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THE VICTORIAN HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

Vol. I.] JANUARY, 1911. [No. 1.

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(The Authors of Articles are responsible for the statements therein.)

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The Victorian Historical Magazine.

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Introductory Note.

THE Historical Society of Victoria was established on 21st May, 1909, for the purpose of collecting and publishing material relating to the history of the State of Victoria, and since the October of that year has held monthly meetings, at each of which a paper dealing with some phase of the subject has been read and discussed. The first two of these papers are now given to members and to the public in printed form, to be followed by the remainder in their proper order as means permit of publication.

In addition to the holding of meetings in Melbourne, efforts have been made by the Council to bring the Society's objects under notice in other parts of the State, and to induce the formation of sub-centres for the collection of historical material in the country districts. The interest of a number of Corresponding Members has been enlisted, and it is hoped that these will forward to the Society the results of their inquiries into matters of local history in such form as may be utilized either as papers for the General Meetings or as articles or paragraphs for the magazine.

It is intended to publish the *Victorian Historical Magazine* at such intervals as are rendered possible by the funds available for the purpose. In order to ensure its regular appearance, the enrolment of new members is urgently desired, as well as the payment of all over-due subscriptions. Full particulars and forms of application for membership may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Colonial Mutual Buildings, 421 Collins-street, Melbourne.

Annual Subscription (which includes a right to copies of all publications of the Society *gratis*):—Ordinary Members, 10s. 6d.; Corresponding Members, 5s.



THE LIBRARY.

The nucleus of a library and historical collection has been established at the Society's rooms, and already contains many items of interest presented by members and others. These may be inspected by appointment with the Hon. Librarian, Mr. C. Harper, Education Office, Treasury Gardens. Further contributions are requested of books, pamphlets, engravings, photographs, maps, plans, documents, and other material relating to the history of Victoria. A collection is also being formed of Victorian postage stamps, medals, tokens, and all forms of "paper money."

All communications on this subject to be addressed to the Hon. Secretary.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

- Fiji and the Western Pacific*, by the Rev. C. Stuart Ross. Geelong: H. Thacker, 1909.
- Index to the Parliamentary Papers of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, 1851-1909*, by J. M. Worthington, Clerk of the Papers. Melbourne: Government Printer [1910].
- Terre Napoleon: a History of French Explorations and Projects in Australia*, by Ernest Scott. London: Methuen and Co. [1910].
- Two Representative Tribes of Queensland, with an Inquiry concerning the Origin of the Australian Race*, by John Mathew, M.A., B.D. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1910.
- History of Hawthorn*, by C. G. A. Colles. Hawthorn: M. Dew, 1910.

PERIODICALS.

- Victorian Geographical Journal*, 1908-9. Melbourne: Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (Victoria).
- Australian Historical Society [Sydney] Journal and Proceedings*, 1908-9.
- Victorian Naturalist*. Melbourne: Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, April, 1910.
- Antiquarian Gazette*. Melbourne: Isidore Kozminsky, May, August, and December, 1910.
- Australian Storekeepers' and Traders' Journal*. Melbourne: May to December, 1910.
- The Criterion*. Wonthaggi: October to December, 1910.

Early Collingwood.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE 'FIFTIES AND 'SIXTIES OF LAST CENTURY.

BY EDWARD A. PETHERICK, F.R.G.S.

(*Read before the Society, 14th October, 1909.*)

THE first sale of Melbourne suburban lands was held in Sydney on the 13th February, 1838, when forty blocks, averaging twenty-five acres each, were put up and disposed of, mostly to Sydney speculators, who cut them up into small allotments for building purposes. These being re-offered by public auction on the spot, on the 29th October, 1839, and at short intervals thereafter, in a few months a new town sprang up—"NEWTOWN" it was called.* Concealed behind the Eastern Hill (then and for many years afterwards covered with gum-trees), Newtown was on higher ground, a cleaner and healthier place than Melbourne; about the same size, and not being more than half a mile distant, it soon boasted of a population of four hundred inhabitants. As the owners of the original blocks had planned their own streets, with little regard to general convenience, it was necessary to make some alterations. Instructions were therefore sent from Sydney in January, 1842, for proper alignments to be made. The new township was to include twelve † of the twenty-five acre blocks above mentioned, and to be called "COLLINGWOOD."

The boundaries of the new township extended northward from the present Victoria-parade to Reilly-street, and eastward from Nicholson-street to Smith-street—a Government road leading to Heidelberg and the Plenty River. Little Brunswick (now Fitzroy-street), Brunswick, Napier, George (each with the prefix "Great"), and Gore streets (all blocked before reaching the present Moor-street, only one-third their present length), alternating back lanes, dignified with names "Little ——— streets," and the intersecting Princes, Gertrude, King William, and Hanover streets—these formed the nucleus of that township of Collingwood, which, by 1851, had a population of nearly 3,000.

By the year 1854 shops rivalling those in Bourke-street, Melbourne, were to be found in Brunswick-street. Here were John Ball and Joseph Moate, grocers, E. and D. Langton, butchers, Bennett the ironmonger, Wymond and Vasey, drapers, as well as the "Brunswick" Hotel (Mrs.

* The name "Newtown" was visible in large letters on the side of a shop in Brunswick-street as late as 1855. Since the reading of this paper, another name relic of "Newtown" was discovered during the demolition of some old buildings in the same street.

† Nos. 48, 49, 50, 51, 69, 70, 71, 72, 82, 83, 84, and 85.

Elizabeth Lusher), and the "Labour in Vain" (with sign-board—a blackfellow in a tub and two white men trying to wash him white); the "Perseverance" was built afterwards, on the opposite side of the street. Alban Best, the chemist, was in Moor-street. In Gertrude-street were the "Swan" and the "Builders' Arms," and a dozen or twenty more good shops, Blackett, chemist, being just round the corner in Napier-street, where Dr. Farrage then also resided; Dr. Embling was in Gore-street, and Dr. Tracy in Brunswick-street, where he long reigned; the *élite* residing at the top end of that street, on Victoria-parade, or in Nicholson, Upper Fitzroy, King William, and Hanover streets. The Wesleyan Church was in Brunswick-street. The parish church was St. Peter's (Revs. Daniel Newham and H. P. Handfield), on the Eastern Hill. Bishop Perry, attending there on Sunday evenings, required a lamp to his path, through the bush (now Fitzroy Gardens), to his residence in Jolimont and East Melbourne. That is a glimpse of the original "Collingwood"—the Fitzroy ward of Melbourne, 1847-57; now, with further extensions northward to the Merri Creek, Fitzroy City.

* * * *

The other twenty-eight blocks sold in 1838 * east of Smith-street were mostly held by the original owners till 1849 and 1850; those on the "Flat," sparsely timbered, were, however, early "cleared" of fallen timber, and trees were felled for firewood and posts and rails—the axe rang early, all round Melbourne. Three blocks were fenced in and preserved for another forty years—Dight's Paddock, the Victoria Park site of to-day, remained covered with gum-trees and sheoaks until a comparatively recent period. The open spaces and that "park" were frequented by the aborigines late in the 'forties. Mrs. McCrae, mother of our revered poet, Mr. George Gordon McCrae, visiting the La Trobes at Jolimont, tells, in her diary, how the blacks came on 20th January, 1844, "to beg for some finery to wear at their corroboree that night on the 'Flat.'"

* * * *

Geologists would notice basaltic hills and ridges to the north and east, through which the Merri Creek has worn its way. Bluestone has been quarried to a depth of fifty or sixty feet. A Collingwood Gold Mining Company was formed in 1868, and a shaft sunk through bluestone to a depth of more than 100 feet, at the S.E. corner of Gipps and Hoddle streets, opposite the "Royal George," not far from the present Town Hall, which is on a basaltic bed. Some "saw" gold;

* Nos. 52 to 62, 64 to 68, 73 to 81, 86, 87, and 88.

others said "salt." Clifton Hill slope supplied the famous brown gravel used for the footpaths for many years. When that was exhausted the red clayey gravel was brought from Studley Park for the purpose, until Kew residents protested, and asphalt was introduced.

Observers of natural history would have missed the emu and the kangaroo long before the departure of the aborigines, but opossums and magpies remained in Dight's Paddock. Wild cattle were driven from Flemington market twice a week over the Crown lands to the north, and along miry Hoddle-street to Johnston-street, thence across the lower "Flat" to the Richmond slaughter-houses, as late as 1856; and later on to the East Collingwood abattoirs, near the Merri Creek. The town herd grazed on the Crown lands to a later period. Nearly every resident kept his dog, poultry, and pigs, subject to by-laws. Nanny-goats were a pest, straying all over the district, breaking fences, eating all the vegetables; the "billys" were harnessed to little two-wheel carts, bringing in sacks of chopped-up firewood from Heidelberg, sold at half a crown a load, a trade conducted by boys. The large wood was brought in by bullock drays from Preston and the Plenty Ranges; Bulleen and Nunawading supplied the southern suburbs.

Fish then was plentiful in the Yarra, and skilful disciples of the rod, up to the 'sixties, could always get their half-dozen trout or blackfish of an evening. We drank the water of the Yarra then; it was beautifully clear and sweet; deliciously sweet at Johnston-street, and even further down the river. Snakes were abundant as late as 1861, a reward of a shilling being paid for every one brought to the Council Chambers, until one day a man brought in six long ones—it was believed, from Studley Park; but I am anticipating.

The "Flat," covered with a surface of blue volcanic clay washed off the stony ridges to the north, formerly received the whole of the rainfall of the southern slopes of what is now North Fitzroy and Clifton Hill. An early settler about 1849 had run a plough across the middle of the "Flat." That furrow became in three or four years a wide creek, requiring, as roads were made, timber bridges of from twelve to fifteen feet span. This creek in summer became the common receptacle for rubbish and dead animals, so that it had eventually to be filled up and replaced by a stone channel nearly a mile in length. By that time a deep stone drain, two miles in length, had been constructed in Reilly-street to carry off the northern surface waters direct to the Merri Creek and the Yarra at Dight's Falls. Until these and other direct lines of drainage were effected from Smith and Wellington streets to the river the

storm waters spread all over the Flat from Reilly-street to Gipps-street. Within an hour, I have seen the results of a thunderstorm covering two square miles of the Flat. Some have suggested mermaids swimming about. I never saw one. They would have floundered about in mud. Slippery, miry, and puddle all the winter, and caked with rough clay in the summer, the difficulties of peregrination around Melbourne after the influx of population in the early 'fifties were at their worst on Collingwood Flat. Yet the lowest part is fifty feet above tidal low water at the Melbourne wharf; the highest part of Smith-street is more than one hundred feet above it. An effective scheme of drainage only was required.

Up till the year 1855 only three or four main roads were formed. Below Smith-street (or Heidelberg-road) there were Darlington or Wellington street, Richmond or Hoddle street, Hodgson's Punt-road, and Johnston-street. These were trenched, supplied with red-gum culverts, but not channelled. The centre of the road was laid with rough bluestone filled in with spalls. Outside this narrow pretence of a roadway the clay formation was ploughed up into deep ruts by cart wheels and hoofs of cattle and sheep. When the land was cut up into allotments to suit immigrants, the owners or auctioneers laid out narrow streets, certainly at right angles, north and south, east and west, but not on any comprehensive or relative plan. Some of these streets remained unformed for years. But the allotments were not wholly built upon or fenced in. Up to 1855 we could walk in summer from the Yarra to Brunswick-street by way of the vacant allotments. In winter, however, one had to pick his path along the middle of the main road, or run the risk of leaving his boots knee-deep in the soft clay. Half-Wellington boots were much worn by women folk as well as by men in the winter months. A lantern on dark nights was a most desirable companion.* The tenements, mostly of shingle or weatherboard, generally of two rooms, were quickly run up, being built on piles or stumps rising from one to three feet, to escape the flood waters. These let for 30s. to 40s. weekly. A few were of brick and bluestone, and brought much higher rents during the period of the gold-fever and the rule of high prices.†

* A 'bus ran between Swanston-street, Melbourne, and the "Builders' Arms," Fitzroy—fare one shilling. The threepenny fare did not come till 1857, and the route was extended to Smith-street some years after.

† A labourer received one pound a day, a skilful mechanic thirty shillings. On the other hand, though mutton was 9d. and beef 8d. per lb., we paid our baker (who is here this evening) 2s. 6d. for the 4-lb. loaf; butter was 4s., apples and plums 1s. 6d., and grapes 2s. per lb.; turnips, carrots and parsnips, lettuce, peaches, pears, 6s., and cabbages 18s. per dozen; potatoes, 24s. to 30s. per cwt; eggs one shilling each or 6s. a

Between Smith-street and the Yarra there were in 1850 or 1851 not more than half a dozen hotels—the “Leeds Arms” (afterwards “Willow Tree”), in the middle of the Flat, the “Highbury Barn” at the north end of Hoddle-street, the “Galloway Arms” in Johnston-street, Simpson’s Hotel and the “Brickmakers’ Arms” in Victoria-street, and the “Studley,” belonging to Alderman Hodgson, in Wellington-street, built of bluestone, the most substantial in the district, originally intended for three shops, one of which was afterwards used for municipal offices and the Court of Petty Sessions. A conspicuous factory-like building below Wellington-street and Peel-street in the ’fifties was the Glass House, which gave the name to two electoral divisions—North and South Glasshouse.

The district I have just described being outside the city precincts, possessed no local government; its few main roads were under the control of the Central Road Board. Side streets and footpaths, when there were any, were formed or repaired by public-spirited residents, who occasionally made collections to defray the cost, as access to the Board was not easy and petitioners could not brook delay. Out of such conditions grew self-reliance, voluntarism, and self-denial in other things. An Address was presented by the inhabitants to the Legislative Council for draining Richmond and Collingwood Flat in September, 1852, but nothing was done at that moment. Years after the introduction of Municipal Government, a petition for improvement was presented, accompanied by promises from local residents of donations aggregating £500, but this was put off—and the generous subscribers saved their money, for larger and more comprehensive schemes were introduced for opening out streets to the north and for main lines of drainage.

Infant mortality was very great and the Health Officer’s reports for years were of the prevalence of scarlet fever, diphtheria, dysentery, and other zymotic diseases due to bad drainage and lack of sewerage—diseases, however, not then peculiar to Collingwood, or the “Flat.”

* * * *

Three years of agitation passed before method and order came in. Things were so bad that they were discussed in the chapel as well as in the hotel. A number of gentlemen formed themselves into a committee, and they determined to move in the matter, and not relax their efforts till something should be accomplished. They had seen enough of the Melbourne corporation not to wish to be annexed to it—like their neighbours, Fitzroy and Emerald Hill. The

dozen, fowls 10s. and ducks 12s. per pair, geese and turkeys 15s each; water from the Yarra brought by cart was 5s. a barrel.

means must be local. They therefore called a meeting at the Oxford-street Independent Chapel (Rev. Wm. Burns Landells), where a congregation gathered, earnest and sincere in social and political affairs as in Christian worship. The meeting was held three days before Christmas, 1853; its objects were to find a way of providing good roads, pure water, sewerage, lighting, &c., for those parts of Collingwood east of Smith-street. The Hon. Wm. Nicholson, M.L.C., was in the chair, and resolutions were adopted for the presentation of a Memorial to Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe asking for a Board of Guardians, with power to levy a local rate to carry out local improvements as well as the providing of a local police force—the district could not then boast of a solitary policeman. A new committee was formed and a subscription list opened to defray expenses.

On the 19th January, 1854, an adjourned meeting was held in the same place, Mr. Robert Glover Benson, chairman of the committee and secretary of the church, presiding. The committee reported that a population of eight thousand persons * was located in the district, without a road properly formed or drained, or a policeman to protect its inhabitants, and they submitted the Memorial, to which 1,200 signatures had already been obtained:—

“TO HIS EXCELLENCY CHARLES JOSEPH LA TROBE, LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF THE COLONY OF VICTORIA.

“The memorial of the undersigned inhabitants residing in that portion of Collingwood outside the city boundaries,

SHEWETH—

“That your memorialists, feeling the great inconvenience arising from the want of proper roads, drainage, and police regulations, believe it to be necessary for their permanent welfare that an independent Local Government be instituted among them, in order to secure the above important objects.

“That your memorialists believe these objects will be most efficiently secured by your Excellency causing the law officers to frame a bill incorporating the district within the following boundaries—that is to say, commencing at the junction of Smith-street with the Victoria-parade, bearing north in a direct line with the Merri Creek, following its course to the junction with the Yarra, continuing along the Yarra to the bottom of Simpson's-road, and so bearing west to the commencing point, as shown in the annexed plan. †

“That the government sought by your memorialists shall consist of a Board of Guardians, elected by the householders, which shall be invested with power to levy rates, not exceeding one shilling in the

* The population of East Collingwood at the census of 26th April, 1854, was 8,738—males 4,711, females 4,027.

† It will be seen that the boundary of “East Collingwood,” for which local government was desired, was a simple and convenient one: on the west Smith-street and a line direct to the Merri Creek, which, with the Yarra, was to be the northern and eastern boundaries, and Simpson's-road and Victoria-parade on the south.

pound, and expend the same in furtherance of the purposes before mentioned, and to elect their own officers.

“In conclusion, your memorialists would respectfully call the attention of your Excellency to the urgent necessity for immediate measures being taken to prevent an augmentation of the evils under which we labour, and also enable us to remove the many nuisances which abound throughout this locality, detrimental to the health and welfare of the inhabitants.

“And your memorialists will, as in duty bound, ever pray,” &c.

The Memorial was presented by Messrs. William Nicholson, John Pascoe Fawkner, George Annand, John Hodgson, and Dr. Murphy (members of the Legislative Council), Mr. R. G. Benson and Mr. Heley (members of Oxford-street congregation), and Mr. Charles Cook, secretary (belonging to St. Mark's). His Excellency Governor La Trobe received it most favourably, and referred it to a Legislative Council committee then sitting on corporation affairs.

Action was taken immediately, if indeed it had not already been initiated. The boundary of “Collingwood” (*i.e.*, Fitzroy Ward) was extended as far as the Yarra for the purpose of bringing the district under the Liquor Act of New South Wales, 13 Vict., No. 29, notice to that effect appearing in the *Government Gazette*, 24th January; an Amending Act for making and repairing roads, collecting tolls—extending the powers of the Central and District Road Boards—was passed on the 12th April, 1854; and at the same time the Fitzroy Improvement Act, 17 Vict., No. 31, was passed to open the streets running north and south right through to Reilly-street. From the 1st March the provisions of the Police Act were made applicable to all towns and places extending five miles from the boundaries of the city of Melbourne.

The local committee certainly did not relax their efforts; other public meetings were held to further the demand for local government, but little more was done until the arrival of the new Constitution Act, which gave Responsible Government and Municipal Government to all the Australian colonies—18 Vict., No. 15.

Under that Act the municipality of East Collingwood was proclaimed by Sir Charles Hotham, and gazetted 24th April, 1855. It comprised only the 28 suburban blocks above enumerated, but the northern boundary was subsequently extended (by proclamation 14th September, 1855) from Reilly-street to the Heidelberg-road (now Queen's-parade) and the Plenty-road, including the quarries then worked by the City Corporation. A petition for the inclusion of Studley Park, presented some months later, was not granted.

In due course the first Municipal Council was elected. A statutory meeting of householders and landowners was convened 9th October, 1855, John Pascoe Fawkner, M.L.C.,

being appointed to preside. The meeting chose Thomas Hood and Richard Samuel Norton to act as assessors, and then elected by voting cards, seven Councillors—Messrs. Samuel Turner, Francis Murphy, M.L.C., William Coleman, John Owen, John Myers, Alexander Carnie, and Charles Curtis. Their first Council meeting was held on the 12th October, 1855, when Dr. Murphy, afterwards Sir Francis Murphy, was chosen chairman. The Councillors were not to receive pecuniary remuneration.

* * * *

The officials appointed were: Town Clerk, Joseph John Moody; surveyor, Lloyd Tayler; hon. consulting engineer, Clement Hodgkinson; rate collector, Peter John Petherick, who had served the city in a similar capacity. He also undertook for a time the office of health inspector. A valuation of the property had already been made by Mr. George Avery Fletcher, amounting to £61,695, and he also prepared a large plan, showing every assessment, and their numbers (3,482). Fletcher's "Valuation" and Fletcher's "Plan" were the foundation records of our municipal edifice, and the gentlemen whose names are mentioned in this paragraph were the executive organizers of the Municipality of East Collingwood, 1855, which became a Borough in 1863 (with population of 19,000); a Town in 1873; and the City of Collingwood in 1876, with a population of 26,000 and a revenue of £25,000.

To describe the work accomplished by the Council and its officials during the first seven years of the municipality; the numerous ratepayers' petitions granted, or not complied with at the moment; deputations to the Governments, and efforts made to secure the fullest help and largest grants in aid—Governments then busy enough with State affairs and business of their own—would far exceed the limits of my space. Ten Half-Yearly Reports with full details were published and delivered to every ratepayer. Of course, there were angry discussions and "rows" at the Council table, and uproarious meetings of protest by ratepayers outside, resignations, calls for resignations, compliances and non-compliance. After a certain revolution and advent of new blood, the till being found empty, three Councillors obtained a temporary overdraft of £500 upon their own security, wages and salaries were paid and things went on without interruption. More works were projected and works carried out by contract or by day labour, under supervision of the Public Works Committee and a new surveyor. Rates were got in by new Collectors and Government grants increased. The ninety-nine proclaimed streets somehow got formed, roadways metalled, some kerbed and channelled, and all footways gravelled. An Improvement Bill, with power to borrow,

did the rest. A Fire Brigade was chosen and Station and Bell Tower erected, fire-plugs introduced to the Yan Yean pipes in all the main streets; and things generally were organized without getting the Municipality into debt. Progress was slow and not always easy. Ratepayers often required time, and not a few learned to their surprise that they had come to a new country to pay rates. A dog was once set upon the Rate Collector; more than once was a door slammed in his face.* For five years one non-resident owner of vacant land defied collectors, law officers, and all the powers, and eventually got off clear. Every year the population and value of property increased. The valuation for 1858 was £84,578; 1859, £97,662; 1860, £103,003; 1861, £106,000—in this last I had a share, and appeals were fewer than in any previous year. In 1860, in a count I made, the Municipality contained Court House and Municipal Offices, 3,142 dwellings, 33 hotels, 362 shops, 30 shanties, 9 foundries, and one flour-mill (Dight's).

* * * *

In those days—the late 'fifties and early 'sixties—Collingwood had a very considerable political reputation and a large number of platform politicians. Bred mostly in the Lodges of the Friendly Societies they were always to the front, and known by familiar sobriquets. Public Meetings were generally amusing if boisterous, but always governed by able chairmen and abundant good temper. Not more noisy than needful they led the community to necessary reforms, municipal and national—the Collingwood Contingent always found its way to great city meetings at the Exhibition in William-street, or that greater open-air gathering place of Demos—the Eastern or Paddy's Market; or to the Eastern Hill, until that spot, sacred to Parliament, was made forbidden ground. Municipal elections, "East Collingwood Races," were important enough and exciting locally. Women had no votes, but they handled the money for the rates and insisted upon their husbands voting for the men who would make their paths and streets passable. If municipal elections were notable locally, the combined political history of East Collingwood and West Collingwood (Fitzroy) was almost of national

* These remarks may seem to require qualification. Of course, most ratepayers paid their moieties cheerfully, anticipating the periodical visits of their "old" Rate Collector with pleasure. This is not a biographical paper, but I may be allowed to say that my father was the best-known individual in the district in his day, and was ever a welcome friend—he had no enemies to speak of, and was the sought adviser and helper of the widow and the fatherless. Generally in office as Councillor, Auditor, Assessor, he also served on the Benevolent Asylum and other Committees of the Friendly Societies, passed the district chairs of the Odd Fellows and Foresters, and at the time of his death (26th Oct., 1877) was Chairman (the first) of the Collingwood School Board.

importance, not second to that of Ballarat. George Harker, Dr. Embling, whose pride was to have ushered so many young Collingwoodians into the world, John Edwards, the younger, solicitor, better known as "Jack Edwards the Collingwood Chicken," Charles Jardine ("Charley") Don, the people's advocate, whose axe and chisel worked on the blue-stone of Parliament House, before he entered to take his seat on its front benches; Richard Heales, a Premier of those days, John Everard, tea-merchant, Isaac Godfrey Reeves, fellmonger, Graham Berry, editor and proprietor of the *Collingwood Observer*, who came to the Council Chambers weekly to get notes of proceedings from Town-Clerk Henry Nelson Booth; William Mountford Kinsey Vale, William Bates, Melbourne merchant and superintendent of Oxford-street Sunday School, whose desire was to keep it "the largest in Australia"; James M'Kean, who, as the tallest man, walked at the head of both Collingwood Rifle Companies as they marched to parade, arms shouldered (how often I have seen them, after bugle call, soon after six in the morning!); George David Langridge, whose shoulders in the 'sixties carried not a gun but a carpenter's bag—these were among our representatives. All those mentioned I knew, as well as James Service, who came over to help us, but failed to secure a seat for the Free Traders.

Among earlier Councillors whom I remember, were Sir Francis Murphy ("Speaker"), Thomas Turner A'Beckett, Alexander Carnie, Thomas Greenwood, all chairmen; Wm. Coleman, John Owen, Henry Turnbull, Thomas Cope, James Houghton, Samuel Ramsden, John Wood, George Walbancke Payne, and John Noone. Sir Arthur Snowden and Thomas Hood still survive almost the last of their generation.*

As residents in our district in addition to the above-mentioned we had in the early days of its history—John Orr, Mr. Childers, Commissioner of Customs, afterwards Chancellor of the Exchequer in Mr. Gladstone's Ministry, and Charles Wybrow Ligar, Surveyor-General—successive occupiers of "Abbotsford House" on the Yarra, the site of the present convent of the Nuns of the Good Shepherd; the Dight, Ramsden, Cope, Snowden, and Richardson families; Richard Goldsbrough, Jesse Fairchild, Peter Nettleton, Robert Flockhart, and "John Pascoe Fawkner, J.P. and M.L.C.," as he was so fond of writing in all his books. In many respects Mr. Fawkner was our leading citizen. He took the chair at the first Municipal meeting, and he was most prominent on the Bench of Magistrates, where he sat from

* The last-named gentleman, now in his 85th year, was present when this paper was read.

1855 to the year of his death in 1869—assisted by Charles Vaughan, G. B. Hailes, other visiting Justices, and the Chairmen of the Municipal Council—John Barlow and H. V. Duigan being successive Clerks of Petty Sessions. The Council and the Petty Sessions, held for a short time in a room in Smith-street, were subsequently held in a room adjoining the “ Studley Arms,” lent by Alderman Hodgson, until a new Court House and Municipal Chambers were erected in Johnston-street in 1859.

* * * *

The question of national defence has frequently impressed Victorians—Collingwood sent a contingent to the Volunteer Artillery in 1854. Again, in 1860, an East Collingwood Rifle Company was formed—Sir Francis Murphy being Captain and J. J. Moody secretary. P. J. Petherick of the Volunteer Artillery drilled the awkward squad on the “ Flat ” behind the “ Willow Tree.” The Collingwood Artillery were drilled on the Eastern Hill by Captain Buchan. Having no gun the men “ exercised ” round a Yan Yean water-pipe.

In the middle of the 'fifties there were a few private schools and three or four good public schools in Collingwood—Mr. Templeton's in Napier-street, Mr. Bell's near Nicholson-street, Mr. Brunton's at St. Mark's, and Mr. Stephen Trythall's at Abbotsford. About the year 1862 Mr. and Mrs. John Christopherson opened a large school in the basement of Oxford-street Church. Mr. Brunton's was considered the best, but being a dissenter he had soon to remove his “ Eton ” public school from St. Mark's to the United Free Methodist Chapel in George-street; and Mrs. Snow, wife of Alfred Snow, architect of Oxford-street Church, followed with her public school for girls to the school-room adjoining. Both schools had the same singing and drawing masters and received the most efficient teaching then in vogue in any Denomination. Mr. Brunton was a kind and considerate, though very strict master; a counsellor on whose judgment his elder pupils could rely with confidence; a master always associating with them as a friend and companion. When he retired, Mr. J. Horsfall, who had been second master, took his place. A large number of surviving pupils now scattered over the Commonwealth and New Zealand, still revere the memory of their old Master, Alfred Brunton.

We had our local entertainments—concerts, readings, lectures, strolling players. We were near enough to Melbourne to take advantage of the Theatres, while on Sundays there were large attendances in half a dozen wooden Churches and Chapels. Oxford-street Chapel was the centre of many groups and the parent of many other churches—the members as the years rolled on planting new ones in various parts

of Victoria—even founding others in distant New Zealand. “Oxford-street” and “St. Mark’s,” Fitzroy, have histories of their own yet to be related. The *Argus* referring to a lecture by James Smith, “England and Australia Contrasted and Compared,” at which Sir Henry Barkly presided, 14th Nov., 1860, wrote of Oxford-street Independent Chapel, as a magnificent building, having an interior hardly equalled in the Colony, and only surpassed by the Parliament Houses. Over £12,000 had then been spent on the building, collected locally. A total of £19,000 was spent upon St. Mark’s, more than two-thirds contributed by Richard Grice, Esq.

In connection with “Oxford-street” a Mechanics’ Institute was formed in 1857, and the first of a course of lectures delivered on the 7th April in the school-room, was on the “Progress of the Industrious Classes,” by Mr. Thomas (“Tom”) Rae. Mr. Fawkner was in the chair. After two years the Committee of the Institution pressed its importance upon the notice of the Municipal Council, with the result that a Free Public Library was established in 1859, the Council allowing the use of three rooms in their Chambers for books and readers, in the evenings. The library started with 500 volumes, including long sets of the *Gentleman’s Magazine* and *Edinburgh Review* presented by Mr. Fawkner, and gifts from other donors. The Trustees of the Melbourne Public Library lent a case of books, exchanged quarterly, which it was my duty to check and collate. Readers then had the opportunity of reading Bohn’s Libraries and Weale’s Rudimentary Series of Technical Works. The Institution was without a librarian, but a very studious young man, a regular attendant, undertook to keep order—not a difficult task. That gentleman—Mr. Peter Drummond—has, after a life devoted to his profession, teaching, attained to a high position in the State Education Department.*

Mr. Fawkner possessed a very large miscellaneous library, the accumulation of a lifetime—books which he brought from Launceston; books which filled shelves in a reading room which he opened in his own house soon after Melbourne was founded. Besides the sets above mentioned he gave a set of the *Eclectic Review* to Oxford-street Church, which he attended from the time of its opening in 1852. His files of *The Port Phillip Patriot* and other Melbourne newspapers were presented to the Congregational College. I have heard recently that these have been handed over to the Melbourne Public Library, their proper place as Melbourne publications.

East Collingwood had some versifiers, and once upon a time a novelist and poetaster in one—Henry Nelson Goodrich, but he received no encouragement. The critics did not praise

* Retired, with honours, since this paper was read.

his "Angel Beckoned," and the *Argus* pronounced his "Raven Rocstrow"—"a thoroughly genial emanation from the sources of its inspiration . . . the heroes, heroines, language, ideas, dialogue are all of the Flat—flattish," &c. The *Collingwood Observer* was issued as a Collingwood and Fitzroy weekly newspaper, circulating also in Richmond. Acquired by Graham Berry, who was assisted by Henry N. Booth, the Town Clerk, it soon passed into the hands of Mr. Tait, who still controls it.* Once upon a time, it had a formidable rival in the *Manufacturer and Artizan*, but that appeared before the manufacturers came to organize Collingwood labour into factories. Mr. P. J. Petherick and a few friends tried to galvanize it into life, and urged upon fellmongers and other wool-workers the desirability of manufacturing the wool as well as washing it, on the banks of the Yarra. In opposition to the advocates of Protection—Graham Berry and Co., he would have offered bounties by way of encouragement. He would have doubled the value of our exports by sending the wool out of the country in a manufactured state; putting a small duty upon the exports of raw material rather than upon necessary imports received in exchange—that, he and his friends considered to be a short-sighted policy. But their party was too weak. James Service came out to help them, and stood for Collingwood, but the Protectionists won.

A few events of importance within and beyond the boundaries of East Collingwood were the erection of Johnston-street and Studley Park Bridges, and their opening with public ceremonies in 1856 and 1857; the celebrations of the marriage of Prince Albert Edward and Princess Alexandra; the laying of the foundation stone of the Municipal Abattoirs in 1861, and that of the Royal Albert Mechanics' Institute and Free Public Library—by the Duke of Edinburgh, on the 27th December, 1867. A dust storm came on almost immediately after the laying of this stone, and the scaffolding was blown down. During the night the stone "well and truly laid," was lifted, and the jar containing newspapers of the day, coins, and engrossed inscription (written by myself) was stolen. When this discovery was made next morning I wrote another copy of the inscription, which with other coins and papers was enclosed in a second jar and placed under the stone.† I retained a draft of this document, which reads as follows:—

* The *Collingwood Observer* has ceased publication since this paper was read.

† This being raised a year or two ago the enclosures were found to be intact and in perfect condition. They are now preserved in the local Town Hall.

“ This foundation stone of the Royal Albert Mechanics’ Institute and Free Public Library, East Collingwood, was laid on the Twenty-seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord, One thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, and in the Thirty-first year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, by His Royal Highness, Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., K.T., &c., Sir John Henry Thomas Manners-Sutton, K.C.B., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Victoria. Members of the Borough Council of East Collingwood: Saunders Baynham, (Mayor), George David Langridge, G. George Crespin, Benjamin Clark, Henry George Von Berg Turnbull, Daniel Ross Hunter, Charles Robert Swift, Joseph Paul Bowring, James H. Turner. Auditors: Peter John Petherick, Edwin Turner. Assessors: Thomas C. Cole, Joel Eade.* George Bennett, Town Clerk. This building was erected under the superintendence of Messrs. Austin and Ellis, Architects, by John Falconer, builder, for the sum of £6,500. The population of the borough amounted to 17,642 persons, of which 8,777 were males and 8,865 females. The habitations numbered 3,610, consisting of stone 310, of brick 686, of iron 54, of wood 2,560. The amount of assessment, £72,148, which, at the ordinary rate of one shilling in the pound, together with a special rate of eighteenpence in the pound for drainage purposes, produced an annual rate of £6,112 6s. 8d.”

Here my “ Early ” Recollections end, as I left for London in June, 1870.

[Mr. Petherick’s connection with municipal affairs in Collingwood, as assistant to his father in the office of rate collector from 1856 to 1860, and as clerk under the Town Clerk and Surveyor from 1860 to 1862, gave him special opportunities for becoming acquainted with all the details of early local government in that district.—ED.]

*Mr. Joel Eade, J.P., only survivor of those mentioned, now known as “ Collingwood’s Grand Old Man,” is in his 89th year. He is said to be the father of technical education in Australia.

The Early Settlement of the Eastern Shores of Port Phillip Bay.

WITH A NOTE ON THE ABORIGINES OF THE COAST.

BY GEORGE GORDON McCRAE.

(*Read before the Society, 25th November, 1909.*)

My earliest recollection of Port Phillip commenced with the 27th day of February, 1841, when the barque *Argyle*, in which I was brought out with the rest of our family from the port of London, came to an anchor somewhere off Swan Ponds. There was no Queenscliff at that period, but the headland on which the lighthouse stood was known to everyone as Shortland's Bluff, so named, I have since learned, after Lieutenant Shortland, R.N. It was about four years after I first entered the Heads that I made my first acquaintance with the eastern shores of the bay, and began to study not only their contour but the country lying behind them. My father had taken up, as a cattle station and a private residence, the mountain known as Arthur's Seat, and so named by, I believe, Lieutenant Murray, R.N., when he visited Port Phillip in the *Lady Nelson*. My first visit to Arthur's Seat was made by sea in a cutter called the *Jemima*, one of the lime fleet. These vessels, having delivered their cargoes at the lime wharf, above the old Queen's Wharf, on the right bank of the Yarra, used to carry light freights on their return, and also occasional passengers. We found these craft a great convenience during the winter months, when—with the big creeks, the Cananuke and Mordialloc, running bankers, and the flat land north-easterly of what is now Dromana in a state of bog—it was very severe work bringing supplies from Melbourne overland in old-fashioned drays, with teams of six or eight bullocks. I believe that lime first began to be burned between Point Nepean and the White Cliff (Yellow Cliff, of Tuckey and Collins), a little to the northward of what now is Sorrento, towards the end of the "thirties." With the increase of building in and about Melbourne the lime business became very profitable. I remember a fleet of over 40 vessels, ranging from 20 to 50 tons, all engaged in this trade. They did not appear to have any fixed station, but went just where they could get the cargo; although, of course, settled and established lime-burners, such as those I could mention along the neck of land extending between Point Nepean and the White Cliff, owned and sometimes even built their own boats, employing regular sailors to run them. Schooners, ketches, and cutters they were, as a rule, but I do not remember a single square-rigged vessel

among them. The principal lime-burners and boat-owners, in their order, as I remember them, commencing at a short distance inside of Point Nepean, were Messrs. Sullivan, Ford, Thomas and William Devine, then two or three more, and after that, well in, under, and about the White Cliff, Messrs. Owen Cain, Cameron, White, Kenyon, Sherlock, Tonks, House, and others. If my recollection be correct, the greater part of the lime was shipped from the White Cliff. The limestone that the proprietors used to quarry and burn was of the same character as that which prevails along the outer coast towards Cape Schanck, and inland past the Sand-dunes, or Cups and Saucers, as well. This stone, the best of it free from sand or grit, dressed with an ordinary broad axe into blocks, furnished some of the earliest settlers with building material. Cream coloured and soft when first dressed, it hardened with exposure to the weather, turning to a sober grey or pale ash colour. It was of this stone that Colonel Collins built his bomb-proof magazine for service in his early colony, and that only a short time before he made up his mind to strike camp and transfer the troops, free settlers, and prisoners to Risdon, in Van Diemen's Land. When yet a boy I was shown not only the site of Colonel Collins's settlement of 1803, but also some of the remains of the old camp fire-places. My recollection of it is but indistinct, very likely because at my then time of life I had taken no very particular interest in the pieces of ruined brickwork before me. And then at that time the Collins settlement was not an affair of so very long before (barely two and forty years), and so by no means counting for ancient history. Since that visit of mine, however, those former days were brought much closer to me when I met two people who had been, both of them as small boys, in the camp between the Two Sisters with Colonel Collins. One of these was John Pascoe Fawkner, the other a fine old sailor named Hobbes. It is now more than a full century since Collins's flag was flying over the battery on the Eastern Sister, and yet I have shaken hands with and talked with Hobbes.

Past the Old Camp (of the alleged cemetery I never heard so much as a whisper), and following up the coast towards Arthur's Seat, the first settler's establishment was that of Mr. George Smith, whose wife was a niece by marriage of Captain Hobson, R.N., of H.M.S. *Rattlesnake*, after whom Hobson's Bay was named. The little station was called by the natives Wul-wulu-buluk. A little to the southward of this was what used to be called the Big Swamp—several acres of land walled in with tea-tree, and abounding in wild ducks, geese, black swans, and other water-fowl.

Between Wul-wulu-buluk and Arthur's Seat (a distance of 7 miles), there were no settlers (Rye and Rosebud were undreamt of), but just at the foot of the main spur of the mountain, afterwards locally known as the Franklin Spur, at less than the eighth of a mile from the sea, my father's house was built. It was commenced in 1844, finished in 1845, and is still standing and in occupation by the Burrels, the family who purchased from us. It is built of stringy-bark timber, sawn and split at the back of the mountain, drawn by teams of bullocks to the site, and there fashioned into thick solid slabs, which were slid down horizontally, one on top of the other, between grooves in the stout upright frames of the building, the whole being roofed in with shingles split by our men away up in the ranges, and having a deep verandah, shingled like the house, which was lathed and plastered throughout. To the house my father added, later on, annexes, or skillions, made from planking got from the great coast honeysuckle, or banksia, a beautiful red timber, remarkably easy to work when fresh but very tough when dry, and impossible to split when using nails. These skillions I saw, along with the old house, so lately as in February of the present year (1909), and in capital condition; an iron roof, fitted on over the shingles of 1845, is the only marked difference apparent in the building. My father bought the 640 acres in which the house stood, but had extensive grazing leases beyond it as well. Our water supply was from natural springs, and the water good and clear. The creeks that ran into the sea past us on both sides, though brackish and occasionally salt, were small, and their mouths generally silted up in the summer, but one of them answered very well to keep our boats in during the hot weather; of these we had three, one for carrying loads, one for fishing, and the other a pleasure boat. In fishing, whether with net or lines, we had great assistance from the blacks, a fishing tribe, who camped in our paddocks once to the number of 200. They seemed at first a timid people, and though there was literally no protection whatever in it, always preferred at night to be within a three-railed fence and not too far from people that kept guns. The whole country side abounded in kangaroos, opossums, wallaby, and other game, not to count the echidnas, or porcupine ant-eaters, the flesh of which, among our blacks, no one but an old man was permitted to touch, and the bird life of that day was also very full. The only wild animals that gave us any trouble were the dingos and larger native cats, which we managed to keep down by shooting, hunting, and trapping. The dingos were destructive mostly among young calves, and the cats among the poultry.

Arthur's Seat stands at, as nearly as may be, 1,000 feet above the level of the sea, and forms quite the most conspicuous land-mark on the eastern channel. The rocky point of its northernmost spur runs well out into the sea, with an assemblage of coralline-covered rocks in advance of it, and always bare at low water. At present this headland appears to bear no specific name, but it was named, by Mr. La Trobe, St. Anthony's Nose, after a headland on the Hudson River, in North America, of which, he said, it exactly reminded him. The "Saint" fell out of the name in later years, and it came to be commonly spoken of as "The Nose"; but it is a question with me to-day whether the modern inhabitant, if asked the way to "The Nose," would not stare at you. The end of the "Nose" was blown away with dynamite long since, and the rock scattered about by the explosions broken up to metal that small portion of the coast road leading from Dromana towards Sorrento; but, though a little reduced in size, the Nose still retains much of its original contour. Out back, behind the mountain and in the gullies running southerly and easterly, were forests of splendid stringy-bark, box, messmate, and peppermint; these very straight in the trunk and rising between 50 and 100 feet before putting forth a single limb. It was from these gullies that we drew all our supplies of timber for posts and rails, and for building material. On the belt of land between the beach and the road stood one continuous forest of coast honeysuckle nearly all the way to the White Cliff, as well as across to Cape Schanck on one side and Mount Martha on the other. There were outcrops of milk-white quartz in some of the southerly-facing gullies, among which we used to find quartz crystals several inches in length, transparent, five-sided and pointed. Sometimes they would occur singly, and in other cases in groups, all firmly attached to each other as when the crystallization took place. Even in those times, before the era of gold discovery, we fancied we found indications of gold; nor was I surprised years afterwards to hear of people exploiting claims of payable gold on the Melbourne side of Dromana, on some land then the property of Sir William Clarke. Past the Nose, and holding well along the coast towards Melbourne, no settlers' huts or houses were to be met with, but inland a little way, at about seven miles north-easterly from Arthur's Seat, was a special survey held by the brothers Hugh, Archibald, and Bushby Jamieson—fine flat green country, the good quality of the soil being evidenced by the numbers of beautiful blackwood trees dotted all over it. On the skirts of the survey were a few small holders (among them two of the name of Dunn); who ploughed their acres with their own bullocks, growing

their own hay and vegetables, and living chiefly, as others did, on salt beef and damper. Some of them (like ourselves) made their own butter and cheese. These small farmers generally did very well.

The next headland is that of Mount Martha, which derived its name from the wife of Captain Lonsdale, the first commandant. On the creek, on the farther side of the mount, was Tichingorourke, the station of Captain James Reid, of the 45th Regiment, who, in 1844, brought Sir John Franklin across to Arthur's Seat, and, with him and my father, tried to rediscover the cairn, or the site of the cairn, which Franklin, when a midshipman on board the *Investigator*, had placed there in 1802, by direction of his commanding officer and kinsman, Captain Matthew Flinders, the great explorer and navigator. The creek below Captain Reid's old house is now known as Balcombe's Creek, and the house "The Briars," after the Balcombes' house in St. Helena, where their ancestor entertained Napoleon. Mount Eliza shows the next headland. It derived its name from that of the wife of Mr. Smythe, a well-known Government surveyor of his day, and the brother of Mrs. Lonsdale. The creek falling into the sea, under Fisherman's Point, where the jetty to-day stretches out, was called the Tanti. Mr. Stratton had a station there, the first that I can remember. He was followed by Dr. Playne, and some years later by Mr. Alex. Hunter. From Tanti onward to Frankston I am not aware that there were any permanent settlers, nor on the Cananuke Creek even, but at Mordialloc I knew an old Imperial officer, Major Fraser, who had a nice little farm and garden on the bank of the creek. After passing a few outlying huts and cottages, one rode along a sandy road, walled in with the everlasting tea-tree of the beaches, into the Brighton of the past. The first public-house where one pulled up for "refreshment for man and beast" was kept by a man named Keys. From Keys's to Melbourne was a brisk ride through a country much prettier then in its own wild way than it is now, planted with exotics and studded all over with villas and mansions.

THE ABORIGINES OF THE COAST.

The aborigines inhabiting the coastal district about Arthur's Seat did not, so far as I remember, number much above 200. They formed a hunting and fishing tribe, so never remained with us for more than a part of the year. Like the rest of the race they were nomadic. So long as fish and game were at their best, the blacks remained. At intervals they would strike camp and travel in other directions; but

then always to return. They were, as a rule, clean and well set up, of middle height, though occasionally one met with tall men and women. It was not their practice to knock out the front teeth of the upper jaw, as was the custom with the people of the Goulburn and other tribes. Their covering was the opossum rug, the squares of skin on the inner surface being scored in various patterns, afterwards rubbed in with a red earth or ochre to give a better effect. They wore, also, forehead bands, or fillets, of netted fibre, often coloured with red ochre. In the front of this, over the forehead, they stuck ornamental feathers, and sometimes over one ear a short tobacco pipe.

Except on very special occasions, such as those of the corroborees, they never painted their bodies, though on the death of any of their number they would smear circular bands of white around their eyes, in token of mourning. That they possessed both a mythology and a belief in the immortality of the soul became evident from various statements made by them to us. Their fixed belief was that every black man after death passed into a white body. Indeed, as some informed us, they had recognized long-lost relations in the persons of certain of the white settlers. They also believed that some of their great and strong men of long ago, and women also, were now transformed into constellations, or single stars or planets. Thus Venus used to be spoken of as Mirgabeen, the daughter of a chief of long ago, with a tragic story of her own. The constellation Orion was known to them as Karakorok, the crow that brought a flaming fire-stick in his bill from the sun in the beginning of things to the first inhabitants, who, until the crow, once himself a man and full of pity for them, came, were in a wretched condition, suffering much from cold and damp, and living on roots and berries only. From that first fire-stick were lighted all the camp fires of the aftertime. The people took to hunting and fishing, and learned to cook their food, to make nets, to fashion spears, and other weapons. This seems as close a parallel as we have to the myth of Prometheus.

During the 7 years and more that I was in communication with these people I was taught many things and learned their dialect fairly well, coming to know the names of stars, trees, and animals, as well as to gather some small knowledge of their folk-lore, their customs, superstitions, and prejudices, not to mention their sorceries. There was always one great "doctor," as we used to call him, in the tribe. Among themselves he was known as the coradgé, or wizard, and he was credited with supernatural powers. He was held infallible in surgery and in cures of disease, for

if anything went wrong after his treatment the patient alone was to blame. By his incantations (made at the right time) he could procure for his followers either the rain or the wind they desired, and he besides possessed (in their opinion) the power of life and death over people, no matter at how great a distance. The coradgé, from whom I had previously acquired many scraps of knowledge, permitted me to sit with him once well into the night beside his fire while he was attempting the life of an objectionable woman separated from us by the whole width of Port Phillip Bay. He had prepared a womera (or spear-throwing stick) for this end. On the flat face of the womera he had carefully engraved with a kangaroo's under-tooth a figure representing the woman to be made away with. This was smeared with some unguent, which he pretended to be so poisonous that one must not touch it. Then to the hook of the womera (which is really very like an immense crochet-needle) was attached a flowing lock of black and curling hair. This was the actual hair of his patient, or rather subject, and obtained at great trouble by an emissary of his who had been sent all round the bay to a place near Geelong. While in the camp there the emissary used stealthily to watch this woman combing her hair, and to examine the spot day after day till he collected enough for the purposes of the coradgé. This was a service that required the emissary to be at once patient and alert. It was also a work of time, for the women, well knowing that their hair might be used against them by the necromancers, were in the habit of burning all that might come away in the comb. In this case the messenger had managed, as the result of much watching and accumulation, to bring the coradgé what made up a sufficiently large lock of hair to attach to the womera. He had done his duty, the rest lay with the coradgé and with fate. I sat beside the coradgé at the fire as he commenced operations with an incantation, during which he planted the haft of the womera upright in the ground, and pretty close to the fire, to which the highly anointed image of the woman was presented. The oil sinking by degrees into the wood, he observed that the woman was beginning to suffer. More wood was piled on the fire. I sat until past midnight, listening to the incantation and watching the face of the womera. At last I became so tired that I got up, leaving the wizard to watch to the end, and went home to bed. Next day, when I saw the coradgé, and inquired about his subject on the other side of the bay, "Not dead?" "Oh! no; may be very sick." "How?" "Well," said he, "I fell asleep, and the womera and the figure and the lock of hair had all tumbled over into the fire and were

consumed." That, I suppose, broke the charm, and the woman of whom some other woman was jealous was never the worse.

A similar phase of necromancy may be traced throughout Europe, and we have instances not later than the times of Elizabeth in England and Mary in Scotland, where the figures of objectionable persons, chiefly women, were modelled in wax, like small dolls, stuck full of pins and set up before a fire, the pins possibly intended, like the poisonous unguent of the coradgé, to cause as much suffering as possible before the wax melted, and the end should come.

Here is another custom, but not connected with necromancy—a custom which also, I imagine, owns a European parallel. It is the cry for vengeance as typified in burying the body of an injured or murdered victim with the right arm flexed, or bent, projecting through the earth, with the hand spread out above the mound. This I have myself never seen, but once came to hear of a man with whom I had been well acquainted in the tribe who had been fallen upon and killed in a fight near Brighton. He was buried in the manner described, and the effect of the sight of the arm stretched in appeal over the grave was not lost upon his friends, who set out upon the spot and speedily avenged him by killing the first strange aboriginal they met when on the trail, for he was taken to be the murderer in accordance with this custom. This was held, like first blood in a white man's duel, to satisfy honour; but again, should they in after-time come across the actual murderer himself, then woe be to him also! The ordinary mode of burial with this tribe was to double up the body directly after death, tying the great toes tightly to the thumbs, and covering the body well over with rugs, securely corded about it. The grave, moderately deep, was very wide, and shaped like a bowl, lined first with small sheets of bark, and over that again thickly with leaves. The body was placed in this with a sheet of bark over it, then leaves, after which the earth was filled in. From that moment the man's, woman's, or child's name was virtually dead. It was never again to be repeated. If it should afterwards become necessary to indicate the person, resort had to be made to circumlocution, signs, and gestures; but if anyone from force of habit should speak of the dead by name, this was looked upon as unlucky.

We found the aborigines about us docile, tractable, and highly intelligent. Both the young men and women became efficient and willing station servants. The youths, always fearless riders and fond of horses, made good stock-keepers, and took great pride in their long, heavy whips and spurs. The young women washed and ironed well, sewing and mending also with great neatness. Men and women

alike were perfectly honest. I have known them even after a day's fishing to cut the hooks off their lines and return them, under the impression that we had only lent them.

It is to be confessed that in this place the blacks were under ideal conditions. Indeed, it was but rarely that we noticed anything like serious quarrel or fighting among them. They were out of the way of corruption, and had no taste for liquor, and, even supposing they had, there were no public-houses nearer than Brighton. Anyone who lived through those early times must have observed and known what the newer colonist rarely remarks, namely, that the Australian aboriginal is capable of training, and can be taught to speak English well, and to read, write, and cipher; but in so far as this particular tribe is concerned it is now too late to speak, seeing that of those 200 and more people not one survives at the present day. Being sober, they were the more to be trusted, and we found the boys very useful, not only in the management of cattle, but also in riding with messages to a distance, and quite to be depended upon in services of that nature.

We found it to our advantage in the beginning, as also later on, to take blacks with us on our hunting and fishing expeditions, for they not only guided us accurately, but taught us many lessons in bush-craft, and in the mode of approaching game, which perhaps we should never have picked up otherwise. They showed us the exact bait for different fish, as also how to spear them with good effect, and generally pulled a good oar in the boat, besides picking up the steering readily. This tribe did not practise polygamy, but, according to the law universally prevailing among the aborigines of Australia, never took their wives from their own tribe. Some I have known to travel, to obtain their wives, along the coast well into Gippsland, at the risk of their lives, and among total strangers, where their dialect was next to useless to them.

One of these who had brought home with him, by mingled force and persuasion, what he called a "warrigal" (or wild) lubra, complained, in the "pidgin English" common among them, "That-fella-lubra no yabber likit mine; all-a-same-a-lika Yirishman-belongit-a-blackfella." This showed some nicety of ear. Mimics, all of them, they used to hit off to exactness the attitudes and movements of the people they saw or met with, such as a halt, a strut, or a swagger, the person thus imitated in pure pantomime being easily recognizable by everyone. Further, they gave imitations of the Scotch and Irish accents as they found them, whether among the station hands or chance passers-by; but these people to them were all "warrigal-belongit-a-white-fella," or wild white men.

Teach them, however, as one would, there was an underlying something to be reckoned with in all, and that the original wild man. One would hardly suspect this in some of them, but even the man in whom one would suspect it least would surprise him some day by appearing in a long opossum rug, with a raddled netted fillet across his brow, adorned with cocks' tail feathers, and perhaps a couple of long spears over his shoulders, his manner more reserved, and his European garments nowhere.

A neighbour of ours previously mentioned, Mr. George Smith, of Wul-wulu-buluk, joined some friends in an expedition to the Californian goldfields, taking with them in their schooner, the *Sea Gull*, one of our boys, called Johnny. He was a good station servant, and a capital rider, fond of adventure too, or he had never left the country. When they got out to sea Johnny was put before the mast, and by the time he came back was a fairly capable sailor, knowing the ropes and his way about whether aloft or on deck; but, to the astonishment of some people, Johnny, on coming back to the tribe, shed all his civilized clothing, got into a rug again, and was perfectly happy. An easy mind, loose-fitting raiment, and the total absence of hard boots, left nothing further to be desired. His end was sad; for this really fine boy and excellent specimen of his race died of a galloping consumption, probably brought on by exposure on the two voyages across the Atlantic and his abandonment of clothes on returning to his native land.

EARLY DISCOVERY OF PORT PHILLIP.—An interesting fact has recently come to our knowledge on the information of Captain John Hart, merchant in Adelaide, lately M.L.C. for the district of Victoria in South Australia. In 1833 Captain Hart was engaged in a whaling expedition on the coasts of this colony, on behalf of Mr. John Griffiths, merchant, Launceston. After the whaling season was over Captain Hart employed the men in gathering bark at Western Port. . . . This was in the summer of 1833-4, and it was the first cargo ever loaded in Victoria. When in Launceston Captain Hart saw Messrs. Fawkner and Batman at the Launceston Hotel, and informed them of the vast extent of fine country on this coast. In the histories of Port Phillip, by Messrs. Arden, Westgarth, and others, we have observed it stated that Messrs. Fawkner and Batman "somehow learned" that a fine country existed here, and came over in consequence, but no informant has ever been mentioned. From the facts we have stated, future writers will be able to fill up this hiatus in our history.—*The Argus*, Melbourne, Friday, 31st March, 1854.

Pioneering on the Lower Murray.

BY MITCHELL KILGOUR BEVERIDGE.

ARRIVING from Scotland with his family at the end of 1839, my father formed a cattle station at Mercer's Vale* in the following year, and about 1843 extended his operations to Wandong, where my brothers, Andrew and George, were placed in charge. Early in 1845 Mr. Robert M'Dougall (in later years well known as a breeder of shorthorn cattle) returned from an exploration of the then unoccupied territory beyond the Reedy Lake station on the Lower Loddon, and so glowing was his description of the country about and below Swan Hill that my father was persuaded to allow my brothers Andrew and Peter, accompanied by two sons of a neighbour named Kirby, to set out for this land of promise, under M'Dougall's guidance, with cattle, teams, and stores. Their route lay by way of Kilmore, Pyalong, Baynton, Mount Alexander, Bullock Creek, and Serpentine, to the Loddon, whose course they followed to Tragowel, where they crossed the river and pushed on to the Reedy Lake station of Messrs. Curlewis and Campbell, who had just commenced to form an out-station at Lake Boga.

They were now on the outskirts of civilization, the country beyond being unknown, except from the description of Mr. M'Dougall. After leaving Lake Boga the party had to make the best tracks they could through reed-beds, salt-bush pans, belts of pine and mallee scrub, until they arrived at Swan Hill, at that time no man's land. Here they rested for a day or two, and, after taking everything into consideration, decided that it was not a suitable site for a homestead, and resolved to press on a little further. About ten miles lower down the river, at the spot now known as Tyntynder, † a more advantageous location was discovered, and here, at last, their long journey came to an end. Soon was the axe heard in the pine forest felling timber for the construction of a home, and so well pleased was my brother Andrew with the capabilities of the country that he wrote to my father, advising him to dispose of the properties at Mercer's Vale and Wandong, and to at once get my brother George to gather his flocks at the latter station (then known as "The Dean"), and bring them on to Tyntynder, where there was room enough and to spare. This was done, and a sheep-station was formed at Piangil, some fifteen miles beyond Tyntynder. Here, unfortunately, my brother Andrew met his end at the hands of the natives in August, 1846. ‡

* Now Beveridge.

† Formerly Tyntyndyer.

‡ This event, which caused a painful sensation in the young colony, will be found described in detail in the Melbourne newspapers for 1st September, 1846.

The next movement of the family took place in 1847, when my parents, two little brothers, and myself undertook the journey to Tyntynder. Of course there was the usual bullock team laden with stores, and in addition a horse dray, drawn by two bullocks of which I had the honour to act as Jehu. It was in this primitive conveyance that my mother had to travel the long two hundred and twenty miles, camping at night wherever convenient, and roughing it in a manner that, I fear, few of the fair sex nowadays would live through. However, with a few unimportant accidents and inconveniences, in the course of a month we arrived safely at our destination, and my mother was duly installed as mistress of Tyntynder, being the first white woman on the Lower Murray. I fear it somewhat shocked her when the sable handmaids selected for her service first appeared in the costume of our mother Eve before she was beguiled by the serpent.

As far as my knowledge goes, the natives in this district were humanely treated by the white settlers, and no provocation was given for such outrages as that in which my brother lost his life. After the latter event a small body of black police was stationed at Yelta, near the junction of the Darling and the Murray, on the Victorian side, to assist in maintaining order. These police used to send down to Swan Hill periodically for their mail, and on one occasion a trooper, waiting for letters, was persuaded to join some of his compatriots in a fishing expedition, only to be treacherously attacked and deprived of his kidney-fat—a charm of peculiar potency, according to aboriginal ideas.* The perpetrators of this barbarity were two natives known as Warrigal Peter and Sir Robert Peel, both of whom were shortly afterwards hunted down and shot by the comrades of their victim. Despite such incidents, however, the natives were settling down, and becoming, so to speak, respectable members of society. When the rush to the goldfields pretty well denuded the river of white labour, many young aboriginals found employment as stockmen and shepherds.

At first settlement clung to the banks of the Murray, further advances being continually made towards the Darling River by parties in search of country to occupy; but later some adventurous spirits pushed into the Mallee country.

* An interesting illustration of one of the ways in which practical advantage was taken of its magical properties was once afforded to me while fishing on the banks of the Murray in company with a native. Some time having elapsed without success crowning our efforts, this man took out of the little bag (*moere-moere*) which he wore on his left shoulder a piece of kidney-fat and rubbed his line with it from end to end, afterwards carefully replacing the fat in its receptacle. The fish at once began to bite!

The first station in the district, which takes its name from the huge salt-pan known as Lake Tyrrell, was that established at Lalbert by the Ham brothers, who were followed by W. E. Stanbridge at Waitchie, and Haverfield and Jardine at Eureka. For a year or two the only news we received from the outside world came with these pioneering parties, while occasional travellers returning to Melbourne acted as post-men and carried our letters for us. In 1848 or 1849, however, a fortnightly horseback mail was established, while about 1851 the coach service was extended as far as Swan Hill.* Here a punt (brought down from Echuca about 1849) plied across the river, and the nucleus of a township had sprung into existence, boasting a public-house, built of pine logs and lined with boards sawn out of the native pine. The earliest landlords of this primitive hostelry were Messrs. John Macrae and Gideon Rutherford, both of whom, in after years, became members of the Victorian Parliament.

The navigation of the Murray began with the enterprise of Captain Cadell, who, in 1852, brought up to Swan Hill on a pack-horse the canvas covering of a boat. For this he made (with my assistance) a frame of barrel staves and pine saplings, and started off on a voyage of inspection down the river, accompanied by two diggers who were returning to South Australia from Bendigo. I well remember that when they started the Captain took the tiller, and, laying his revolver beside him, addressed his crew, when they were fairly afloat, with the words—"Now, boys, I'm boss!" His frail craft carried him safely, and not long afterwards he returned to Swan Hill in the more substantial *Lady Augusta*.

The early settlers held their runs, the boundaries of which were loosely defined by points on the river bank, described in the applications sent to the Crown Lands Office, under a squatting licence, for which the annual fee was £10. † There was no "selection" in the modern sense of the word until after the 'sixties. In 1853, my father, leaving his sons Peter, George, and Jack to look after Tyntynder, returned southwards as far as Kilmore, where he remained until his death. In this last migration I accompanied him, and so my personal experiences of the Lower Murray came to an end.

* The native name of this locality was "Babariook."

† The first local Crown Lands Commissioner was Mr. W. H. Wright, who was appointed to the charge of the Wimmera district and had his head-quarters at Horsham.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

[Under this heading it is intended to publish short paragraphs containing items of historical interest, as well as queries likely to elicit information of value. Contributions of either description are solicited from members of the Society and other readers of the magazine.]

“CAPTAIN” DUTTON’S GRAVE.—Attention having been drawn to the neglected condition of the grave of William Dutton, the first settler on Portland Bay, the following information has been kindly supplied by Mr. W. M. Rankine, head teacher of the State school at Narrawong, where the pioneer is buried.

“Captain Dutton’s grave has a very rickety old wooden railing round it at present, but part of it has been burnt by a bush fire which swept through the cemetery some years ago. The board, which had an inscription on it, was also partly burnt, and the only words now to be seen on it are: ‘Sacred to the memory of William Dutton.’ . . . It has been suggested that the public here subscribe towards an iron railing round the grave, and a durable headstone suitably inscribed. The Mayor of Portland has promised to bring the matter up at the next meeting of the Borough Council, and feels quite confident that enough money can be raised to erect a good memorial stone in the Portland Cemetery also.”

Mr. Rankine’s letter is under date of 2nd September, 1910. We should be glad to learn if any steps have since been taken in the matter, and also to receive any particulars concerning the career and personality of Dutton that may be obtainable from old residents of the Portland district who knew him in the flesh.

EARLY ST. KILDA.—The Rev. C. Stuart Ross contributes the following regarding the infancy of this seaside suburb of Melbourne:—

From the storm-beaten cliffs of St. Kilda, a small island lying off the west coast of Scotland, set out for Australia, early in the forties, a band of shrewd, hardy immigrants. But serious trouble confronted them at sea. Cholera broke out on board the ship, and many of the passengers fell victims to the scourge. The survivors landed at Liardet’s Beach, and trod their way wearily through the bush to Melbourne. Some of them took up blocks of land for agricultural purposes; others pitched their tents on the beach and drew their harvests from the sea. Moved by loving memories of their old island home they called their little colony St. Kilda.

The camp on the beach was a favourite resort of some of the young people as far back as 1849-50. Tasty suppers were served there, and tough sea yarns were told which, even more than the suppers, allured us to these hospitable tents. Some of us joined the fishermen in their boats when the night was clear and calm, while others preferred the comforts of a bedroom at Howard's Royal Hotel, which was built in 1847, and was a favourite house much frequented in those early days. The native bush had been cleared away to some extent, but still it was largely in evidence in the neighbourhood, and in front of the building a broad belt of ti-tree fringed the shore. A few small houses, with here and there a more commodious residence, were built further on and back from the seaboard. The Junction Hotel stood then in the primeval bush, and a few chains from the building, on the Melbourne road, there was a stump which was a standing peril to traffic.

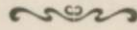
On the discovery of gold in 1851, and the consequent irruption of population into the colony in the immediately succeeding years, St. Kilda made rapid progress and became a favourite residential suburb. Two old friends of mine—city men—kept "Bachelors' Hall" there. They were Mr. Gabriel, a solicitor (known socially among his more intimate friends as "The Archangel"), and Mr. Lilly, secretary to the Melbourne and Suburban Railway Company. In the early days St. Kilda was infested with native cats, and Mr. Gabriel devised an ingenious trap, in which many of these animals were captured. Two of them, preserved by Gaskel, the well-known taxidermist of those days, have now a place in the Marischal College Museum, in Aberdeen.

[Mr. Ross's account of the way in which St. Kilda received its name is at variance with some previously published statements. Can any of our readers supply additional evidence on this point?]

QUERIES.

1. Is there an authentic portrait of John Batman?
2. What are the claims of Mallacoota to be regarded as the oldest permanent settlement in Victoria?

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.



The First General Meeting of the Society for the present year will be held on THURSDAY, 16th FEBRUARY, 1911, when MR. HENRY GYLES TURNER will read a Paper entitled

“A DAY IN 1839: MR. LA TROBE’S ARRIVAL
IN VICTORIA.”

For the remainder of the half-year the following SYLLABUS has been arranged:—

1911

MARCH 16 (Thursday).—“A Few Incidents in the Annals of Early Northcote.” Mr. RICHD. TOBIN.

APRIL 21 (Friday).—“The Resistance to Convict Transportation in Victoria (1844–1853),” Part II.
Mr. ERNEST SCOTT.

MAY 18 (Thursday).—“The Commemorative Medals of Victoria.” Mr. ALFRED CHITTY.

JUNE 15 (Thursday).—“The Development of Gippsland.”
Mr. A. W. GREIG.

Meetings are held at 8 p.m., in the Lecture Room, on the 7th Floor, Colonial Mutual Buildings, 421 COLLINS-STREET, MELBOURNE.

VISITORS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED.

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