

9
but I took him by the collar and Slung him
back among the crowd. amidst great Cheering
That man was Coony the Storekeeper on the same
spot. where Mr Howes Tiger afterwards paid a visit
on his way to the George Hotel where he was to be
seen long after. When the Police found they
could collect no Licenses after charging the
crowd they returned to the Camp. and the
men adjourned to Bakery Hill where Peter
Lalor mounted the stump sword in hand
and every man knelt in a ring and swore to
do or die. Then came the Stockade Tragedy
of which I shall have nothing to say. as I
was not there. but will ^{relate} ^{or} two personal
experiences relating thereto. I was Boarding
at the Victoria Restaurant kept by Mrs Skeath
of whom Mr Withers mentions in his History
of the Stockade I had been on the Night Shift
and was sitting waiting for my Breakfast
when we were startled by the entrance of a
dozen or more men Armed with Guns or Rifles
I believe they were called the Peep Brigade.

They demanded all Fire Arms and Provisions
there was in the place and as there were no
arms of any sort they could get none. Mrs Skeath
placed the Bread &c on the Table asking at
the same time to keep a loaf of Bread for
her Children as they had no breakfast
but the Leader of the Gang a Cowardly Ruffian
refused to leave any. I ^{had} taken no part in any way
up to this. but I could not ^{stand} any longer and see
the woman and her Children Robbed in that
manner without ^{doing} something in the matter.