injure the interests of a class of great importance to the colony, and outraged his conscience by trucking to the electors.

The Melbourne people are apparently impressed with the idea that all the squatters are opposed to the settlement of the country districts, and wish to appropriate in fee simple, or without fair competition, the lands of the colony, to the exclusion of the small agriculturist. Now, I deny this on the part of the great bulk of the settlers in the Western District, who are a hard-working, industrious body of men, as assiduous in their attention to their own affairs, as they are indifferent to political squabbling, and who repudiate the rabid notions of a few ultra-squatters, whose only business apparently is to hang about Melbourne, and spout ultra doctrines, very likely to prove fatal to the interests of the truly industrious and most numerous portion of their class, to which I belong.

I am, Sir, yours most respectfully,

JAMES DAWSON.

Kangatong, Port Fairy District.

## — BIG TREE —

J. Dawson measured  
a tree near the fountain  
Mount Wellington  
Tasmania. It had  
fallen down and the  
top was burned off.  
20 feet from the root  
it was 6 feet diameter  
and the top where  
burned was 3 feet.

J. D. cut a sapling  
& found a rod 12 feet  
long and found the  
trunk measured 15 lengths  
which would be 180 feet;  
but there must have  
been 40 to 50 feet more  
or altogether 230 feet.

Extracts from James Dausons Scrap Book - 1887

Archibald Park - Tenant of the farm of Foulshieb  
in Selkirkshire, died 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 1768.  
aged 86 years.

Sarah Sorden - Wife of Archibald Park } - " 73 - "  
died 4<sup>th</sup> June 1751

Mungo Park - Tenant of Foulshieb } - " 79 - "  
died 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1793

Elizabeth Hield - wife of Mungo Park  
and mother of the African  
traveller died at Foulshieb } - " 74 - "  
28<sup>th</sup> March 1817

Archibald Park - elder brother of the  
African Traveller - (Father  
of the late Mrs James Dauson  
of Australia) and Collector  
of Customs Tobernony in  
Mull where he died on  
the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 1830, &  
was buried there

(Extract from the Glasgow Herald  
of May 1820. "Died at Tobernony  
" Isle of Mull on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr  
" Archibald Park, Collector of  
" Customs, elder brother of Mungo  
" Park. With all the acuteness and  
" introspectivity of mind possessed by  
" that celebrated traveller, Mr Park  
" was distinguished in Society by  
" a flow of genuine wit, entertaining  
" to all ranks but offensive to none,  
" and his death is most sincerely  
" regretted by an extensive circle of  
" friends and acquaintances."

Archibald

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Archibald Park married Margaret Long of  
Telkirk & had a family, viz,  
Jane, Margaret, Euphemia, Mungo,  
Henrietta, John, & "Joan" ("Mrs James  
Dawson").

Mr Dawson has no record of the  
names of all the brothers and sisters  
of Mungo Park the Traveller but he  
was personally acquainted with the  
the following.

John Park - Tenant of Foulshiech near Telkirk.

Adam Park - Surgeon at Gransend to the  
ships of the East India Company.

Mrs Thompson wife of Mr Thompson Farmer  
Myrton near Alloa.

Mr Dalgliesh (Isabella Park) florist, Campsie.

---

Mr Andrew Currie - Sculptor Darnock  
very kindly visited the old church yard  
at Galashiels and copied from a "Masive  
"Square Monument" the following inscription  
for I.D. - North side -

Here lie the remains of Archibald Park  
Tenant at Foulshiech who died 18th Nov 1768

Aged 86.

And Jean Jordan

His wife died in June 1751

Aged 73.

Also of Mungo Park Tenant in Foulshiech  
who died 22<sup>d</sup> May 1793

Aged 79.

And



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*Park Family*

*In Dawson met Colonel Park (son of the  
 Traveller) in London, and remembers a visit  
 of Colonel Park and Colonel Burns (son of  
 the poet) to his fathers house (Bonnytown  
 near Linlithgow).*

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## The Aborigines of Tasmania:

A LECTURE DELIVERED BEFORE THE ST. GEORGE'S ASSOCIATION, HOBART TOWN.

By HUGH M. HULL

(Clerk of the Assembly).

Sir Redmond Barry, President of the Royal Commission appointed for the purpose of arranging for an Intercolonial Exhibition, to be held in Melbourne during the year 1866, having stated:—

"That the almost complete extinction of the aborigines of the island of Tasmania will render unnecessary the distribution of certain papers proposed to be distributed on the continent of Australia, but that the Commission of Victoria would feel thankful for copies of any Parliamentary papers or documents prepared by the direction of the Government of Tasmania bearing on the history, customs, or language of the aborigines, as well as any works of reputed authority which treat of any of these subjects, as it is obvious that the proposed comprehensive examination of the questions relating to the aborigines of Australia cannot be conducted in a satisfactory manner if information respecting so remarkable a section as that which formerly occupied Tasmania be omitted."

I beg to submit a short paper which I have prepared after a reference to the very large number of Tasmanian *Government Gazettes* and official and other books and papers which are at my disposal, and which cannot be sent away. I submit my paper with confidence, as being one of the most authentic which can be prepared in Tasmania. Almost all the colonists of 1804 who were old enough to note then current events have passed away, and the memories of the few that remain have become treacherous with old age.

To published documents, therefore, I refer, up to 1819, the date of my arrival in Tasmania, and since then to authentic documents and notes from old colonists, whose stories can be said to be impartial and reliable.

No doubt a true account of the history, language, manners and customs, and personal appearance of the miserable and unfortunate aborigines of Tasmania would be very interesting, not only to the colonists, but to others at a distance.

Reduced, as they now are, to one old man, who has proceeded on a whaling voyage, and five old women, long past the age at which hopes of a continuance of the pure breed of their species might be entertained, and who now lead a monotonous life in their comfortable dwellings at Oyster Cove, in all probability the lapse of a very few years will find the race extinct, and no trace left to tell of those who were once princes of wastes and lords of these fair possessions; they will have faded away; "the numerous tribes have become diminished, or have ceased to exist, from the combined influence of the habits of the Europeans, which are ungenial to them, the vices that have been introduced amongst them, the positive destruction of their numbers, and the reduction of their means of subsistence."—Backhouse.

### HISTORY.

Possessing no records, no monuments, and but few traditions, the origin of the Tasmanian aborigines must for ever remain a sealed book. Whence they came, or at what period they became denizens of the island, will probably never be ascertained. It therefore behoves me to commence their history at the earliest point at which we have a published record to refer to.

November 24, 1642.—On this day Admiral Abel Jans Van Tasman sighted land in the 42° of S. latitude, which he named Van Diemen's Land, after the Governor of one of the Dutch E. I. Company's settlements. He had sailed from Batavia on 4th August, 1642, and having touched at Mauritius, he sailed southward till he sighted land. Tasman cast anchor in Friedrich Hendrich Bay on the 1st December, 1642, and "sent ashore the master with an armed boat in quest of water and wood, in which they succeeded. They saw no human creature, though they heard not far off human cries, and likewise music, as of small gongs, similar to the cymbals used in

the eastern islands. [Most probably our bullfrogs in the marshes, their call in the evenings to each other being very musical.] He noticed recently cut notches in the bark of several trees, and saw the smoke of fires. He inferred that the people possessed some unusual method of climbing, and from the notches being several feet apart, he imagined the savages to be of enormous stature."—Tasman's Journal.

For 130 years nothing more was written about Van Diemen's Land; the savage roamed free through its forests, or hunted the plentiful game on its wide green plains, undisturbed by foreign visitors, and the restless waves of the eternal ocean dashed along its rugged coast.

In the year 1772 Captain Marian, of the French navy, visited the island, and had a hostile meeting with a tribe of aborigines, which ended in the destruction of a number of them.—Labillardiere.

On the 10th March, 1773, Captain Cook, on his second voyage to the South Seas, anchored in Adventure Bay, so called by him after the Adventure, commanded by Captain Furneaux, his second in command; and on the 11th March, 1773, they landed near Tasman's Head. Here, for the first time, the Englishman and the Tasmanian fraternized.—Cook's Second Voyage.

On the 27th March, 1773, Captain Furneaux landed near Maria Island, on the east coast, "and there saw the fires of the aborigines and their miserably formed domiciles, which he described, and from which he took some weapons and articles of food that appeared to have been hastily abandoned. He left in repayment an old cask with its hoops, some nails, and gun flints. He expressed himself to be of opinion that the climate appeared to be the finest in the world."—Cook's Voyage.

On the 28th January, 1777, Captain Cook again anchored in Adventure Bay, and on Lieutenant King landing, "he was agreeably surprised by a visit from a party of aborigines, consisting of eight men and a boy, who emerged from the woods. They showed no signs of fear, and received every present offered to them; they had no weapons, except a waddy which the boy carried. There were quite naked, and wore no ornaments, but were partially tattooed on their bodies. They appeared to Captain Cook to be of the common stature, but rather slender, with black skin and black hair, as woolly as any native of Guinea, their hair and beards being smeared over with red ointment, and some with their faces painted in the same manner. Bread was given them, but they threw it away; they, however, readily accepted some birds which had been shot. On the next day twenty men and boys joined the party, and received presents. They showed no signs of fear or distrust. Some had cords round their necks, and strips of kangaroo skin round their ankles, but no other article of clothing. They were ignorant of the use of fishhooks. On the boats leaving the shore, a number of women and children showed themselves from the adjoining thickets. The women had kangaroo skins round their shoulders and necks, which enabled them to carry their young children. The heads of the females appeared to have been shaved, some in the form of the priest's tonsure, others on one side only, whilst others were completely shaven. The gallantry of the sailors towards the females was not approved by the men, one of whom ordered all the females and children to retire—a command reluctantly obeyed. The females rejected the offers of the Europeans with disdain."—Cook.

In April, 1788, Admiral Count de la Perouse, of the French navy, anchored in Adventure Bay, and "deposited a bottle with letters in it under the stump of a tree." He, however, does not mention having seen the tribe with whom Captain Cook had fraternized.—De la Perouse.

In 1791, Rear-Admiral Bruni D'Entrecasteaux arrived in Recherche Bay. He discovered the Huon River, so named after Captain Huon, of the French ship *L'Esperance*. He also discovered Bruni Island, so named after himself. He does not mention the aborigines; but La Billardiere the naturalist of the expedition, saw them, and said "they had woolly hair, and the men let their beards grow. The upper jaw in children projects considerably over the lower, but falls back with age, and in the adults is nearly in the same line. The skin is not very dark, but to make it appear more so than it really is they cover

themselves with charcoal dust, principally the upper parts of the body. They have all their teeth; the custom, therefore, so general among the natives of these coasts, of drawing two or three in the front, cannot have been introduced amongst them. They eat mussels, crabs, oysters, and the large lobster, which they broil, the women being principally charged with the care of procuring food and preparing it. They do not appear to have chiefs; each family seems to live in complete independence, but the children are very subordinate to their parents, and the women to their husbands. They all appear unacquainted with the bow. Those of Adventure Bay have their bodies tattooed, and their hair powdered with ochre."—La Billardiere, and also *Barrington's New South Wales*.

On the 13th June, 1803, Lieutenant Bowen, R.N., sailed from Sydney in the *Lady Nelson*, with a small party of soldiers and prisoners, intending to form a settlement in Van Diemen's Land, which he did at Risdon, or Rest-down, on the Derwent River. This measure was adopted by order of the English Government, to prevent the French from taking formal possession of the island.

It was by this party that the first aborigines were killed by Englishmen; for, on the 3rd May, 1804, whilst the party were in their bivouac on the banks of the river, they found themselves surrounded by nearly 500 aborigines, supposed to belong to the Oyster Bay tribe, who had most probably come down to the river side in search of food. "Their numbers appearing too great to be trusted, and their signals being misunderstood, Lieutenant Moore ordered the soldiers to fire upon them, and, in consequence, upwards of fifty aborigines were killed. This disaster Lieutenant Jefferys ascribed to the imperfect knowledge that had hitherto been acquired of the natives."—Jefferys.

On the 17th February, 1804, Governor Collins landed in Tasmania from the ship *Ocean*, from Port Phillip, of which place he thus spake in his garrison order, dated Port Phillip, 31st December, 1803:—"It has never been my wish to make the Sabbath any other than a day of devotion and rest, but circumstances compel us to employ it in labour; in this the whole are concerned, since the sooner we are enabled to leave this unpromising and unproductive country, the sooner shall we be able to reap the advantages and enjoy the comforts of a more fertile spot."

Governor Collins discovered Lieut. Bowen's party, which was reduced almost to a state of starvation and destitution.

On the 15th October of the same year Colonel Patterson arrived in the River Tamar from Sydney, and formed the settlement of Port Dalrymple, now Launceston.

Nothing is said about the aborigines in the only book which was saved from the wilful destruction, which took place by fire, of all the colonial records on the night of the death of Colonel Collins, 24th March, 1810; nor do we find much about them in the Sydney newspapers under the head Van Diemen's Land, except that a white man was killed in 1805 by the aborigines, and they became troublesome, and attacked the camp, when forty were killed; and, in 1806, that Mr. Kelly saw 300 in one tribe at Brown's River. In 1807 another white man was murdered by them. In 1813 they came into the camp, where Governor Davey protected them and gave them food.

In 1814, the newspapers mentioned that "many persons and sheep were speared by the natives, although the Reverend Mr. Knopwood was feeding several of them as paupers."

At this time, and for some years afterwards, the colony was overrun by hordes of escaped convicts, who armed themselves, and committed innumerable robberies and many murders, and martial law was proclaimed against them. Doubtless the unfortunate aborigines, both male and female, came in for a full share of the cruelties of this class of unmitigated villains. In 1810, Governor Collins's general order had forcibly described "the wrongs of the natives, and the revenge to which they were prompted, and declared that the penalty of death should be inflicted on those persons who wantonly fired on the aborigines, or murdered them in cold blood."

In 1813, Governor Davey endeavoured to conciliate them, and "a tribe of thirty-six persons were brought to Hobart Town, where they remained for some weeks; but having received some offence from badly-disposed

65

Europeans they left town in disgust, and tried to reach their homes on Bruni Island, when all except one woman were drowned whilst attempting to cross the water."—Davey's Proclamation.

In 1815 the aborigines manifested strong hostility against the settlers, spearing several of them, and killing and dispersing their sheep and cattle. If, however, we may judge by Governor Davey's proclamation of that date, wherein he said that "the cruelties of the white people deserved condign punishment for killing the aborigines in such great numbers, thus fixing a lasting stigma on the British name," many of the settlers probably only received their due reward for cruelties practised by themselves.

In 1816 Mr. Kelly estimated their numbers all over the island at 7,000 souls, but I imagine this must have been greatly in excess of their number at that time.

In 1817, 19th May, Governor Sorell issued a proclamation, stating that "the aborigines were to be considered under British protection, and to be treated as subjects of the King of England; that at that time black child-stealing was a common practice, firing on the blacks was a habit, and the settlers offered no serious discountenance to the cruelties of their convict servants, whilst, wherever the blacks were treated with mildness, they had been found inoffensive and peaceable."—Colonel Sorell's Proclamation.

It is said that this proclamation had a deterring effect for some years on the indiscriminate slaughter hitherto carried on amongst the aborigines.

In 1822 they became again troublesome, killing men and sheep.—Government Gazette.

In 1824 large numbers of peaceable aborigines came into Hobart Town and Launceston, sometimes as many as 100 at a time, and were treated with food and sugar, &c. Governor Arthur protected them in a proclamation in June, 1824.

At this time 340 aborigines were known by name; of these 180 were males and 160 females (Statistics), so that there was not then, amongst the peacefully-disposed blacks, such a disparity between the sexes as was found afterwards to be the case.

In 1825 the lawless bushrangers are reported to have "made targets of the black people, tied up to trees; and one bushranger who had shot a black man cut off his head, and tying it round the neck of the wife of the victim, made her carry it for some days in forced companionship with himself."—Government Gazette.

In 1826 two aborigines were executed for murder, one being a native of Tasmania, and one of Sydney, and Governor Arthur, in a Government notice on the occasion, "solemnly pledged his Government to do equal justice between the black man and the white settler." The Sydney black, on being led out to execution by the gaoler, remarked quietly—"Hanging no good for blackfellow. Bery good for white man; he used to it."

In November, 1827, Governor Arthur remarked that, "in consequence of the aggressions of the aborigines, and the murders they committed, it had become a measure of indispensable necessity that the black natives should be driven from the settled districts, as they could not by conciliatory means be induced to retire from them."—Government Gazette.

Soldiers were placed at different points in the settled districts, and armed police were sent out to enforce the order of eviction. But these measures failed, for up to November, 1828, repeated inroads had been made by the blacks into the cultivated districts; unoffending women and children had been murdered, stacks and buildings burned, and the most wanton and sanguinary acts of hostility and barbarity had been committed by the savages.

"In consequence of these enormities, the Governor proclaimed martial law against the aborigines, but ordered that any tribes or individuals who voluntarily surrendered or were captured should be treated with the utmost care and humanity."—Government Gazette.

The newspapers and gazettes of 1828 and 1829 teem with accounts of murders and atrocities committed by the aborigines, and of wholesale slaughters in retaliation; so much so that Bent, in his almanac for 1829, said that "the number of Europeans who had met their death at the hands of these barbarous savages during the last two years, since they commenced their repeated hostilities, is supposed to be not less than 100, but that during the same period many hundreds of the natives have lost their lives cannot be questioned."

As a specimen of the conduct too frequently evinced by and towards the aborigines, it may be told that—"In 1828, a mob of some score were discovered sitting around their fires, consisting of men, women, and children. A number of settlers armed themselves and proceeded to the spot. They advanced cautiously towards the blacks till their dogs gave the alarm, and those who could not escape were shot down by a discharge of firearms. It is said that the white people went up to the fires, and found a number of waddies and spears, and amongst the dead an infant sprawling on the ground, which one of the white people pitched alive into the fire."—Melville.

In return for this sort of treatment, the blacks burned the stacks, houses, and barns of every settler whom they could with impunity attack, and where they found a defenceless man, woman, or child, they used their spears and waddies with fatal effect.

In 1830 a reward of £5 for every adult aborigine, and £2 for every child, captured, was offered by the Government.

On the 22nd September, 1830, the celebrated Black War commenced, by a "call upon the whole community to act en masse on the 7th October, for the purpose of capturing the hostile tribes." Military lines were formed across the island, clouds of skirmishers or roving parties were thrown out on each flank and in front, signal fires were lighted on every hill-top, and free men and armed prisoners vied each other in their endeavours to drive the savage from the settled districts down to Tasman's Peninsula. 3,000 persons were engaged for more than a month, at an expense of £30,000, and the result was the capture of one black boy, and the loss of life, by accident, of five of the captors. The Reverend Dr. West gives so full an account of the Black War in his *Tasmania*, vol. 2, that it is only necessary for me to refer to that book in the matter.

And now other measures were taken, and these were of a conciliatory character, and attended with the happiest results. A Mr. Robinson, a builder in Hobart Town, who had acquired a knowledge of the native language, was engaged at £50 a year to take charge of a dozen captured blacks on Bruni Island; and subsequently he was induced to make several excursions into the interior, with a party of friendly aborigines, and having met and talked with the warlike tribes, he succeeded in prevailing upon the whole of them to give themselves up to the authorities, who had them quietly conveyed to the islands in the Straits. The last tribe was brought in in the month of December, 1842, exactly 200 years after the first discovery of the colony, without loss of life, although on a hundred occasions Mr. Robinson and his party had risked their lives. For this invaluable service Mr. Robinson receives a small pension of £100 a year, chargeable on the territorial revenue. Out of 310 aborigines who were removed to Flinders's Island, no less than 250 had been induced by Mr. Robinson to give themselves up.

At Flinders Island the mortality became excessive. It had a bleak climate and bad water, with a sterile soil. "The intense love of these unfortunate people for their native haunts, and its consequences, are amongst the most affecting incidents in the annals of civilization. At the time of their capture most of the men were fine muscular fellows, and excited great interest and sympathy; but in a short time a majority of their number died from that strange disease so fatal to the Swiss peasants who die in foreign countries from regret for their native land—they pined away, and died from home-sickness.—West.

Notwithstanding medical aid, and every care, eight men, two women, and six children died in the space of twelve days; seven were accidentally burned to death; and numbers died soon after from chest diseases, superinduced by change of diet, habits, and climate; so that in 1836 there were then left but 116 aborigines of all ages, living a life of utter indolence, some, however, occasionally hunting game, or passing their time in aboriginal customs.—Melville.

The aborigines collected at Flinders Island 300 specimens of white topazes, 40 specimens of yellow topaz, 30 specimens of pink topazes, 25 specimens of rock crystal, and 30 specimens of beryls, all of which were exhibited at the Crystal Palace in 1851, and attracted great admiration.

The published accounts of their stay at Flinders Island are very meagre, and it is probable they were purposely made so, for the purpose of concealing the fearful mortality amongst

the aborigines, and the quarrels and annoyances which were so frequent amongst the officers.

They were visited by Sir John Franklin and Bishop Nixon in 1842, when "the beach was covered with aborigines, who greeted their good old Governor and benefactor with yells of delight, capering and gesticulating with movements more indicative of exuberant wild joy than of elegance or propriety."—Cruise of Beacon.

Suffice it to say, that after a very large and unnecessary expenditure of money had been made on the settlement, the miserable remnant were removed in October, 1847, to Oyster Cove in D'Entrecasteaux's Channel. The number removed were:—

Men .. .. .	13
Women .. .. .	22
Boys .. .. .	5
Girls .. .. .	5
Total .. .. .	45

They have most comfortable quarters at Oyster Cove, excellent food and clothing, fish and oysters and crayfish in abundance, opossums and other game in the woods around, and large numbers of dogs to hunt with, pipes and tobacco, physic and medical advice, and even religious services, all at an expense of £500 a year.

Yet with all this they have gradually died off one by one, until now there are only five old aboriginal women left in the colony.

At the ball given by our esteemed Governor in honour of Her Majesty's Birthday yesterday, there were to be seen the black ladies in full dress, with white kid gloves, chattering with all around, and enjoying the music and dancing and the sweetmeats on the supper-table as heartily as their white fellow guests. Old colonists, who could tell tales of fearful violence and murder, of insult and violation on the part of the aborigines that would make the heart shudder, were to be seen shaking hands with the last of the aborigines, and vying in attention to them with the Governor and his amiable lady.

I may conclude this short sketch by expressing my own opinion, that there is too much reason to believe that could the savage be allowed to write his account, it would be seen that the deeds of many of the white usurpers were of a deeper, darker die than even those of the untutored savage.

(To be continued.)

News and Notes.

1882

The clearing-out sale of the Hon. Thomas Cumming's stud sheep took place at Stony Point on Thursday. There was a large attendance of buyers, every colony being represented except Tasmania. The sale was pronounced by all present to be the most important ever held in the colonies. The sheep offered were the result of 20 years close breeding, and the fact that no reserve was placed on any pen conducted greatly to the immense success of the sale. The highest price ever realised for a ram in Australia was obtained for Nugget the 3rd, which was knocked down to the Hon. Phillip Russell for fourteen hundred guineas. The ram has never been exhibited, but his quality it is needless to say, leaves him without a compeer. All the sheep sold remarkably well, the total amount realized being £28,500. A full account of the sale by our special reporter appears in another column. See below

A colossal rabbit battue took place at Terrinallum last week. All the available hands on the station, numbering over one hundred and thirty men, were mustered to wage war against the furry invader. Yards were erected, and the men dispersed themselves to beat up the country. A pretty considerable number of rabbits were yarded up, and once secured within the enclosure a terrific slaughter ensued. On counting the bodies it was found that over twelve hundred rabbits had been destroyed.

SHEEPSALE 5th Sept 1882  
John Cumming of Terrinallum  
sold a Merino Ram for 3,150  
Guineas = £3,307.10/-

Composed by Prosper Maynil Thomas at Lower Bonyon  
Hotch-potch Maigre

Take two quarts of green peas if you have them to spare  
or a quart & a half is enough if they're rare  
But we can't decide in the matter of these  
The soup almost entirely depends on the peas.

Take young turnips and carrots & cut them in squares  
like the dice with which swished men begin their hair  
But don't take too many of these if you please  
Their flavor extinguishes that of the peas.

Fry the peas (and the squares) with a plump little pat  
of fresh butter (it's sweeter in flavor than fat)  
Let the peas be as tender and young as you can  
They will soften the sooner when fried in the pan.

Have a pot with a close fitting lid standing near  
Why the lid should fit closely you'll presently learn  
Fill the pot with cold water & salt to the waist  
and a little white pepper according to taste.

Then slide into the pot the contents of the pan  
And let it boil gently as long as you can  
For the soup will be sweeter and thicker the more  
you boil down the fry you concocted before.

If you wish to make more of the mixture, *En Rouge*  
And leave it quite sweet on the following day  
keep it stale in the pot with the lid fitted tight  
The air closely excluded and out of the light.

Hotch-potch Gros.

Your conscience is clear about eating I trust  
And if no weaker diet be there to disgust  
Make the soup by the process above to the letter  
But put in some lamb chops you will find it still better.

AGRICULTURAL RETURNS OF SCOTLAND.

APPENDED to a report on the Agricultural Returns of Great Britain for 1871, compiled by Mr Fonblanque, are several valuable appendices, one of which exhibits in a tabulated form the number and other particulars regarding the holdings under twenty acres in the various counties in England and Wales and in Scotland separately. The table applicable to Scotch counties is given below, and the strikingly large proportion which these small holdings and the stock they support bear to the total number of occupiers and live stock in the Highland districts, compared with the counties where the land is comparatively level, and devoted more to the raising of grain crops, will be observed by collating the figures below with the number of and particulars regarding the holdings of all kinds exhibited in another return:—

COUNTIES.	No. of Returns from Holdings under 20 acres.	Acreage.		Number of Live Stock on 25th June 1871.				
		Total.	Under Tillage or Arable.	Horses.	Cows and other Cattle.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	
Aberdeen.....	6520	42631	40832	1633	14220	10006	2327	
Argyle.....	1917	10038	7583	1181	8599	12330	1256	
Ayr.....	693	4689	1904	108	2494	1894	864	
Banff.....	2346	13389	12789	719	5044	2473	1728	
Berwick.....	308	2036	1523	141	874	1531	401	
Bute.....	197	2122	1453	109	652	731	171	
Caithness.....	1828	13314	12171	1570	4978	5172	1103	
Clackmannan.....	101	579	381	33	315	2102	183	
Dumfriesshire.....	329	1771	719	52	1132	1524	395	
Dumfries.....	362	5227	2069	214	2279	3514	1945	
Edinburgh.....	327	2397	1289	173	1258	1361	897	
Elgin or Moray.....	1052	6883	6575	459	2169	3536	1355	
Fife.....	897	5848	5165	272	1509	399	1541	
Forfar.....	1052	7479	6919	414	3215	945	1633	
Galloway.....	304	1153	873	109	288	495	221	
Haddington.....	5015	22433	23854	4154	21328	201872	2299	
Inverness.....	914	6537	5319	212	2335	1199	799	
Kinross.....	100	734	587	28	391	179	292	
Kirkcubright.....	422	3473	1769	154	1568	18100	948	
Leith.....	870	6797	4038	233	3459	2299	1288	
Linlithgow.....	145	842	427	48	528	317	185	
Nairn.....	160	1453	1370	129	447	1818	235	
Orkney.....	1945	16610	14458	1648	6189	5313	2427	
Perth.....	3670	22890	14425	5116	18453	58883	4785	
Perthshire.....	84	485	269	23	225	765	119	
Perthshire.....	2708	12627	9223	688	8739	65225	2467	
Perthshire.....	449	2631	1638	88	1708	1240	542	
Perthshire.....	5792	30190	24518	2346	20596	146826	2280	
Rose and Cromarty.....	428	3071	1803	283	1436	10025	694	
Roxburgh.....	101	490	262	18	144	560	73	
Selkirk.....	420	2646	1443	119	2089	15932	420	
Shirking.....	2193	3744	3623	1596	7603	38986	1011	
Sutherland.....	409	3195	2284	212	1233	2392	823	
Wigtown.....	1337	105	105	105	105	105	105	
Total.....	43921	286428	221501	24639	144544	756095	39454	

Among the tables attached to the report is one exhibiting the number of returns obtained in each county in Great Britain, the extent of each holding, the number of live stock on 25th June last, &c. The counties in Scotland show the following results:—

COUNTIES.	Occupiers of Land.	Average Extent of Land held by Each.	Agricultural Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Aberdeen.....	11654	50	22719	18907	119709	11574
Argyle.....	3442	32	6413	8388	102255	6285
Ayr.....	4104	38	7074	41313	43292	5379
Banff.....	1123	168	5129	16879	251036	5089
Berwick.....	482	45	984	7672	41293	2455
Bute.....	2613	38	4805	19265	80035	1044
Caithness.....	206	73	608	3928	11283	1911
Clackmannan.....	726	61	1504	13278	75406	1436
Dumfriesshire.....	2625	59	6849	32436	512870	19734
Dumfries.....	1111	117	4123	17333	153387	6483
Edinburgh.....	3062	48	4489	21399	50251	4934
Elgin or Moray.....	2281	105	9323	37491	55420	7925
Fife.....	2804	92	9847	46545	117164	7422
Forfar.....	605	181	3675	7145	89513	3673
Galloway.....	6983	19	8242	45738	76082	5371
Inverness.....	1894	62	4397	2762	2972	3264
Kinross.....	294	116	1157	6396	24004	994
Kinross.....	1580	106	5016	37927	385347	9659
Kirkcubright.....	3142	77	6739	64155	219783	12234
Leith.....	834	107	1977	11683	16848	2211
Linlithgow.....	416	59	1126	5416	16196	1271
Nairn.....	7126	41	11628	44695	113812	11299
Orkney and Shetland.....	316	128	1094	6804	192324	1101
Perth.....	5435	69	12369	77431	646335	12874
Perthshire.....	1317	69	2733	24796	37567	2911
Rose and Cromarty.....	638	18	6594	35954	358272	9880
Roxburgh.....	1197	143	4304	16839	474434	4760
Selkirk.....	299	97	572	2425	154800	515
Shirking.....	1442	72	4089	22224	112338	3183
Sutherland.....	2329	10	2384	10375	216454	1477
Wigtown.....	1337	105	1339	39111	129810	11332
Total.....	80340	55	174434	1070107	6882747	195642

Height of Wauwong House above Lake

270 feet from surface of lake to floor of balcony  
10th Sept 1879

Taken by George Selby with his Aneroid

Thrashing Machine

Copied from "A Dictionary of Science, Literature and Art - 1867"

X Adam Dawson, son of 1st Adam Dawson of Bonny Town, says it was in 1802 that steam was applied to the thrashing mill.

Invented in Scotland about the year 1758 by a farmer near Dumbblain Perthshire and afterwards brought to perfection by an Meikle a millwright of Haddingtonshire about the year 1798.

Meikle was uncle to the MacLaren of the Tolbooth and uncle to Mrs Dawson of Bonny Town (mother of the writer). Meikle introduced the drum with beaters, the shakers for carrying forward the straw, and the fan for cleaning the grain.

A thrashing mill with these improvements was used and driven by a steam engine on Bonny Town Estate in the year 1808 or thereabouts by Adam Dawson 1st of Bonny Town.

CHLOROFORM

PALMAM QUI MERUIT

To the Editor of the Australian Medical Journal.

Sir,—Your notice of the death of my countryman, Sir James Simpson, although creditable to your journal, is apt to lead the public to believe that to him belongs the credit of the discovery of Chloroform as an anæsthetic. Permit me to put you in possession of a circumstance which came under my notice in my native town of Linlithgow, Scotland, some seven or eight years since, after an absence of twenty years. Conversing one day with Widow Waldie about my old schoolfellow, her son, who kept a druggists' shop in Linlithgow for many years, she told me that it was he who first suggested Chloroform to Dr. Simpson, and made it for him to experiment with, but that the fame of the great surgeon had completely eclipsed the poor chemist, and deprived him of the credit of such a wonderful discovery. In a recent newspaper review of the life of Sir James Simpson, I was glad to see this acknowledged. Therefore, as an act of justice to the living, but with no wish to detract from the merits of the dead, I beg an insertion in your Journal of this fact, which awards to my friend Waldie, a native of Linlithgow, the honour and merit of being the first to suggest Chloroform as the greatest alleviator of suffering ever introduced to the world.

I may remark that Mr. Waldie at present resides in Liverpool, but at the time when he communicated his discovery to Sir James Simpson he resided in Linlithgow, as I have stated.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully.

JAMES DAWSON.

Heathcote, Balaclava Road, St. Kilda, 17th July, 1870.

The  
Melbourne Advertiser  
Port Phillip Australia

Written for and Published by Jno P Faulkner  
Monday February the 19<sup>th</sup> 1838. Melbourne  
No 8 Vol 1

For Freight or Passage

The Strong built Cutter  
Rebecca is now laid on as a  
regular Trader between Mel-  
bourne and Launceston and  
is one of the fastest Sailing  
Crafts in this Trade will  
prove to Shippers of goods  
or to Passengers the most  
eligible conveyance between  
Melbourne and Launceston  
Apply to Capt<sup>n</sup> Bell  
Melbourne Jan<sup>y</sup> 24/38

Notice

From 100 to 2000 feet of  
good Cedar at 6 pence per ft  
20000 Shingles at 2d per 1000  
Window Sills of Sydney Stones  
and large Sises Worked or rough  
2000 - 5 feet Split Paling  
for Sale of N D Land manu-  
facture they are ready for de-  
livery at 12/ per 100. Orders  
on N D Land will be ta-  
ken in payment of the above  
Jno. P. Faulkner

For Sydney

The Schooner Sarah  
Capt<sup>n</sup> William Winkworth  
will be ready to leave for the  
above Port about the middle  
of next month  
Apply to W. F. A. Rucker  
Jan<sup>y</sup> 14/1838 Agent

J. D. Weatherly  
takes this early opportunity  
to inform his friends and the  
Public that he supplies Fam-  
ilies with the best Wheaten  
Bread at the lowest possible  
price and to those who wish  
it he allows one months Credit





Mr Hollins list continued  
Pocket Knives - Wool Bagging  
Window Glass  
Superior Cavendish Tobacco  
Colonial Do

Also

Flat Beef mutton & Lamb  
at 5 pence per pound

B. G. Hollins

Melbourne February the 16<sup>th</sup> 1838

### New Landing

By the undersigned an  
assortment of looking  
glasses Chairs

Superior English Saddlery  
Cart Harness

A handsome English Stanhop  
Gentlemens Clothing

Blankets and Rugs  
Childrens Boots and Shoes

Stationary  
Windsor Soap - Wax Candles

Cut glasses  
Brushes and Combs

Ivory balance handled  
knives and forks &c

W. H. A. Rucker

Melbourne Febr 7<sup>th</sup> 38

### On Sale

At the Stores of the undersigned

Superior Isles of France Sugar  
per pound by the bag " 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

Loaf Sugar per pound " 10

Fine first Flour per 100 lbs 1-5-0

Flour in Barrels - 1-0-0

Tea per Chest - 6-0-0

Do per 1/2 Chest - 3-5-0

Do per 1/4 Chest 1-15-0

Oats per Bushel 0-8-0

Porter in Fohds per Fohd 7-0-0

Ale in do per do 8-0-0

Bottle Ale per Dozen . 18-0

No Porter in per Doz . 16-0

Launceston Shingles . 18-0

Hobarton do per 1000 1-1-0

Quartering per 100 feet " 16-0

Ballen Boards and

Potatoes per 100 feet } . 18-0

Potatoes per Cwt . 12-0

Terms Cash, or approved

orders on Sydney Launce-

ton, or Hobart Town

W. H. A. Rucker

Melbourne Febr the 9<sup>th</sup>

1838,

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The undersigned begs to inform the Public that he keeps a Boat and two men in readiness for the Purpose of Crossing and recrossing Passengers between Williams Town and the opposite Beach - Parties from Melbourne are requested to raise a Smoke and the Boat will be at their Service as soon as practicable the least Charge is 5 Shillings and 2/ each when the number exceeds two

J. W. Lellan

Williams Town Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 1838

At an adjourned meeting of the Melbourne Race Club held at Faulkners Hotel on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, 1838,

Mr Henry Allan in the Chair the minutes of the last meeting having been read the following Resolutions were proposed & carried

1<sup>st</sup> Proposed by Mr Edward Wedge and Seconded by Mr Pickers that Mr Henry Arthur be appointed as Steward

2<sup>nd</sup> Proposed by Mr Morley and Seconded by Mr Allan that Mr William Wood be appointed as Steward

3<sup>rd</sup> Proposed by Mr H. Allan and Seconded by Mr E. Wedge that Mr Noddin be appointed Treasurer and Secretary

4<sup>th</sup> Proposed by Mr H. Allan and Seconded by Mr E. Wedge that Mr Morley be appointed Clerk of the Course

5<sup>th</sup> Resolved that the Stakes for the different Races be as follow

First day the Town Plate shall be £ 25-0-0  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ladies Purse 20-0-0  
3<sup>rd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> day Hunter Stakes 15-0-0  
4<sup>th</sup> Beaten Horses 10-0-0

6<sup>th</sup> Resolved that all Horses for the first three Races be entered the 5<sup>th</sup> March before 8 o'clock AM

Beaten Horses - Post entry -

7<sup>th</sup> Resolved that the weights be as follow. The Town Plate st-16

Horses three yrs old - 8-6  
4 yrs old - 9-0  
5 yrs old - 9-6  
6 and aged - 9-12

Distance one mile Entrance £ 1-0-0

Hunter Stakes gentlemen Riders one mile and a distance with 5 leaps 4 feet high Entrance £ 1-0-0

Beaten Horses weight same as the Town plate Entrance 10 Shilling Post entry

8<sup>th</sup> Proposed by Mr Morley and seconded by Mr Jas Brown that no Horses be allowed to enter unless the real property of a Subscriber of two Pounds

9<sup>th</sup> Proposed by Mr James Brown and seconded by Mr E. Devilliers that Mr Morley be requested to Superintend the marking out of the course and preparing it for the Races

10<sup>th</sup> Proposed by Mr Morley and seconded by Mr James Brown that all disputes arising at the Melbourne Races are to be settled by the Melbourne Race Club

11<sup>th</sup> Proposed by Mr E. Wedge and seconded by Mr Devilliers that the Race Club dine at Faulkners Hotel on the day of the Hunter Stakes

18<sup>th</sup> February Arrived the Henry Whiting, from Geo Town with Sheep The Swan River Packet is said to have entered the Bay with the Henry To Sail

20 Feb<sup>ry</sup> The Cutprize for Geelong and Launceston with wool and the Henry in Ballast; George Town

FINE CORDIAL (Margaret Hutchins)

2 Quarts Pale Brandy or sweet Whisky  
 2 ounces Angelica seed  
 2 — — Coriander seed  
 a pinch of Anniseed  
 a — — of Fennel seed  
 1 lb of sugar  
 Juice and rind of 2 Lemons  
 Shake well, let stand for 8 days & then strain through  
 Paper -

Kimmel

1 bottle sweet or low grain Whisky  
 1/2 oz Carraway seeds - steep 10 days and  
 run through Muslin; add 1/2 lb clarified  
 fine sugar.

Kimmel (Aunt Margarets recipe)

3 Bottles Spirit of Wine, pure.  
 2# oz Carraway seeds — not crushed. X  
 3 pounds loaf sugar melted in <sup>1 1/2 bottles of</sup> water, Boiled and cooled  
 Filter through <sup>filter paper</sup>, let it stand, and strain it,  
 The colder it is, the better,  
 If too strong add a little water.  
 X The seeds to remain in the spirits 10 days, strain through <sup>Muslin</sup>  
 a thin slice of lemon peel about size Good !!  
 of a shilling improves it

Ratafia de Cassis - Black currant Cordial

6 pints Brandy, 1 pint water, 2 lb black currants, 3 lb sugar  
 2 or 3 leaves of the black currant bush, ~~and~~ a small  
 bit of cinnamon stick or 2 or 3 cloves, bruise the fruit  
 infuse the whole in the brandy for one month, melt the  
 sugar in the water, strain through Muslin, let stand  
 till clear then bottle.

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NOTES FROM THE OBSERVATORY.

THERMOMETRY.

The measurement of temperature and its changes forms a most important part of the work of the meteorologist, astronomer, and indeed of almost every scientific man, besides being of the utmost value to many of the arts and manufactures. The thermometer in one of its various forms is the instrument almost exclusively used for the purpose, although other methods are in special cases sometimes adopted.

Thermometers are now so common and so well known, that no description, except for distinguishing the different forms, will be necessary.

For determining the temperature of the air almost every form of thermometer will do, if properly exposed. Still, if accuracy be required, a selection will have to be made, for cheap ones often vary as much as two or three degrees, but some even of these can be selected which are moderately correct. The best ones have the graduations on the glass stem, with the numbers marked or engraved on porcelain, glass, or metal. The common ones have plain stems, with all the graduations on the mounting, whether it be metal, glass, porcelain, or boxwood. Thermometers are usually filled with either mercury or spirit. The former are most frequently used, and are indeed the best for most purposes, and such as have small bulbs with a fine bore are more sensitive than those with large bulbs and a thick bore.

The manner in which thermometers are exposed is a matter of great importance. In nine cases out of ten, where the temperature of the air in the shade is sought for, we find the thermometer is hung on the wall of a house, perhaps under a verandah, in a window, or anywhere where it will be more or less in the shade. Under such circumstances it is the temperature of the wall or house, and not that of the air, that is obtained, and these sometimes differ immensely.

For obtaining indoor temperatures any position, of course not near a fireplace or chimney heated by fire, does well enough; but for the temperature of air in the shade thermometers should be at least 50ft. from any large building, fully exposed to the air, and sheltered from the direct rays of the sun, and, if possible, from any rain which might wet the bulbs. If the sun's rays fall on an ordinary thermometer bulb, it will probably burst, or if not, it will register far too high, while if rain falls on it, the subsequent evaporation cools down the mercury below the temperature of the air. It is only when thermometers are properly exposed, and the above conditions complied with, that the true "heat in the shade" can be measured.

The mean temperature of a day is obtained by taking the arithmetical mean of observations made at short and regular intervals throughout the 24 hours, but a more convenient, though not quite so exact a way, is to use a thermometer or thermometers registering the highest and lowest temperatures in the same period, the mean of the two giving approximately the mean temperature for the day.

John Mooney

The case of a man named John Mooney, who is at present an inmate of the Melbourne Hospital, presents a remarkable instance of reverse of fortune, consequent in this case on habits of improvidence. Not many years ago Mooney was the possessor of great wealth, owned a large amount of station property in the colony, besides hotels and houses in Melbourne. He is said to have given £10,000 to a daughter as a marriage dower. An insolvency which occurred several years ago, and then attracted considerable notice, caused him a loss to the extent, it is said, of some £10,000; but reckless dissipation injured him far more. He and his wife have in recent years brought their mutual complaints before the notice of magistrates on several occasions. Some months ago Mooney broke his arm, and had to go to the hospital for a time. On Thursday last he and his wife were found in a wretched place in Little Bourke-street west, and the police, seeing that the man was in a state of extreme destitution and ill-health, took him to the hospital, where he now lies.

THE PLATYPUS.

It is now nearly 80 years ago since Mr. Shaw, of the British Museum, first made known to the public that strangest of all the strange animals of Australia, the "duck-billed quadruped," to which he gave the name *Platypus anatinus*. Subsequently Blumenbach gave it the name of *Ornithorhynchus paradoxus*, which, in justice to the priority of our countryman's name, should never be used.

It is amusing, now that the *Platypus* is so well known, to read the old descriptions as to the nature of this creature, which was very generally looked upon as a deceptive manufacture, like the junction of monkeys' bodies and fishes' tails exhibited as mermaids from Japan some little time ago in Melbourne. The body was described roughly as more like that of a diminutive beaver in shape, hair, and colour, and short, webbed feet than anything else, but only about a foot and a half long, and with the short, broad tail hairy like the back, instead of being scaly as in the the beaver. To this body it was thought that some impudent trickster had fastened the bill of a shoveller duck where the mouth ought to be, and Mr. Shaw and others give great details of how they macerated the head in water, so as to find the joining, and not finding any want of continuity, came to the conclusion that the duck's bill was truly the mouth of the *Platypus*. Taking up the idea of a combination of the general characteristics of birds and beasts in the *Platypus*, it was noted that the hind legs of the male had conical horny spurs like those of gallinaceous birds, but unlike ordinary beasts in this respect. Then the *Echidna* and *Platypus* were observed to agree with birds and differ from all beasts in another structural character, giving rise to the name *Monotremata*, for an order including these two Australian genera only amongst mammalia.

For a long time it was thought that the *Platypus* had no mamme, or milk glands, and so could not suckle its young; suggesting the inquiry as to whether these most curious creatures were brought forth alive, as in beasts, or whether they laid eggs like birds. From that time to this the discussion has been carried on, with gradual increase of knowledge, although of the latter most interesting point there is still much doubt and difficulty.

In the first place, the belief that the platypus must lay eggs, as there were no apparent means of suckling the young, was shown by several anatomists to be unsupported by this consideration, inasmuch as the milk-glands were found well developed under the skin, and their apparent absence was due rather to the absence of nipples than to the absence of the mamme themselves. These are now known to exist in one round patch on each side, near the mid-line of the abdomen, nearly as far back as the hind legs, and a rounded or oval space, about as big as a fourpenny piece, somewhat less hairy than the rest of the skin, in this position on each side, may be found moistened with drops of milk in females shot in December. The milk glands really open all over this little area by numerous fine pores through the skin, at the orifices of which the milk appears on pressure. This would of itself be sufficient evidence of the parent suckling the young; but the fact has, in addition, been proved by direct observation of the young when two or three inches long. These young are little naked, rounded creatures, quite blind from the skin passing over the eyes, with very short tail and limbs unfit for walking or swimming, and generally having the helpless condition which is so often associated with maternal care of young suckled by the mother, which these certainly are at this age in December, as their stomachs have been found to be filled with milk identical with that in the mamme of the parent. The long, flat, bird-like bill of the adult has been looked upon as an insuperable difficulty in the way of the *Platypus* being suckled; in the young state, however, this is not developed, but is preceded by a soft, short, flexible pair of lips, with a comparatively large tongue, altogether well suited for sucking the oval spaces from which the milk exudes. On the middle of the tip of the upper jaw is found a little horny conical projection, like the horn of a rhinoceros in miniature, which exactly resembles in size, shape, consistence, and position a conical horny point found on the top of the bill of birds while in the egg, which is always looked upon as a provision for enabling the young bird to break the egg-shell when hatched. This temporary house-breaking provision is another of the reasons in favour of the *Platypus* laying eggs, as it is only found in oviparous creatures, and could not be of use to any others. On the other hand, there is no instance known of an oviparous creature being suckled, although there is no reason why they should not, that we can see.

There are many readers of *The Australasian* sufficiently near the banks of streams in which the *Platypus* lives who could with no very great difficulty set the matter at rest

by digging into the animal's dwelling at the end of November, or early in December. These dwellings are to be found with the entrance either a little above or a foot or two below the surface of the water, according to the state of the weather, in the bank of the stream; it is continued as a cylindrical burrow upwards and inwards from the stream, winding irregularly for a length of 15 or 20 feet, ending in a comparatively large chamber,

well above the level of the flood water, in which a comfortable nest is made of aquatic vegetable fibres, of roots, &c. In this the young have often been found in December, obviously only a few days old, and some of even the early observers have stated that they found fragments of eggshells with them. This has always been assumed to be some mistake of one suggested kind or another, but I have recently had two entirely different informants in widely separated parts of the colony. The one in the Western District described the burrow as already known, which he opened, following the windings to the nest, when he found the female and two eggs fastened together as the eggs of many reptiles often are. These eggs he took as curiosities on account of this union, not being aware of the interest and doubts attaching to the disputed question of whether the *Platypus* laid eggs or not, and after keeping them for sometime, they were broken and lost, without their contents having been ascertained. Now here, of course, the possibility of the eggs being really those of reptiles comes in and deprives the observation of much of its value. The other case occurred near Woods Point, and seemed conclusive. The gentleman who made the observation caught a female *Platypus* and put it into a large tub of water, with a shelf on which the animal could rest out of the water at will, the whole covered by a wire netting. The next morning he found an egg in the water, which he had no doubt the *Platypus* had laid; but, supposing there was nothing very interesting in the matter, the egg was laid aside, and destroyed after a time without, as in the before-mentioned case, the creature within the shell having been noticed. As these cases seem to show that it would not be very difficult to clear the matter up, if persons favourably situated would, on being made aware of the doubts attaching to the subject, open some of the burrows at the time of year above mentioned (varying a little according to seasons in different localities), and forwarding any eggs, preserved in spirit, to the National Museum at Melbourne, for instance, where they could be preserved for future reference, and the uncertain points be settled. The whole interest attaches to a very short interval, for the little naked young found by several observers could have only been a short time out of the egg, if such were really laid; and, on the other hand, at a period very shortly before this, the ova have been, by ourselves and many others, found in the ovaries as large as cherries; but whether the young are excluded from the eggs while still within the body of the mother, and brought forth alive, so as to make the animal ovo-viviparous, as so many reptiles are, or whether the creature is oviparous, and the eggs are laid, and the young afterwards break out, as in all birds, is still the point to be determined.

The nature and use of the spur on the hind leg is as yet uncertain. The spur in old males is horny, about an inch long, conical, slightly curved, and sharp-pointed, like the spur of a cock, but hollow, with a perforation below the point, like the poison-fang of a snake, and, like it, carrying the duct from a cellular gland, the secretion of which would be pressed out by the overlying muscles into any wound the sharp spur might make. The gland is about an inch long on the inside of the leg. It is not proved, however, that the secretion of the gland is poisonous, and the creature has never been known to use the spur for attack or defence when handled by man. The few cases where bad effects are supposed to have followed from a scratch from this spur do not indicate to a medical man that the effects were more than a scratch from a rusty nail would probably have occasioned in the same cases. M.

Highland Heaven

FLOATING IN HEAVEN.

"Ah!" said an old Highland piper, as he was describing to his comrades at home his recent experience in Edinburgh, "Ah! there was ae nicht I'll ne'er forget. There were eighteen pipers beside mesel' in Mrs Grass's wee back parlour in the Glasgow, an' we were a' playing at the same time, an' a' playin' different tunes, an' I jist thought I was floatin' in heaven."

Cargate

Memo from Donald Ryrie

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In the year 1836 or 7 - William and Stewart Ryrie brought a draft of cattle from Arapua (N. P. Wales) to Melbourne but finding it inconvenient to cross the Yarra they travelled up the west or right bank till they came to a ford at the foot of the Mountains but did not cross till they had explored the country on the left bank; they then crossed one and settled at Gering, and shortly afterwards brought up their cattle from the "Settlement" a term then applied to Melbourne. Mr Donald Ryrie mentions that on their journey towards Melbourne they ascended Mount Macedon and as no one had given it a name it was called Mount Ryrie but Major Mitchell afterwards named it Mount Macedon because from its summit he first saw the Bay then called Port Phillip and the word Phillip suggested "Phillip of Macedon" The Badger Creek at the foot of the Mountains got its name from one of the pack horses belonging to the Ryries getting bogged in crossing. "Watts's" creek was unfortunately named after an old convict employed by the Ryries as an assigned servant.

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Edward Wilson

# The Argus.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1878.

The sudden, though not altogether unexpected, death of the senior proprietor—who may be almost called the founder—of this journal is an event which cannot be passed over without that tribute of affectionate respect to his memory which is demanded alike by his public services and his private worth. It may be confidently asserted of the late EDWARD WILSON, that those who had known him most intimately and for the greatest number of years discovered most in him to admire, were attached to him by feelings of the warmest regard, and will be most sincerely grieved by his decease. No man ever loved a country which was not his birthplace, but for which he had conceived a truly filial affection, with a truer or a more devoted love than that which he cherished for Victoria. He had watched its growth during a period of 35 years; he had identified himself with its interests; he was proud of its progress; jealous of its reputation; and—in spite of many political circumstances calculated to repress hope and justify despondency—he formed sanguine expectations of its future greatness and importance.

He was often railed at as an absentee, but he was so of necessity. A sufferer from ophthalmia, by which he lost the sight of one eye some years back, he was compelled to choose between the cool grey skies of England and the dazzling sunshine of Australia; between the preservation of an impaired vision there, and total blindness here. He did what probably every one of his censors would have done in a similar emergency—he remained at home. He broke up the model farm at Keilor, upon which he had intended to settle down for the rest of his life, and took a country house at Hayes, in Kent, where numbers of colonists visiting England can testify how liberal was the hospitality accorded to all comers, how cordial the welcome, and how large and graceful the kindly entertainment they received.

When the testamentary dispositions of the late EDWARD WILSON are made public, we have reason to know that they will be of such a nature as to attest his affection for Victoria, the warm interest he took in the welfare of her institutions, and his genuine anxiety to promote the advancement of the colony. They will show that the exile from Victoria, which was imposed upon him by the fear of blindness, had in nowise lessened his love for it, and that he could apostrophise it in the words of GOLDSMITH—

"Where'er I roam, whatever realms to see,  
My heart untravell'd fondly turns to thee."

By his own indomitable energy, tenacity of purpose, ability, and resolution, he made *The Argus* what it is. *The Times* was not more truly the creation of JOHN WALTER the elder, nor the *Journal des Débats* that of FRANCOIS BERTIN, nor the *New York Tribune* that of HORACE GREELEY, than was this journal the work of EDWARD WILSON. What it was when

he became proprietor of it in 1847, many old colonists will well remember; what it speedily became under his editorship and management, its past history and its present position will serve to show. Nothing but the most unflinching courage could have sustained him in confronting and overcoming the difficulties by which he was beset; and nothing but the most loyal fidelity to his convictions could have inspired him to turn aside from the many alluring opportunities of acquiring a large and rapid fortune which were presented to a man of his force of character and capacity immediately after the discovery of the goldfields, and to adhere to the plain line of duty which he had marked out for himself. He had been one of the most strenuous opponents of any and every proposition for the revival of transportation to Australia. He was the first to raise the cry of "Unlock the lands;" and to agitate in favour of the steady recession of the pastoral tenants of the Crown before the advance of agricultural settlement. He was the uncompromising opponent of the maladministration which prevailed upon the gold-fields up to the time of the appointment of the Royal Commission, and he advocated with characteristic vehemence and ardour the separation of this province from New South Wales in the first instance, and the substitution of responsible for irresponsible government in the second.

Essentially an Englishman in every fibre of his nature, he was devotedly attached to constitutional principles, and viewed with aversion any resort to violence for the accomplishment of organic changes, and hence he deprecated and condemned the insurrectionary proceedings which culminated in the affair of the Eureka Stockade. He was a democrat of the British, and not of the French pattern. We say it advisedly, we never met with a man whose sympathy with the masses was more sincere and fervid, or whose ideal of a commonwealth was more noble than his own. He could not stoop to flatter the "many-headed multitude;" he could not condescend to delude and deceive them; he could not do such violence to truth as to tell them that evils which were clearly traceable to personal misconduct were the result of the political institutions they lived under, and that if these were reformed or reconstructed those evils would disappear; but he was the eager and enthusiastic promoter of every project, a ready helper in every practical scheme for ameliorating the condition, cultivating the intelligence, refining the tastes, increasing the enjoyments, and elevating the social status of the wage-earning classes. He believed most emphatically in levelling-up, but observation and experience had combined to convince him that the reformation of society must commence with the reformation of the individual; and that nine-tenths, perhaps ninety-nine hundredths, of the destitution, disease, and suffering to be met with in Great Britain and elsewhere may be clearly traced to intemperance, improvidence, indolence, and other self-regarding acts, over which the state has no legitimate control. One of the latest acts of Mr. WILSON's life was to address a letter to

the Archbishop of CANTERBURY, to be read at the Croydon Congress, with the view of impressing on the attention of the clergy the corrective of the craving for alcoholic stimulants among the working classes which he considered was to be found in well-cooked food, and the importance of teaching the wives and daughters of the poor how to prepare palatable and nutritious food.

In this colony Mr. WILSON was the founder of the Acclimatisation Society, and was the first, we believe, to institute a ragged school for the instruction and reclamation of "gutter children." To every movement and association of a benevolent character he gave prompt support and liberal assistance; and the charities upon the subscription-lists of which his name appeared represented a fraction only of his bounty, for he recognised to the fullest extent the obligations of wealth and position, and valued both chiefly for the sake of the benefactions they enabled him to accomplish, the influence which the force of his example might be calculated to exert, and the luxury of doing good which they qualified him to enjoy.

We speak of him from the personal knowledge of nearly half a life-time—from opportunities of studying his character furnished during close and intimate association in politics and journalism, as also in the unreserve of private friendship; and we should be faithless to our own convictions and unjust to the memory of an excellent man, an able, vigorous, fearless, and original writer, and a patriotic citizen, if we were restrained by any feelings of false delicacy from paying this inadequate tribute to his public services and his private worth in the newspaper of which he was the architect, and in which he never ceased to take a paternal pride and the liveliest interest. His lamented death will occasion no change whatever in the editorial conduct or business management of *The Argus*, as it had been long known to himself and his partners that the event which we have now to deplore might occur at any hour, and would probably take place suddenly.

Telegram 12<sup>th</sup> Jan  
1878

It is with the deepest regret that we announce this morning the death of Mr. Edward Wilson, the senior proprietor of this journal. A telegram communicating the melancholy intelligence was received on Saturday morning. Mr. Wilson had been in failing health for some time, and a fatal issue was expected, but death occurred at the last rather suddenly. He died on the early morning of the 10th inst., at his residence, at Hayes, Kent. Elsewhere we give a sketch of his long and active career.

## DEATH OF MR. EDWARD WILSON.

It is our painful duty to have to record the death of Mr. Edward Wilson, the senior proprietor of this paper. This melancholy event occurred at an early hour in the morning of the 10th inst., at his residence, Hayes, Kent. For some time past the state of his health had been such as to occasion considerable uneasiness to his friends in England and in this colony. In October, 1876, he suffered something closely resembling a paralytic stroke, and a second visitation of a like character about eight months afterwards he accepted as a monition that his life was drawing to a close; a monition which had a saddening and depressing effect upon his active and benevolent mind, which was incessantly occupied with plans for promoting the comfort and happiness, not only of those who were more immediately connected with him by the ties of relationship and friendship, but also of the community to which he belonged. For in his case the advance of years mellowed his nature, widened the range of his sympathies, and strengthened his philanthropy. And if he could have been consulted as to the epitaph which should have been graven on his monument, we think his answer would have been that of Abou Ben Adhem to the angel:—

"I pray thee, then,  
Write me as one that loves his fellow men."

Mr. Wilson was born at Hampstead, in Middlesex, in the year 1814, and received his education at a large private school in that place; where he had as his form fellows the late William Clark Haines, formerly Chief Secretary of Victoria, Messrs. James and Allan Spowers, and Mr. Douglas Kilburn, with all of whom he renewed in this colony the friendships of early days. After he had completed his education his parents intended he should be prepared to engage in commerce; and he was placed in a large house of business in Manchester. Subsequently he embarked in the Manchester trade in London; but disliked it from the first. All his tastes were for a country life, and being of an adventurous nature, he resolved to try what the freer existence of a young colony was like. Accordingly he came out to Australia in 1842 or 1843, intending to settle in Sydney. But Melbourne was his more immediate destination, and the infant settlement seems to have been sufficiently attractive to him to cause him to forego his intention of visiting Port Jackson. He bought a little place upon the Merri Creek, a little beyond Brunswick, and remained there until about the year 1844, when, in conjunction with Mr. J. S. Johnston, he took up a cattle station on the Eumemmering Creek, near Dandenong. But his rural pursuits did not prevent him from paying attention to the state of political affairs in the settlement. These were being administered by a superintendent, Mr. C. J. Latrobe, exercising an authority delegated to him by the Governor in Sydney. Mr. Wilson criticised the faults and shortcomings of his administration in a series of letters, under the signature of "Iota," which appeared in a paper edited by Mr. William Kerr, who was afterwards town-clerk of the city of Melbourne. These letters made some stir on account of the vigour with which they were written, and also by reason of the liberal and popular principles they enunciated and enforced. Perhaps, also, they revealed to the writer his special vocation, and induced him to turn his thoughts to journalism. Be this as it may, we find him becoming the purchaser of *The Argus* from Mr. Kerr, about the year 1847, while the *Patriot*, which was the lineal descendant of the first newspaper published in Melbourne by the late J. P. Fawcner, was likewise purchased and incorporated with it. About a twelvemonth afterwards, Mr. J. S. Johnston joined Mr. Wilson as a partner in his new venture, and continued with him until January, 1852. On the 1st of

that month, the *Daily News*, which six months previously had absorbed the *Times*, was bought and merged in *The Argus*. In the meantime the gold discoveries had brought about a wonderful change in the general aspect of affairs, and in the prospects of the colony. *The Argus*, which had only been a four-page paper at the beginning of 1852, was doubled in size before the end of the succeeding March, and the energy and enterprise of its proprietor and editor proved to be fully adequate to the novel and unexpected demands made upon them. The difficulties surrounding the production of a daily paper in such a disorganised state of society, when every pursuit was being deserted for the chances of magnificent success which were presented by the gold-fields, and when every description of service had to be remunerated at unexampled rates, were enormous. Men's minds were in a state of ferment; and all regular occupations appeared utterly despicable in the eyes of those who knew that by a lucky stroke of the pick they might open a nest of golden eggs, lay bare a "jeweller's shop," or unearth a nugget as large as a shoulder of lamb. Mr. Wilson, however, was not the man to be dismayed by any difficulties; and the publication of *The Argus* was never suspended for a single day. It rapidly increased in circulation and influence under his able and energetic conduct, and in all the prominent political movements of the day he fought a good fight on behalf of the whole community as against mal-administration both in Melbourne and Sydney. He threw himself with characteristic ardour into the resistance which was offered by the colonists to the influx of convicts from Tasmania, and which led to the passing of the Convicts Prevention Act; he strenuously supported the separation of Port Phillip from New South Wales, and the erection of what had been a province into an independent colony; he co-operated earnestly and heartily with the founders and directors of the Anti-Transportation League, which was formed in 1851, and resulted in the discontinuance of transportation to Tasmania two years afterwards; he denounced with persistent determination the unjust, unwise, and irritating conduct of Governor Hotham towards the mining population; he contributed by his pen to bring about the abolition of irresponsible and the establishment of responsible government in this colony; and he was the first to raise the cry of "Unlock the lands," which afterwards became a popular watchword; as he never wavered in the opinion that every encouragement should be given to agricultural settlement, and that the boundaries of the sheep-walk must be contracted as the plough advanced. He was to the latest hour of his life a democrat in sentiment; but while he held that the majority must govern, he contended that the minority ought not to be suppressed, but should have a share in the representation of the country proportionate to its numbers; while he was also in favour of such an arrangement and distribution of political power as should enable all interests of the community, as well as all persons in it, to be represented in the Legislature.

In the year 1857, after 10 years of mental and physical labour, calculated to break down a brain of steel and a frame of iron, he resolved upon returning to England; as he was warned that by remaining in Australia his enfeebled vision might be entirely lost to him, which would have been an irreparable calamity to a man to whom the face of nature and the countenances of his fellow-creatures were a constant source of interest and pleasure. He proceeded to the mother country, but revisited this colony, Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, and New Zealand in 1858-9, and published a little volume, entitled *Rambles at the Antipodes*, on his return to England in 1864. About 10 years ago he took a lease of Hayes, a fine old country-house near Bromley, in Kent, where he

lived the life of a country gentleman, beloved by all his neighbours, rich and poor, but especially by the latter. There he fell asleep on the night of the 9th of January, and, as we have reason to believe, glided tranquilly out of life between 2 and 3 in the morning of the 10th.

An original thinker and an acute observer, reading little but reflecting much, and basing his knowledge of men and institutions more upon the observation of what was passing around him in the living present, than upon the study of what had taken place in the dead and buried past, Mr. Wilson had much the same vivid sense of the wrongs and evils of our highly complex civilisation as Carlyle has. But the philosophy of the former, unlike that of the author of *Sartor Resartus*, was not the philosophy of despair. Instead of giving way to the pessimism which finds such mournful expression in the writings of Schopenhauer, and of the disciples of that German Buddhist, Mr. Wilson leaned to the hopefulness which characterises *Le Progrès* of Edmond About. Are there abuses? Let us remedy them. Wrongs? Let us right them. Misery and suffering? Let us relieve them. Ignorance and stupidity? Let us instruct them. Class prejudices and animosities? Let us abolish them by the power of sympathy, by the force of kindness, and by demonstrating that the solidarity of society may and must be founded on a solidarity of feeling, interests, and efforts on the part of all its constituent elements. Thoroughly sincere, earnest, truthful, and unselfish himself, he was intolerant of their opposites in others. And his impatience of hypocrisy, falsehood, chicanery, and self-seeking, combined with the impetuosity of his disposition, when he was in the prime of life, frequently betrayed him into a passionate warmth of language and a fervour of denunciation which a more phlegmatic politician and journalist would have avoided. He wrote earnestly and strongly, because he felt earnestly and strongly. His sincerity was unquestionable. His heart was in his work as well as his head. More often than otherwise, it was the former which controlled the latter, and not the latter which governed the former. His emotions were quick, susceptible, and ardent; and they frequently fired his cooler judgment. There was nothing mean, personal, or selfish in his political aims. They might sometimes be mistaken ones, and the means by which it was proposed to arrive at them might not always be the most judicious that could have been selected; but we can confidently assert from an intimate knowledge of him, that they were invariably honest, upright, and disinterested. When a measure was to be supported or opposed, when a great principle was to be upheld, when a particular line of policy was to be advocated or condemned, or when a Ministry was to be defended or denounced, personal considerations were entirely subordinated with him to the general weal. He never asked himself "How will this affect the interests of my paper or my private friendships?" But the question was, "Which is the best course to be pursued for the welfare of the country?" And having satisfied himself upon this point, according to his lights, he pursued it firmly and tenaciously. There may be differences of opinion as to the wisdom of that course in certain cases, but there can be none as to his thorough integrity of motive. He was incapable of "stinting his necessary actions in the fear to cope malicious censurers;" and was regardless alike of friends and enemies in following out what he believed to be the path of duty—holding with the poet that we should

"Live by law,  
Acting the law we live by without fear;  
And because right is right, to follow right  
Were wisdom in the scorn of consequence."

As a journalist he was outspoken, fearless, and direct, and without a single *arrière pensée*. He wore his heart upon his sleeve, wholly indifferent to the daws which might come and peck at it. He had a manly hatred



of intrigue, subterfuges, trickery, hypocrisy, and secret diplomacy. He liked everything in politics to be open and above board. He believed free discussion, publicity and unreserve in political statement and controversy to be of the very essence of democratic institutions. In writing he was accustomed

"To pour out all himself as plain  
As downright Shippen, or as old Montaigne."

The firstlings of his thought were also the firstlings of his hands; and he was as quick and generous to praise as he was prompt and vigorous to censure and condemn. He looked at most questions and events through the warm atmosphere of human sympathies and emotions rather than through the colder and rarer medium of logic; and all his views of men and things were coloured and refracted accordingly. He was a theorist, with a curiously and almost inconsistently practical turn of mind. Many years ago, in London, we remember a philosophical and experienced student of character remarking upon the phenomenon of a new phase of mental development having manifested itself in contemporary society—viz., the simultaneous appearance in statesmanship, science, art, and literature of men who combined the gift of imagination with what Shakspeare calls "the art and practice part of life." And he enumerated a score or two of persons of the highest eminence in England and on the Continent who were living instances of this combination of the poetic and the prosaic, of the ideal and of the real, the imaginative and the soberly sensitive faculties of our nature. The late Mr. Wilson belonged to this order of minds, so that, while he was fond of the practical, there was at the same time a strain of poetry running through and sweetening his daily life up to the last. From this it resulted that some of his views and aspirations for the good of his fellow-creatures were possibly chimerical. They were as much the suggestions of a lively fancy as of an ardent benevolence. But others, again, were found to be capable of application, and were reduced to practice accordingly, with beneficial results.

Those who remember the enthusiasm with which Mr. Wilson commenced and continued his labours herein in the cause of acclimatisation by endeavouring to introduce that "winged and wandering sound," the nightingale, and to establish the lark, the thrush, and other songbirds in Victoria, can best appreciate the really poetical feeling by which he was animated; his delicate sense of the charm which the rural life of England owes to the choristers of the woodland, the hedgerow, and the firmament, and his anxiety to surround the children of Australians with the associations which had given so much pleasure to our own early lives, although his had been passed chiefly "in populous city pent."

Himself "a true born Englishman" of the Daniel Defoe stamp, he loved the land which had given him birth with no blind and undiscriminating affection, and with no insular bigotry or prejudice. All that was great and noble in her history, in the lives of her illustrious children, commanded his admiration and homage. But he dreamed of a "Greater Britain" in the future; of an empire which would have its outposts on four continents, its ships on every sea, its commerce in every port, its language spoken by its adventurous and enterprising subjects in every part of the world, and its influence felt in all lands. And in the meantime he hoped that the scattered provinces and future constituents of this majestic state would prepare themselves for their great destiny by adopting and assimilating whatever was excellent in the political and social institutions of the mother country, by establishing her sober and well-ordered freedom, by making a wise, moderate, and temperate use of the unlimited franchises they enjoyed, and by constantly remembering that all orders and classes of society are just as inter-dependent, and just as essential to each other's health and welfare, as are the different organs of the human body.

These were some of the leading opinions,

aims, and views of Edward Wilson as a journalist, and as the editor of this paper during the most remarkable if not the most critical period of the history of Port Phillip and Victoria. That during his career as a public man he should have gone too far to please the timid and the half-hearted, and not far enough to satisfy the rash, the reckless, and the revolutionary, was only natural.

When the time arrived in which he was admonished that he needed rest, and that the wear-and-tear of a life of indefatigable activity were beginning to tell upon his health and eyesight, and when he relinquished into other hands the conduct of this journal, he did so under circumstances which indicated his profound respect for the opinions of those who successively undertook the editorship of *The Argus*, and his confidence in their integrity and ability. Their independence was unfettered; and occasions have more than once arisen in which the views promulgated in our leading columns have been vigorously combated by Mr. Wilson as a letter-writer in another part of the paper. And it is only due to his memory, and to his high-minded and chivalrous treatment of those who have been entrusted with the political and literary direction of *The Argus*, to state that, during his lengthened absence from the colony—an absence enforced upon him by the oculists whom he consulted in regard to his partial blindness—he had no hand whatever in dictating its policy or in influencing its opinions. We shall be violating no confidence, now, by adding that those who were charged with its business management were furnished with *carte blanche*, by himself and the co-proprietors of the paper, in regard to any amount of expenditure they might see fit to incur for the purpose of securing the best ability available, the earliest and fullest intelligence, the amplest and most trustworthy foreign correspondence, and the utmost perfection in all the administrative and mechanical details of the paper. "The character and influence of *The Argus* must be the primary and paramount consideration," he was accustomed to say, "and the interests of the proprietary a secondary and subordinate one." We leave the public to decide whether his injunction has been fulfilled.

Of the late Edward Wilson in private life it would be difficult to write much which might not be mistaken by those who were not personally, or who were only slightly, acquainted with him, for overstrained and indiscriminate eulogy. For he was one of those men who, besides having the national *morque*, had that sort of shyness and reserve, upon first coming into contact with strangers, which might be easily confounded with pride or hauteur. Moreover, his kind-heartedness and good-nature had been so often imposed upon by persons who had approached him with plausible manners and well-assumed *bonhomie*, that experience had warned him to lift the drawbridge to his heart, and reconnoitre new comers from behind the battlements of a cautious judgment before he permitted their approach, but, once assured that they were worthy of acquaintance and esteem, he soon made them feel what a fund of warmth and geniality there was underneath that mask of coldness or reserve. He seemed, indeed, to have acted upon the advice of the Danish chamberlain to his son:—

"The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,  
Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel;  
But do not dull thy palm with entertainment  
Of each new-hatch'd, unfledged comrade."

It has been said by a good judge of human nature that you should shun the man who is avoided by children and animals. Both these were attracted to Mr. Wilson by that subtle instinct of which we perceive the operation without being able to explain the cause. A bachelor himself, and therefore amenable to the reproach which Constance levelled at the Cardinal, Mr. Wilson nevertheless delighted to surround himself with bright young faces, and to devise all sorts of methods for

making them brighter. In the spacious and substantial country house at Hayes, where he dispensed a generous hospitality to all comers, and was never so happy as when visitors from Australia were underneath his roof, he lived the life of the "fine old English gentleman" described in the ancient ballad. Around him were "the brotherhood of venerable trees;" the velvet lawn which had soothed the eyes of Chatham when, wearied with the cares of state, he found a rest and refuge in the sequestered stillness of that beautiful retreat; and all the peaceful influences of nature in her loveliest garb. The sleek kine came and fed out of his hands; the birds, as secure from the gun of the fowler as their comrades were in the grounds of Waterton, the naturalist, at Walton-hall, hovered about him in trusting friendliness, waiting for the largesse which they knew that he would bring them; and with all the living things in that green domain the ex-journalist had contracted ties of amity, which were only capable of being broken by death. And there, blending thought with exercise; near enough to London to "see the stir of the great Babel and not feel the crowd;" to welcome once a week, or oftener, politicians, men of letters, and artists, who brought with them the aroma of the best intellectual society of the capital, Mr. Wilson spent the evening of a beneficent and busy life; a life of which its later ease had been richly earned by early hardships and by strenuous toil; a life prolonged to the ordinary term of human existence; a life of vicissitude, of manly endeavour, of unflinching effort, and of compensating and complete success; a life which closed amidst

"That which should accompany old age,  
As honour, love, obedience, troops of friends."

## ABORIGINES

1881

THE CHINESE AND ABORIGINES.  
Of these we give the total results as follow:—

	Chinese.			Aborigines.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Census of 1881 .. ..	11,600	198	11,798	459	309	768
Census of 1871 .. ..	17,899	36	17,935	784	546	1330
Increase .. ..	.. ..	160	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Decrease .. ..	6,299	.. ..	6,139	325	237	562

It is not possible, owing to the reason given by the Government statist, to make any detailed comparison with the returns now given and those of 1871. Mr. Hayter now publishes the returns per census district for the sake of speed, and the division into towns, cities, and boroughs has yet to be made. The gross results for the present and previous enumerations are as follow:—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1838 .. ..	3,080	431	3,512
1841 .. ..	8,274	3,464	11,738
1846 .. ..	90,184	12,695	32,879
1851 .. ..	48,202	31,113	77,315
1854 .. ..	155,887	80,911	236,798
1857 .. ..	294,334	146,432	440,766
1861 .. ..	328,651	211,671	540,322
1871 .. ..	401,051	330,477	731,528
1881 .. ..	448,510	407,286	855,796

# JOHN DAWSON

THE LATE MR DAWSON, LINLITHGOW.—Our obituary of Saturday announced the death of Mr John Dawson, Greenpark, Linlithgow, a gentleman well known in West Lothian, alike in respect of the family with which he was connected, and of the public position which he himself long filled. It would be seen that Mr Dawson had attained his 82d year. He seems to have come of a race endowed with rare vitality, for his father, Mr [Dawson] of Bonnytoun, reached the patriarchal age of 90; his eldest brother died an octogenarian; and so did another brother, Mr Adam Dawson, whom we had occasion to notice at the time of his demise, about four years ago, as a man of more than ordinary capacity, and great public usefulness; while a third, Mr Peter Dawson, is now living in Glasgow, in his 88th year. Mr John Dawson was educated at Glasgow University; and, after serving an apprenticeship in a Leith wine merchant's office, he joined with his brother Adam in starting a brewery at Linlithgow, where their father had carried on the business of a distiller. The brewery was ultimately given up, and a large distillery built near the railway station, which was gradually added to as the concern of Adam and John Dawson extended its operations. Mr John Dawson, while bearing an active part in the business of his firm, devoted a good deal of attention to questions relating to the malt and spirit duties, on which he wrote a series of articles that appeared in the *Scotsman* and other newspapers. Intimately connected with the town of Linlithgow, Mr Dawson was naturally led to take an interest in its municipal affairs, on which he brought to bear the natural shrewdness and ready aptitude which were among his distinguishing characteristics. For upwards of half a century he was a member of the Town Council, and during the long period of fourteen years—from 1855 to 1869—he held the important office of Provost of the burgh—a dignity which was formerly enjoyed by his father, and after him for many years by his brother Adam above referred to; and in which he was succeeded by that brother's son, the present worthy Chief Magistrate. It was during Mr John Dawson's Provostship that the Lindsay Act was adopted by the burgh. He was instrumental in carrying through many local improvements; and on retiring from office he was presented with his portrait, painted by Sir Daniel Macnee. Mr Dawson was for many years on the commission of the peace for the county of Linlithgow. In politics he was a sound Liberal; and as such had from early years manifested a keen interest in all the county elections, as to the conduct of which, under the old regime, he had a great fund of significant stories. Of a singularly unobtrusive and unassuming disposition, Mr Dawson bore himself towards all with whom he was brought into contact with a kindly courtesy which rendered him a general favourite in the district. He continued to his 75th year to give regular attention to the management of the distillery; but, on the death of his brother in 1873, he retired from the business, which was then disposed of. About four years ago he had a slight shock of paralysis, but from this he rallied, and subsequently enjoyed fair health till three weeks since. A severe cold led to the complication of ailments under which he has just succumbed. Mr Dawson married a daughter of Mr John Gillon, Leith, who survives him; as do also all his family, of two sons and two daughters; one of the latter being the wife of the Rev. A. Shepherd, Ecclesmachan; and the two former being in business in Leith, along with their grandfather, Mr Gillon.

*Scotsman 17 June 1878*

JAN. 18, 1866.]

MELBOURNE PUNCH.

### A CURIOSITY OF CARTAGE.

MR. PUNCH, like his neighbours, is not unfamiliar with what the worthy men who prepare them pleasantly call "little bills;" and to tell the plain truth he rather hates the sight of them. But a little bill has been kindly handed to him to make what use he likes of, for the moral edification and temporary titillation of the public mind, and he felt himself so morally elevated and so momentarily titillated by its perusal himself that he has been tempted to reproduce it below.

The story is briefly this:—An eminent medical man, (not the one who advertises himself as eminent) one dark night not long since, got chucked out of his buggy in a Melbourne suburb. He lay insensible for a little while, and the first accessible conveyance was chartered for his conveyance home, where, we are happy to say, he soon recovered from the effects of his accident. The vehicular accommodation that he received is amply indicated by the bill since sent in to him, and of which the following is as close a *fac simile* as the wood engraver can give.

1, WELLINGTON STREET,

ST. KILDA, Jan. 8th, 1866.

W. Dr. Thomas,

Dr. to E. BOSELEY,

CHIMNEY SWEEP AND NIGHTMAN.

Water Closets Emptied on the shortest notice. Furniture Removed by Covered Spring Vans. Yards Cleared and Rubbish Removed.

*For removing the Doctor from  
Electioneering*

		10 0

It seems only necessary to add that Mr. Punch, in publishing names in full, in order that the historic truth of this little narrative—wherein its sole merits consists—may be the more apparent, has been actuated by public motives only, and has received no fee or reward for this magnificent advertisement from either of the professional gentlemen who appear as debtor and creditor in the above document.

### MOTHER SHIPTON'S PROPHECIES !!

Have recently been discovered in the British Museum, written in an old Manuscript work, A.D. 1448, and portions have been published in the *Globe* Newspaper of February 17th, 1877.

This wonderful woman lived till she was of an extraordinary age. She died at Clifton, in Yorkshire, from which is taken the following Epitaph, copied from a stone monument.

Here lies she who never ly'd,  
Whose skill often has been try'd:  
Her Prophecies still survive,  
And ever keep her name alive.

Carriages without horses shall go,  
And accidents fill the world with woe:  
Primrose Hill in London shall be,  
And in its centre a Bishop's see.

Around the world thoughts shall fly  
In the twinkling of an eye.

Water shall yet more wonders do  
How strange, yet shall be true,  
The world upside down shall be;  
And gold found at the root of tree,  
Through hills men shall ride,  
And no horse or ass be by their side,  
Under water men shall walk,  
Shall ride, shall sleep, and talk:  
In the air men shall be seen,  
In white, in black, and in green.

A great man shall come and go!  
Three times shall lovely France  
Be led to play a bloody dance;  
Before her people shall be free,  
Three Tyrant Rulers shall she see;  
Three times the people's hope is gone;  
Three Rulers in succession see,  
Each springing from different dynasty.  
Then shall the worse fight be done,  
England and France shall be as one.

The British Olive next shall twine  
In marriage with German vine.

Men shall walk over rivers and under  
rivers.

Iron in the water shall float  
As easy as a wooden boat,  
Gold shall be found, and found  
In a land that's not now known:  
Fire and water shall more wonders do.  
England shall at last admit a Jew,  
The Jew that was held in scorn,  
Shall of a Christian be born, and born.

A house of glass shall come to pass  
In England—but alas!  
War will follow with the work,  
In the land of the Pagan and Turk;  
And state and state in fierce strife  
Will seek each other's life.  
But when the North shall divide the  
South,  
An Eagle shall build in the Lion's Mouth

Taxes for blood and for War  
Will come to every door.

All England's sons that plough the land,  
Shall be seen book in hand,  
Learning shall so ebb and flow,  
The poor shall most wisdom know.

Waters shall flow where corn shall grow  
Corn shall grow where waters doth flow  
Houses shall appear in the vales below  
And covered by hail and snow.

The world then to an end shall come  
In Eighteen Hundred and Eighty-one.

JANUARY 25, 1861.

## SALMON BREEDING ON THE RIVER TAY.

Inced, no doubt, by the success which had attended the artificial fish-breeding operations carried on so extensively on the Continent, the proprietors of the salmon fisheries on the River Tay resolved to construct near Perth, on the property of Lord Mansfield, who kindly granted a site for that purpose, a depôt for the practice of pisciculture. The more immediate inducements to attempt operations in artificial fish breeding were undoubtedly the increasing scarcity of fish and a falling rental, caused in some degree, we are led to believe, by over-fishing and the unprotected state of the water. It was well known that the rivers of France, the whole of which had become of less value than the Tay, had been re-peopled, and rendered of great value to the nation by the artificial system, and also that a grand central piscicultural establishment or laboratory, covering about 70 acres of ground, had been erected and carried on with great success at Huningue, near Basle, to serve as a depôt for the distribution of ova to exhausted rivers. In Ireland, too, pisciculture had been successfully established at Oughterard, by Mr. Ashworth, of Egerton-hall, Bolton, who purchased the salmon fisheries of Lough Corrib from the Encumbered Estates Court. He and his brother began the system in December, 1852, and some of the readers of *The Times* will no doubt remember that at the National Exhibition, in Dublin, the Messrs. Ashworth exhibited salmon (artificially hatched) three months old. Some one or two experiments have also been tried at other places, but more from fancy than with a view to commercial purposes.

One principal cause for the practice of pisciculture is the certainty of affording efficient protection to the spawn during the period of hatching, and also of allowing the shoal of young fry to attain to something like "months of discretion" before it proceeds on its first grand tour. The ova, or roe of the salmon, affords food to a great many of the smaller fishes of our large rivers—it is eaten with avidity by the pike and trout, and gobbled up in large quantities by ducks and other waterfowl. A whiting of about three-quarters of a pound in weight, has been taken with 300 impregnated salmon ova in his stomach! If this fish had been allowed to dine and breakfast at this rate during the whole of the spawning season it would have been difficult to estimate the loss to our fisheries sustained by his voracity. The alluvial matter deposited in times of flood, often smothered the ova, even when it is hatched under such circumstances, and frequent "spates" sweep away whole spawning beds, to the certain destruction of the great mass of roe. The young fry suffer also. Thousands are killed annually as well by the larger fishes of their own species as by the juvenile angler who, with a short stick and a crooked pin, does rapid execution. A very small percentage of the ova, therefore (considering how prolific all fishes are) when left in its natural state, ever comes the length of being hatched, and few out of those which struggle into existence ever reach our tables in the marketable shape of grilse or salmon. Out of the myriads of eggs deposited by the female fish—1,000 to each pound she weighs—it is thought by some naturalists, that about five of the eggs in every thousand will, on the average, attain to grilsehood, and two out of the five may become a full-grown salmon. At the period of the migration of the smolts to the sea, shoals of them are devoured by the hordes of marine creatures who, with unerring instinct, are laying in wait for them.

The Tay breeding ponds are situated at Colinhaugh, better known, however, as Stormontfield, distant about five miles from Perth, and of easy access by the public road, and also by railway; but this latter route involves a journey of about a mile and a-half over byways and through fields, as well as the trouble of crossing the river Shoochey, and, after all, the traveller arrives on the wrong side of the Tay, and requires to hail Peter Marshall, the guardian of the place, in order to be ferried over. The breeding ponds were constructed from designs by Mr. Peter Brown, Perth, and are said to answer admirably all the purposes connected with the artificial system of salmon breeding. They are not of very great extent, accommodation for 300 breeding boxes having only as yet been provided, but they are situated on a well-selected spot, protected by a sheltering plantation of well-grown trees. The water supply is derived from a rapid mill stream which runs parallel with the Tay. A large reservoir is kept filled with water from this stream, which is ultimately filtered into a kind of ditch, or canal, at the head of the bed containing the range of boxes filled with gravel, on which is placed the impregnated salmon roe. From this ditch the water is laid on to the boxes, and gradually makes its way from one to the other down the gentle slope on which they are placed, flowing on in a constant, unvarying stream into a receiving canal, or dam, from whence it is conducted into another reservoir, about a quarter of an acre in extent, which acts likewise as a receiving pond for the young fish. The superfluous water is let into the Tay by means of a narrow canal, which also in its turn serves as a roadway for the smolts when the time comes for their departure from the ponds.

The 300 boxes at this establishment, when filled with gravel, afford room for the hatching of about half a million of salmon, but only 300,000 were experimented on in the first season, commencing in November, 1853.

The operation of obtaining and preparing the ova for the first experiment was intrusted to Mr. Ramsbottom, who is an adept in the art of pisciculture, and his own description of the mode of shedding the spawn and the manner of impregnating it is as follows:—

"So soon as a pair of suitable fish were captured the ova of the female were immediately discharged into a tub one-fourth full of water, by a gentle pressure of the hands from the thorax downwards. The milt of the male was ejected in a similar manner, and the contents of the tub stirred with the hand. After the lapse of a minute the water was poured off, with the exception of sufficient to keep the ova submerged, and fresh water supplied in its place. This also was poured off, and fresh substituted, previous to removing the impregnated spawn to the boxes prepared for its reception. The ova was placed in the boxes as nearly similar to what they would be under the ordinary course of natural deposition as possible, with, however, this advantage:—in the bed of the river the ova are liable to injury and destruction in a variety of ways, while, deposited in boxes, they are shielded from injury, and their vivification in large numbers is thus rendered a matter of certainty, and the young fish reared in safety."

Mr. Ramsbottom expressed his opinion that the Tay was one of the finest breeding streams in the world, and that it would be presumptive to limit the number of salmon that might be raised there were the river cultivated up to its capabilities. The ova required for the boxes was all got from fish taken from one little spawning bed just below Scone Palace.

After the deposition of the ova at the Stormontfield ponds, much anxiety was, of course, evinced during the winter as to the likelihood of a favourable result. All doubts on this point were set at rest in the ensuing spring, for on the 31st of March, 1854, the first egg or ovum was observed to be hatched, and all the other eggs came safely to life in the course of April or May. In the month of June, the fry were transferred from the boxes to the pond, and at that date their average size was about an inch and a-half in length, with a corresponding degree of breadth. After being placed in the reception pond, the young fry were fed every day with grated liver. They grew apace, remaining in a healthy state throughout the winter, which was a very severe one; and, in the course of the first year they attained to a length of four inches, and on the 19th of May, 1855, it was found that portions of the fry were rapidly assuming the smolt dress, and were ready to depart from the ponds. The sluice leading to the Tay was opened, in order to afford egress, but none of the fish moved away till a few days afterwards when one little shoal that had detached itself from the general body took its departure. A rapid series of similar emigrations took place, till it was found that fully one half of the fish had left the pond. The other half, it is curious to know, remained in the parr state till about the same period next year, when they also entered the river. Sir William Jardine, in reporting on these breeding ponds to the British Association, said of the first year's experiment that he looked upon it as having been highly successful, showing the practicability of hatching, rearing, and maintaining in health a very large number of young fish for a period of two years, and, not reckoning the original outlay for the ponds, at a really trifling cost.

The breeding experiments of Stormontfield, as well as being a commercial success, so far as they have been prosecuted, have also served to throw some additional light on the natural history of the salmon, and have definitively settled the question as to the parr being the young of that fish, which has long been a disputed point with naturalists. It was the art of pisciculture, which originally, long before the Stormontfield experiments were thought of, brought out the fact of the parr being really the young of the salmon, and not, as was always supposed by many people, a distinct fish. Various controversies had raged on this point in the scientific world for a great number of years, both sides, as is usual in such disputes, considering themselves in the right. The Ettrick Shepherd was among the stoutest of the disputants, and asserted with might and main that a parr was a young salmon; but it was reserved to Mr. Shaw, forester to the Duke of Buccleuch at Drumlanrig, to demonstrate the fact, which he did in a series of experiments, carried out during a period of five years—viz., from 1833 to 1838. Mr. Young, of Invershin, manager of the Duke of Sutherland's fisheries, also became engaged in similar experiments, and the conclusion arrived at by that gentleman was that the parr was undoubtedly the young of the salmon, and that it certainly changed to the smolt state as Mr. Shaw said—with this difference, that Mr. Young asserted that the change took place in one year, while Mr. Shaw maintained that the parr was two years of age when it became a smolt. The Stormontfield operations have now proved both gentlemen to be right and also, in a sense, both to be wrong, as it has been shown that one-half of the parr leaves the pond the first year, the other half following in a period of 12 months; and the disputation may be said to be still carried on, for we are in ignorance of any regulating principle by which the change from parr to smolts is produced, or to account for the impulse which impels the fish to pro-

ceed to sea the moment they have assumed the smolt dress.

With the view of determining some of these anomalies in the natural history of the salmon which are still in abeyance, further experiments of a more elaborate kind than those originally determined on were instituted at the breeding ponds. Thus, in November and December, 1857, provision was made for hatching in separate compartments the artificially impregnated ova of—1, parr and salmon; 2, grilse and salmon; 3, grilse pure; 4, salmon pure. It was found, when the young of these different matches came to be examined early in April, 1859, that the sizes of each kind varied a little. Mr. Buist, the superintendent of fisheries, informing us that,—“1st, the produce of the salmon with salmon are 4 inches in length; 2d, grilse with salmon 3½ inches; 3d, grilse with grilse 3½ inches; 4th, parr with grilse 3 inches; 5th, smolt from large pond 5 inches.” These results of a varied manipulation never got a fair chance of being of use as a proof in the disputation, for, owing to the limited extent of the ponds, the experiments had to be matured in such small boxes or ponds as evidently tended to stunt the growth of the fish. Up to the present time we have not solved the riddle which has so long puzzled our naturalists in connexion with the growth of the salmon. Another “idea” has also been tested at Stormontfield by Mr. Buist. Some theorists supposing that the salmon ova might be impregnated before it left the female fish, it was determined to test this. A box or two were set aside and stocked with ripe ova direct from the female fish. The result was foreseen by all concerned—the whole of these eggs rotted away.

In consequence of the limited extent of the establishment at Stormontfield, it is found to be inconvenient to stock the boxes annually, as the two-year-old brood in waiting for the period of exodus would certainly devour the new-born fry as they emerged from the egg and were admitted to the pond. The whole of the experiments conducted on the Tay have been entirely successful, with the exception of season 1855, which partially failed, it is supposed, from unskillful management in the manipulation of the graded fish and the severity of the season. The next hatchings were more fortunate, and helped to swell the stock of the river. Mr. Buist, under his piscicultural cognomen of “Peter of the Pools,” gives us the following statistics:—“In one of our lines of boxes we deposited 11,000 eggs of a female salmon, impregnated with the milt of a male grilse, each of the boxes containing upwards of 1,000 eggs. Of these 11,000, only about 30 eggs were added; the remainder all produced living fish, that are now (May 29, 1858) swimming about among the thousands from other boxes. This certainly is a very gratifying result, as not one in a hundred of ova deposited in the river by the salmon themselves comes to life, owing to perils of floods and droughts and risks of being devoured by fishes and waterfowls. Here an artificial breeding protects 11,000 of the eggs from one pair of fish till they become living fry. These will be protected from the devouring pikes and puddock-worriers until ready to go to sea next year and the year following, while their contemporaries in the river are all that time subjected to the attacks of the marauders.” In 1857 the total number of eggs which were laid down was 160,000, nearly all of which came duly to life, and were in good time launched on their journey oceanward; and it is worthy of remark in connexion with this hatch that the eggs were from 14 grilse and the milt from 15 salmon.

In order to ascertain at what period the smolts become grilse, and what percentage of the smolts come back from their first trip to the salt water, a system of marking was adopted for the purpose of arriving at some correct data on these points. The results, however, have not been quite so satisfactory as could be wished, some of the plans of marking adopted having failed. The young fish thrives so rapidly that in two months it may grow from a smolt the size of a man's finger to a fish of 5lb. or 6lb. weight. It is obvious, therefore, that those marked by the insertion of rings or the cutting off of any of their fins will soon outgrow all such marks; when holes are punched in their gill covers nature soon fills them up; when the dead fin is cut the place heals over and leaves no trace of the mark; but, in spite of these drawbacks, some marked smolts have returned to the Tay grown, in the space of a year, into the proportions of handsome grilse a few pounds in weight. For instance, of 1,300 smolts marked in 1855, by cutting off the second dorsal fin, 22 were caught and seen by the superintendent as grilse.

The latest breed (at Stormontfield, the result of which is not yet determined) is entirely for full grown salmon, and the backward season has very greatly retarded their growth. It is pleasant to know that the hundreds of thousands of fish bred in these ponds are already felt as a makeweight in the revenue derived from the Tay fisheries. Rents are again on the rise, so that the proprietors will in due time be amply compensated for the small assessment necessary for the piscicultural operations which have of late years attracted so much attention at Stormontfield.



THE LATE MR. ROBERT RAMSAY, M.L.A.

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— D<sup>r</sup> HOWITT —



TAY SALMON FISHERIES.

The chair was taken by Viscount Dupplin. A letter from Mr Westone, of Redgorton, was read, stating the amount of the demand for ova. "It is," he said, "with fair accuracy computed that a female salmon produces 1000 ova for every pound she weighs. Thus, a fish of 20 lbs. should produce 20,000 ova. The experiment of transmitting spawn cannot be carried out on any very large scale, and I believe from 60,000 to 100,000 ova is the utmost that could be desired. The larger amount is the produce of 6 fish averaging from 16 lbs. to 18 lbs. This would be the amount of the damage to be done to the river in the event of the request being acceded to—a damage which can scarcely be said even to be fractional."

MARRIAGE

TAYLOR—DAWSON.—On the 12th inst., at Waurong, Camperdown, by the Rev. F. R. M. Wilson, W. A. Taylor, Esq., to Isabella Park, only daughter of James Dawson, Esq., Waurong.

Argus 16<sup>th</sup> April 1877

LINLITHGOW—DEATH OF PROVOST DAWSON.—This well-known and respected gentleman has died at the comparatively early age of 52, having been Provost of Linlithgow about twelve years. Provost Dawson's loss will be much felt in the Town Council. He was resident manager of the extensive distillery of A. & J. Dawson; an active member of the Volunteer force from the beginning of the movement; captain of the 1st company of the Linlithgowshire battalion, and retired from the force when major of the battalion. In politics Provost Dawson was an enthusiastic Liberal, and chairman of the Liberal Committee of the burgh. He was also a J.P. of the county, and the only remanent honorary Sheriff-Substitute.

He died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1881

Green granules  
Olivine

White transparent  
crystals like quartz  
Oligoclase

Round chess like  
buttons  
Obridian



THE LATE REV. DR. NORMAN MACLEOD.



SIR ROBERT CHRISTISON, BART., M.D., EDINBURGH.





*View of Mount Elephant taken on the spot (and afterwards drawn on a lithographic stone) by James Dawson.*

## CHLOROFORM

— 1885 —

**LINLITHGOW—DEATH OF MR GEORGE WALDIE.**  
—On Sunday morning Mr George Waldie, one of the best known inhabitants of Linlithgow, died after a few days' illness, at the age of 62. Mr Waldie carried on the business of a bookseller and printer, established by his father early in the present century, and also the business of a chemist and druggist, which originally belonged to his brother, Dr David Waldie, now of Calcutta, and who suggested to the late Sir James Simpson the use of chloroform as an anæsthetic. In literary circles Mr Waldie was known as a well-informed student of historical, antiquarian, and archaeological lore, and was the author of a widely circulated "History of Linlithgow," "Walks along the Northern Roman Wall," a book full of antiquarian information; a useful "Geography of Linlithgowshire," used as a text-book in the schools in the county, and a handy "Strangers' Guide to Linlithgow Palace." Mr Waldie was also a frequent contributor to the local newspapers. In municipal affairs he took no prominent part, but in all matters relating to the general good of the community he could always be depended upon for active assistance. He acted as secretary to the Mechanics' Institute and Library from the date of its formation in 1850, as treasurer of the Horticultural Society from 1847, was one of the original members of the bowling club, and also one of the original members of the Linlithgowshire Savings, Investment, and Building Society, and for many years was chairman of its board of directors. He was also a director of the local gas company, and was twice elected deacon of the oldest friendly society in Scotland, for which society he wrote out a history from its records.

## GREAT EASTERN Steamer

Length.... 691 feet  
Beam..... 85 —"  
Depth..... 60 —"

**CHLOROFORM**  
*Linlithgow Gazette 6th*  
*January 1894*  
*Mr Park Treasurer of*  
*Linlithgow writes.*

to many other towns in England afterwards. My object in interfering at all in this matter, which otherwise lies out of my line, is to point out and defend the share (and it is second to none) taken by Dr David Waldie, of Linlithgow, in the discovery of chloroform. Forty-five years ago I was on the most intimate terms of friendship with Dr Waldie's family, and my contact with them during the first twenty years of this time was of almost daily occurrence. Dr James Young Simpson belonged to the neighbouring town of Bathgate, a few miles from Linlithgow, where his father had a prosperous baking business. The afterwards Sir James Y. Simpson was a constant visitor at his father's home, and as there was then no railway between Edinburgh and Bathgate, Dr Simpson had to come to Linlithgow and drive home, or go by coach which ran twice a day. Dr Simpson never passed through Linlithgow without calling at Dr Waldie's father's, who was a chemist and druggist. At this time, there were three sons and three daughters of the Waldies. The family was known as one of the most intellectual of the district. Both sons and daughters were born chemists, each taking his or her turn in the dispensing of medicines and prescriptions sent in by the doctors of the neighbourhood. There were no Pharmacy Acts in those days, but the business is still carried on by a sister of Dr Waldie's. The high intellect of the family brought them many visitors. There I first made the acquaintance of Sir James Y. Simpson, Sir Wyville Thompson (of Challenger fame), Professor Archibald Geikie, Professor Millar (author of "Alcohol: its Place and Power") and many others. Linlithgow like many Scotch towns, figures largely in history, but the moment a young man has acquired his trade, profession, or education, there is nothing to detain him at home, and he must go out into the world, taking his talents with him, for better or for worse. So about the very time the chloroform agitation was exciting the medical world, Dr David Waldie received the appointment of 'chemist to the Liverpool Apothecaries' Company'—at that time said to be one of the best (and for all I know still is so) in the kingdom.

This would be about the end of 1846. In November of 1847, the Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society held its meeting at the Royal Institution, and on the evening of Monday, 29th November, Mr David Waldie read an article entitled 'Chloroform, the new agent for producing insensibility to pain by inhalation.' The story of Professor Simpson and his assistant Dr Keith experimenting with this new substance, as suggested by Mr David Waldie, is well known. Messrs Duncan & Flockart, the well-known Edinburgh chemists, supplied the ether, but so little did either Simpson or Keith know of its power that they inhaled it themselves in their private study, to such an extent as to be on the point of death when found by some one who entered. Professor Simpson, in his lectures to his students, acknowledged his indebtedness to Mr David Waldie for bringing before him chloroform as the substance for an anæsthetic. In his pamphlet, published after the discovery, he therein acknowledges the same, and in an exhaustive article in the *Lancet* of 2nd July, 1870, on the same subject, Dr Simpson's indebtedness to Mr D. Waldie is fully borne out. I must here also add, Sir J. Y. Simpson was not a chemist, so had to fall back upon his acquaintances for information on new substances. Dr Waldie, on the other hand, had dispensed drugs all his life, and none knew their properties better. Whatever share your late correspondents had in this matter of chloroform, the credit is due to Dr David Waldie for the suggestion, and to Sir James Simpson for the full honour of this discovery. Mr Waldie called upon me here in Newcastle a short time before his death. Unfortunately, I was from home, and never again had the pleasure of seeing him. Revering his memory, I think it a duty and a pleasure to bear my testimony to his worth."

## BLACKFELLOWS' OVENS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN.

Sir,—I am obliged for the brief notice of your correspondent "Wm. Adeney" in reference to the subject given at the head of this letter. It would be taken as a favour if your correspondent would also give at least an approximation to the dates at which his communications have appeared. In the meantime, so far as yet transpires, I am led to the conclusion that there has been no systematic and scientific examination of the mounds in question. As to the designation under which I have referred to the "ash-heaps," as "Blackfellows' Ovens," I may say that it appeared somewhat strange to myself when first I heard it from some old colonists with whom I conversed on the subject. On further inquiry, however, I found the designation was more appropriate than at first sight appeared. Considerable quantities of stones are often found in the mounds, and these arranged in rude circles formed the ovens in which or on which the cooking arrangements took place. The stones kept the game from contact with the ashes, just as the pots of civilised people perform the same office.

Having become somewhat interested in the subject, I have examined, at least partially, three other mounds in a part of the country about eighty miles distant from that in which are situated the ovens already described in *The Australasian* of the 25th January. If you can afford the space I have a few remarks to make regarding them. These remarks may be conveniently associated with an enumeration of the uses for which the ovens appear to have served. 1. Cooking appears, on all hands, to have been a primary use in the case. The external testimony of the old colonists, derived from the blacks themselves, is amply corroborated at this point by the discovery of the bones of the opossum in the mounds. Yet, viewed as cooking places, it is plain that the cooking fires could not have covered the whole area of the mounds. The conflagration arising from a pile of wood covering an area of seventy-nine yards in circumference would have been altogether unapproachable for cooking purposes. Also, had the game been placed on the ovens and subjected to a fire of such a character as that indicated, a whole hecatomb of the largest kangaroos would have been consumed to ashes. It follows plainly that on occasions of cooking the fires must have been of more manageable dimensions. This obvious deduction appears to be substantiated by an examination of the arrangement of the stones in the mounds. At the centre of the mound is sometimes to be seen a circle of stones about two or three feet in diameter. The pick reveals the existence of more buried under the ashes. These vary in size, ordinarily from the dimensions of mere pebbles up to pieces about the size of a man's head. A score or more of these stones may be found as having formed apparently one oven. But besides this central oven, I have noticed four or five others distributed over the remaining space of the mound. This was the case in a small mound not more than twenty-one paces in circumference. Also, when stones were easily obtained, as those used got embedded in the ashes, others would naturally enough be brought and put at any convenient spot. In this way, as some of the mounds grew in size, the stones would become so distributed as to destroy the separate identity of the ovens, the mound becoming, in fact, full of stones. This I have also seen—a mound situated in a gully near a watercourse, in which were plenty of stones, was found to have stones very fully distributed throughout. 2. The fires necessary almost every day for cooking would also, during winter and cold or wet weather, serve the purpose of warming the almost shelterless aboriginals. It is in this connexion that we get sufficient occasion for large fires, covering the whole area of the mounds. Some of the large mounds present so beautifully regular a curved outline that some cause of steady operation must be brought in to account for the symmetry produced. Separate ovens—that is, separate fires, though within a few feet of each other—would not produce the regularity observable in many cases in the structure of the mounds, as narrated in my former letter. The interference with the regularity of the curve of outline,

arising from the fact that an aboriginal had been buried in the mound, drew my attention so nearly to the precise spot of the grave, that I struck the spade at the very first within about a foot or little more of the skeleton; yet the larger diameter of this mound measured nearly sixty feet. Besides cold weather, I have mentioned wet weather above, and this brings in another point. I have often noticed that the place chosen for the ovens is, naturally and appropriately, the very apex of a rising ground. Even when there was the imperative necessity to have the cooking fires near the margin of a lagoon, for the convenience of water for drinking, the spot chosen would necessarily have to be suitable, on the score of dryness of position, else the collection of the rain waters would extinguish the fires. Also in connexion with the large fires in winter and wet weather for warming purposes, comes the question of the quantity of fuel consumed. An ash-heap seventy-nine yards in circumference and five feet thick at the centre must be the remnant of a small forest. No doubt, however, scientific analysis is indispensable for arriving at a correct estimate at this point. We are told that in cooking, quantities of earth were piled outside the bark and grass which were laid upon the game, which was cooked by a process of steaming, thus developing still further the appropriateness of the term "oven" as applied to the rude contrivances of the aboriginals for preparing their food. But in this case it becomes necessary to take an average of the contents of the mounds, to ascertain how much is ash due to the combustion of wood and how much is mere soil mixed with the ash. 3. As to the smoke signals, I suppose it must be admitted that the extent to which the mounds owe their existence to this cause is altogether insignificant compared with the former two. Of the subject I know nothing myself but what I have read, but the observed position of the mounds appears to bear upon the matter. The mounds referred to in my former letter were all situated in the neighbourhood of a lake, or certain and determinate order in the form of a triangle, the apex always pointing to the east. In some instances I have observed they were laid in the form of the pointed gothic arch, but always consisting of a single row in either case, and never deviating a point from due east. It will be at once conceded that the form and direction cannot be accidental coincidences, and if merely used for cooking purposes, an eastern aspect and a triangular enclosure pointing in the same direction were no more favourable for the purpose indicated than any other. In short, I believe these mounds to have been the altars used by the aboriginals at a remote period in their worship of the sun. This conclusion was arrived at after observing the similarity of the sites chosen to those of the altars of the ancient Britons dedicated to the same worship. Objection has been offered to this view, that amongst the present aboriginal population of Australia the sun is not regarded as an object of adoration. This may be true, and yet not conclusive evidence that such was not the case at a remote period in the past.

Sir Charles Lyell, writing on the antiquity of man, gives to the Australian aborigine an antiquity so remote as to warrant us in believing that this belief may not only have ceased to exist, but that the very tradition of it may have died out amongst their degenerate descendants of the present day, and can now only take its place with Mr. Blair's "Lost Secrets of History." This view is further confirmed by the name given to these mounds by some of the tribes in the interior, viz., "noweenth weenth" (or sun fires), from which it is not improbable that fire was in some way associated with their worship. The finding of human skeletons and other animal remains is very easily accounted for. When those altars were no longer devoted to their original uses, many of them that were near to creeks and camping places of the tribes would be turned into account by the natives constructing their ovens of the already accumulated stones. It is a noteworthy fact that those used as cooking places are in the immediate vicinity of water or some favourite hunting ground, the others being found in their original condition. I do not wonder at your correspondent "M." not finding human remains amongst the ashes of those he examined with the exception of No. 1, and even in that instance it must have been buried after the mound ceased to do service as

an oven, otherwise it would be wholly or partially burned. These mounds being the only footprints left on the field of time by a people whose sun is fast setting, I trust they may receive more attention from the curious in such matters.—I am, &c.,  
Feb. 26. W. S.

## NATIVE OVENS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN.

Sir,—I have read two letters in the last number of *The Australasian*, on the subject of the ash heaps, or native ovens, which are found in all parts of the country, but principally on the banks of streams or lagoons. Your correspondent "M." describes the mounds as they are now to be seen, and thinks it extraordinary that some of them should be so large. He mentions one he measured as seventy-nine yards in circumference. This oven was no doubt the growth of centuries. "M." says that the heat from a pile of wood covering such an area would be unapproachable. Granted. Of course it would; but the natives no more believe in the work such a collection of timber would entail, any more than they do in large fires. On a mound of this description two or three ovens would be in operation at the same time, after a successful day's hunting, each oven being heated by a separate fire. The wood ash forms only a small portion of the heap; the greater part is burnt earth, a quantity of wet clay or earth being used in the construction of each oven, which becoming burnt and powdered went to increase the heap. Their mode of cooking was this. When a successful kangaroo hunt had taken place the game was taken to the nearest oven, and the men set to work by digging and scratching a hole in the mound; in this hole the stones were placed, and all crevices inside and out filled up and plastered over with a quantity of damp earth or clay procured from the bank of the neighbouring stream. A fire was then made in the open oven, and kept up until the stones were nearly red hot; a few loose stones were left in the bottom of the oven; one or two of these were now taken out with a couple of pieces of stick by way of tongs, and placed in the inside of the kangaroo, which in the meantime had been skinned and opened; the aperture in the belly was then fastened up with a skewer and the animal placed in the oven, which was immediately closed with stones, and the whole covered over with more earth to keep in the heat and steam; in a couple of hours' time the oven was opened, and the half-baked, half-steamed kangaroo drawn forth and carried to the camp, there to be divided amongst its captors.

I have seen the Goulburn and Murray blacks cooking on the old heaps some five-and-twenty years ago. As for the regular form of the mounds, that is easily explained by the trampling of many feet and the winter rains. I have been thrown much amongst the natives, and have frequently spoken to them on the subject, and have always received the same answer, that they were constructed by them and their fathers before them.

Your correspondent "W. S." is of opinion that these mounds are the altars of an ancient race of sun worshippers; and in support of his opinion states that the heaps always command a view of the rising sun; that this is often so, I admit, although I have frequently found them occupying other aspects.

The blacks love the sun for the warmth he imparts, but from no feeling of veneration. It is well known that they like to construct their gnyahs and breakwinds facing the morning sun, that they may enjoy its first rays as they lay round their small camp fires; for the same reason they built their ovens generally in the same position, that they might obtain all the heat they could when collecting wood or working about the mounds on a cold morning. With regard to the peculiar form in which the stones were laid in the ovens examined by "W. S.," it most likely arose from the fact of a triangular oven being a much more convenient form for baking a whole kangaroo than a circle. But it is possible that certain tribes