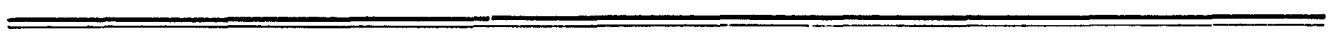


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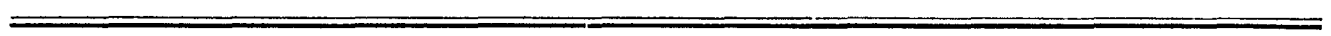


REPORT

OF THE

SUB-PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES,

FOR HALF-YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1874.



REPORT.

Aborigines Office, Adelaide, 26th February, 1875.

Sir—I have the honor to forward my report of the proceedings of the Aborigines Department for the six months and year ended 31st December, 1874.

The condition of the aborigines is not so satisfactory as could be desired. They appear to suffer still from the injurious effects of our occupancy of their country, and these evils, if they have not increased, do not seem to have diminished much of late years.

Since the natives have made a step in advance towards civilized life they have evidently become more susceptible to disease, this is indicated by the last census returns, which reveal a decrease of 1,674 in their numbers between the years 1861 and 1871. This rate of mortality appears to continue, as shown by the deaths, amounting to sixty-five, while the births were only twenty-six, during the past half-year. Much of this excessive mortality doubtless proceeds from causes that might, to a great extent, be prevented.

The aborigines of the present day are not so active in their habits as formerly in their wild state; they have become more helpless, and subject to the various ill effects proceeding from their life of exposure and comparative inaction.

Their hunting grounds are now greatly diminished as agricultural settlement progresses, thus depriving them of their natural food. Another circumstance is referred to in some of the sub-reports appended, viz., that, except at certain seasons of the year, such as shearing time, the aborigines experience greater difficulty in finding employment. As runs become fenced their services appear to be less in demand, and their peculiar habits of life unfit them for a sudden change to the heavy and continuous work of ordinary laborers.

The system now in force for the protection and support of the natives has been in operation about fifteen years; its merits and failings have therefore been tested by experience.

In ministering to their physical necessities and alleviating the hardships of their position it has accomplished a good deal, but it seems to have failed in checking the high rate of mortality by arresting the causes that are operating in producing the premature decay of the race.

The absence of adequate provision for the education and training of the children, and the regular employment of the adults in profitable industrial pursuits, is also a great want.

The practice of supplying food and clothing, except in exchange for an equivalent in labor, is objectionable in its tendency to pauperize by leading to improvident habits and indolence.

A much better state of affairs exists at the mission stations at Poonindie, Point Macleay, and Point Pierce, where nearly 300 natives, including children, are instructed and usefully employed. Their health is reported to be much improved, the death rate is lower, and births more numerous.

The difficulties attending first attempts to bring savages under new conditions of life, and accustom them to civilized usages, seem in a fair way to be overcome, and the systematic efforts made at these institutions are gradually producing substantial results.

The extension of similar stations in various parts of the Province would be exceedingly desirable. I would respectfully recommend that at least four be established, viz., in the North, on the Murray, in the Western District about Streaky Bay, and in the South-East. The object of primary importance should be to make these stations self-supporting in a few years. To accomplish this, reserves would be required of several thousand acres, carefully selected with regard to situation and soil, so that not only pastoral and agricultural pursuits could be followed, but also to enable hops, arrowroot, and *tous-les-mois* to be grown, which, under favorable conditions, would be the most suitable and profitable industries; silk culture, if possible, should also be attempted. Occupation of a light and varied nature would thus be provided for both old and young, adapted to the peculiar disposition of the aboriginal.

To aid in making these efforts a success, it would be desirable to introduce special legislation of a paternal character, which would provide for native schools, making education compulsory, to prevent the children being kept away by their parents.

A system of certificates might be adopted with great advantage, under which the natives could leave the stations and enter the service of an employer for wages, and obtain redress in the event of attempts being made to deprive them of their earnings. Evil disposed persons would also be prevented from withdrawing willing and industrious aboriginal laborers from the stations under false pretences.

In Victoria, during the last few years, active steps have been taken to improve the condition of the aborigines, and the last official report shows that the results are highly satisfactory and encouraging.

It appears that experiments have been tried for some years on the principal stations, viz., Coranderrk, Lake Conda, Framlingham, Lake Tyers, Lake Wellington, and Lake Hindmarsh, with the object of producing crops that would require neither heavy nor substained labor, and which would yield a sufficient return to, at least, pay for the support of the natives. Crops of various kinds were tried, but it was not until a hop plantation was established that complete success was obtained. The culture of this plant, with arrowroot and *tous-les-mois* is now general, and forms the staple produce of these stations.

On Coranderrk the season's crop of hops produced a gross sum of £1,140 4s. 3d., leaving, after wages, &c., were deducted, a net sum of £983 5s. 10d. Greater results are expected in future years, which will make the station entirely self supporting. It is stated that the natives labor cheerfully in the hop ground—receiving wages in proportion to the time they give.

These stations are fully stocked with sheep and cattle, in the management of which the natives are said to display as much shrewdness as most European overseers.

The general health of the Victorian aborigines appears pretty good. Sickness in some districts is prevalent during certain seasons of the year, but is not attended with fatal

results. The births on some stations are in excess of the deaths. Sanitary arrangements are carefully carried out, and medical officers periodically inspect and report on the state of each station.

The attention paid to the education of the young is another noticeable feature. Native schools are attached to each station, at which, it is stated, the instruction received is not inferior to that imparted at the State schools. The pupils submit to periodical examinations, and at one school three passed the standard of education required by law, one of whom was a boy only eleven years old.

Of the natives generally, the report referred to, finally remarks—"The condition of the aborigines from the foundation of the Colony was never so prosperous as at the present time; useful employments have been found for the adults of both sexes, the children are educated and trained by competent teachers, and the material interests of both the aged and young are carefully guarded."

"The wise liberality of the Parliament of Victoria may perhaps induce the Governments of the neighboring Colonies to enact laws similar to those under which the natives of Victoria are now prosperous, and to provide means for the support of the aboriginal population, and for the education of the children."

Dr. Bleek, of Cape Town, who has, under the auspices of the Government of that Colony, been pursuing ethnological researches with respect to the South African tribes, has recently directed his attention towards the aborigines of Australia for a similar purpose, and through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has communicated with His Excellency the Governor of South Australia on the subject.

In acknowledging the receipt of His Excellency Mr. Musgrave's reply, Dr. Bleek has forwarded an interesting paper on "Inquiries into Australian Aboriginal Folklore," a copy of which I have appended to this report.

The criminal returns show a slight increase compared with the numbers for the previous half-year. Fifty-one aborigines have been convicted for various offences, chiefly drunkenness and vagrancy. The summary steps taken in reference to the natives who were loitering about Adelaide a few months back have had a salutary effect, and the city has been quite free from them since. In one or two instances natives have asked permission to pay a visit to Adelaide to dispose of their leeches, &c., and were provided with a passport by the police in charge of the station.

Nineteen convictions have been obtained against persons for supplying intoxicating liquors, and penalties imposed varying from a fine of £1 to three months' imprisonment. This is so serious an offence, and so mischievous in its results, that severe penalties are necessary for its repression. In some of the American States two years' imprisonment can be awarded for this crime.

I have to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered by the Commissioner of Police in various matters pertaining to the administration of this department. The police are frequently called upon to act in the interests of the aborigines, and their zeal and discretion in performing these duties deserve commendation.

Thanks are also due to the medical officers of the Adelaide Hospital for the care and attention with which aboriginal patients are treated in that institution.

I have, &c.,

E. L. HAMILTON, Sub-Protector.

The Hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands, &c., &c.

APPENDIX.—SUB-REPORTS.

SOUTH-EASTERN DISTRICT.

Point Macleay.

The Rev. George Taplin states:—

In making my report for the half-year ended 31st December, 1874, I beg to state—

1. The conduct of the natives here has been exceedingly good; I never knew a shearing time to pass away before in which there had been so little to lament. The placing of a police trooper at Meningie had the very best results—it restrained unscrupulous whites from tempting natives addicted to drink, and strengthened the hands of those opposed to intemperance.

I am informed that in one shed the natives stipulated that neither liquor nor bad language should be allowed, and of course the proprietors were only too glad to engage them on those terms. About forty hands went from here to the shearing; they earned good wages, and expressed themselves quite satisfied with the treatment which they received. I may perhaps also be allowed to state that our natives regularly on Sundays held Divine Service for themselves at the shearing stations. It was conducted by two or three of their best educated and intelligent men.

2. There are now on this station fourteen families living in cottages, besides school children and young men who are lodging at the school-house. The total number of natives on the station at this date is as follows:—

Adult males, at work on the farm here and on the neighboring stations, also two at work on their own Sections	25
Adult males unable to get work	4
Wives of males at work	16
Other able-bodied women, mostly wives with infants	11
Adults, aged and infirm (males)	20
" " (females)	27
School children (boys)	16
" " (girls)	18
Children under five years of age (boys)	12
" " " (girls)	12
Total	161

3. The general health of the natives has been good; those who suffer most are the inhabitants of the camps, who are licentious and drunken.

The improved health of the natives who live on this station is acknowledged by their countrymen. This improvement is seen in the increasing number of children: savage life is most destructive of infant life. Let there be a very hot day, or a very cold day, and immediately the infants in the wurleys begin to show symptoms of injured health—only the very strongest survive such circumstances, and they often with impaired constitutions. The superior health of the infants whose parents live in cottages is manifest. If we could build more cottages there are at least a dozen families who would willingly reside in them.

Recently there has been a slight epidemic of dysentery, diarrhoea, and catarrh among the natives. All the cases which I have had under my care have yielded to treatment.

4. Our natives have worked hard at the ingathering of our harvest. We have not yet cleaned up, so that I cannot say what sort of crop we have had.

5. I have collected the names of the natives who compose the clans of the Narrinyeri tribe, but have not yet had time to put the lists into a presentable form. I think there are quite as many as I supposed.

6. In making up my books I find that there have been 225 aboriginal natives instructed in our institution since its commencement. These received direct instruction, more or less; and besides these there have been many more who were brought under our influence by their relationship to those under instruction.

Goolwa.

P. T. Moriarty reports in August:—

There has been a deal of sickness during the past month, chiefly influenza, scarlatina, and rheumatism. Three patients were treated by Dr. Motherwell, and are recovering. The majority of those of this tribe who were in Adelaide have just returned. I have not yet seen all, but am informed that many of them are sick—the effects, no doubt of intemperance and exposure. No cases of misconduct have come under my notice since March, neither have I received any complaints.

October.—Health generally good; one death occurred, that of "Meningie Mary," from old age and paralysis. Conduct satisfactory. Some are employed shearing, for which they are paid £1 per 100 sheep; one shepherding, getting 10s. a week with rations; and others fishing, which

is not at all remunerative now owing to the scarcity of fish. There being now employment for all who are willing to make themselves useful, and finding that "Jack" (who escaped from Adelaide Gaol in May) is hiding in this district, and fed by the others, I have refused relief to those who are able to work. Many of the tribes are encamped near Aldinga, where there has been some sickness among them, and two or three deaths, I am informed. Some are gone to Milang and the Lakes to fish, and to meet the neighboring tribes, and others are at Victor Harbor—for whom a bag of flour and other rations have been sent to the police at that place.

December.—Conduct and health generally satisfactory; but the natives recently returned from Adelaide appear more reckless, and determined on getting drink than they were before their committal to gaol. Three of them, "Susan Lush," Mary Newland," and "Amelia Young," have been locked up for drunkenness since their return, and remanded to the Local Court (on the 14th proximo) to obtain their testimony in support of three informations pending against Eliza Tait, a white woman, for giving them drink. It appears that this woman, who is an old offender, met the natives and asked them, on the night of the 24th ultimo, if they wanted some drink, whereupon "Mary Newland" gave her a shilling to get a quart of beer, which she procured accordingly, and repeated it twice afterwards the same night. The evidence of the publican who served the drink will show that the woman called for a pint and a-half each time, for which she paid 7½d., thus making a profit of 1s. 1½d. by the transaction, for she did not return any change to the natives.

Some of the natives are now employed at harvest operations and shepherding; others are shooting, but game being scarce, they do not earn sufficient for their own support. Two, "Billy Newland" and "Billy Young," are working as deck hands on the steamer *Albury*, which left here last week for the upper river, and are getting £4 10s. each a month.

The body of "Benjamin Tippo," who was reported in last month's returns as having been drowned, was found on the 2nd instant. An inquest was held, and the following verdict returned—"That the deceased was drowned through falling out of his boat, the weather being very rough, and that it was purely accidental."

Average number at this depot, twenty-nine.

Lacpede Bay.

Lance-Corporal Morris reports:—

The conduct of the natives in this district has been very satisfactory. Several of them are employed on stations in the vicinity—some shearing, others in general station work—and helping to shoot kangaroos. An aboriginal, named "Frank," died on the 25th October, of consumption—a complaint he had suffered from for a considerable time—and for which Dr. Britten attended him. There have been no rations issued during this month (December). A few of the natives have been fined for being found drunk. Informations have been laid by me against several parties for giving them drink, and convictions obtained, which I hope will have a salutary effect, and check it for the future.

The general health of the natives has much improved.

Average number at this station, nine.

Guichen Bay.

P. T. Morris reports:—

During the past six months the natives in my district have been very quiet—there have been no complaints against them. The able-bodied men are nearly all employed on the sheep stations, and seldom come into the township—when they do visit it—they seem to enjoy very good health and are very well behaved.

Average number at depot, seven.

Tarpeena.

Mr. C. F. Sheppard reports:—

About the middle of June, a party of eight able-bodied natives came to me, stating that they could not get any work, but having three guns of their own, if I would be answerable to the storekeepers for them to get some flour, powder, and shot, until the skins were sold, they thought they would be able to make a good living. They have been doing so until a short time before Christmas, when they separated for the purpose of harvesting.

Those who have been sick I have supplied from the medicines on hand. I have sent some to the Hospital, but they do not like to go—as they have some peculiar notion about it.

There was a sad case of drunkenness at New Tarpeena, a few days before Christmas, when a half caste beat a lubra most unmercifully, and nearly killed her; she was very well dressed, and he tore all her clothes off and used her shamefully. There are two places only where it is possible for them to get drink. I will keep a sharp look-out, and the first time I can catch them, have them punished.

Average number at depot, sixty-three.

Millicent.

P. T. Shiels reports:—

The conduct of the aboriginal natives in this district is on an average good; unfortunately on some occasions they get drunk from unprincipled white people, when they seem to lose all control of themselves. I have obtained three convictions against persons supplying liquor, viz.:—On August 11th, J. B. Miller, was fined £5 and costs, for supplying two bottles of rum; on the 21st August, R. Grist, was fined £1 and costs, for allowing drunken and disorderly persons (blackfellows) on his licensed premises—this had the effect of keeping the natives away from the public-houses; and on 22nd December, H. McDonald, was fined £2 and costs, for supplying liquor to natives.

A number of the aboriginals have been employed kangarooing till within a few days of the new year, when they gave it up—and a great many are now employed by the farmers at harvest work.

At present there are from forty to forty-five natives about the district, who are, I believe, healthy.

Average number at depot, nineteen.

Naracoorte.

Corporal Field reports:—

The natives are all employed on the various stations. There have been no complaints for misconduct. A lubra, named "Maggie," met with an accident at Morambro, in lifting a log of wood on the fire; Dr. Gunning attended her, and she is now progressing favorably.

MURRAY DISTRICT.

Wellington.

P. T. Deane reports:—

The natives about here have been employed at shearing, and afterwards with some of the farmers. As fish and game are plentiful, the natives do not care much about work at present.

During the past half-year, two persons were proceeded against for supplying them with liquor, and were sent to gaol for three months. Their health is very good, and their conduct on the whole is good.

Average number at station, sixteen.

Blanchetown.

P. T. Ewens reports:—

The natives in this district have been very peaceable and industrious during the past half-year, but I regret to report that sickness still prevails among them to a great extent. Old and young, not actually laid up, make mournful complaints to me of their sufferings, and ask for medicine. I do all I can for them with my medicine chest, and am happy to say that, according to the statements of the natives, have given a great relief.

Average number at depot, nine.

Chowilla.

Mr. A. McLeod reports:—

Until within the last few days there have been no natives at this place, for the last six months. I have heard of no deaths among them, and those that are here now, are all in good health. I have on hand all the supply of blankets for 1874, and eight of the previous year, and a quantity of stores—so that none will be required for the next half-year, with the exception of some fishing tackle, tomahawks, &c., &c.

Overland Corner.

Corporal Shaw reports:—

Only a few natives have visited this place lately, and those are mostly unable to do hard work—all the others are fully employed in the different woolsheds and shepherding.

I have had no complaints of misconduct, and their health as far as I can learn is pretty good, but a supply of simple medicines would be very useful, as they often apply for it here. One fine middle-aged man, "Toby," died last month at Bookpoornung, from heart disease.

YORKE'S PENINSULA.

Point Pierce.

The Rev. W. J. Kühn reports:—

I am glad to say since my last report, the natives have exhibited a much more friendly feeling towards the station—they have overcome the prejudice caused by so many deaths in 1872.

To get the wandering natives more under my influence, we have employed many in kangaroo hunting. I purchased the skins at full market value. Owing to this we found it expedient to keep a general store, at which they bought rations and clothing; though receiving a high price for their skins, some could not obtain all necessaries without assistance. Their hunting ground was a few miles from the station. I generally visited them twice a week to hold Divine Service. For months I had from fifty to sixty natives under my influence; when shearing time approached about twenty went to different shed but some continued hunting until Christmas.

Those living at the station have all been regularly and usefully employed in shearing, fencing, cutting and carting posts, haymaking, excavating tank, and building stone cottages. A two-roomed one has lately been completed, and is occupied by a young couple recently married—both have been trained at this station. Two cottages are in course of erection. I am glad to state the married couples occupying cottages keep them in good order, and seem to appreciate the additional comfort to their previous wretched wretched life. The king and queen lately requested me to build them a house.

The general conduct of the natives has been good. All the able-bodied receive wages for their work at the station. Their earnings are spent usefully at the mission store, thereby preventing their frequenting the townships, which prove a great snare. One instance occurred at Maitland, where by some means they obtained drink and became literally mad and unruly, and threw fire-sticks about. One who had been at the station was present, and took a firm stand, and restored order.

The larger townships on the Peninsula also prove an evil to the wandering natives. It is a false kindness of the inhabitants to give any relief, it induces the able-bodied to linger about the towns in idleness when they could earn their living at the station by healthful exercise; their wurleys are also a resort for the lowest of characters, and all the vices of such a class are readily received, thereby injuring them physically and morally.

I have heard many remarking that it is useless attempting to make the natives generally useful. I have proofs to the contrary—almost everything that has been done on this station has been done by natives: I have often found such people gladly avail themselves of their services.

The Honorable Commissioner of Crown Lands and the Surveyor-General favored us with a visit in November last.

I most gratefully acknowledge the additional grant of land lately given by Government, which will greatly facilitate the prosperity of this establishment—which would have been in a much more flourishing state had it not been hampered by financial difficulties.

The average number at this station is forty-five.

WESTERN DISTRICT.

Poonindie.

The Rev. R. W. Holden reports:—

During the last six months, ending 31st December, 1874, we have not had many wurley natives remaining with us; they have been cared for and employed by the settlers in the district—visiting and receiving aid from us when they required a change. As far as I know their conduct has been good throughout the district; but little sickness, without any deaths, to my knowledge.

Franklin Harbor.

Mr. D. McKenzie reports:—

The conduct of the aborigines in this district has been good, but the most of the old blacks are in very poor health—but when their age is taken into consideration, this is not to be wondered at. Until lately most of the young blacks were employed shepherding, but now the most of the run is fenced and the sheep running at large, consequently there is nothing for the blacks to do; and when the old and infirm get their rations the young and strong help to eat it from them. It is a general custom among them to share with each other as long as it lasts, and when it is done the old and infirm suffer.

Average number at this station, twenty.

Streaky Bay.

P. T. Crossland reports:—

During the preceding six months the conduct of the natives at this station and in the surrounding district has been very good, only one case of felony (by a boy) occurring. Several of them have been suffering from the usual complaints, influenza and coughs. There is not much employment at the sheep-stations, excepting in the shearing season, when the natives are very useful.

Average number at the depôt, fifty.

Three Lakes.

P. T. O'Shanahan reports:—

The conduct and health of the natives during the past half-year have been very good, with the exception of one woman who attempted to poison herself. She has been brought before the Special Magistrate at Port Lincoln, and acquitted of the charge.

The natives have not called upon me at this depôt for any assistance during the last six months; they are present employed in hunting, and some with the squatters.

Venus Bay.

P. T. Clode reports:—

The health of the natives has not been so good during the past half-year; they have suffered severely from colds and sore eyes, and one from

scurvy. Their conduct has been satisfactory, as I have received no complaints against them.

The average number at the depôt, fourteen.

Fowler's Bay.

P. T. Richards reports:—

During the preceding six months no cases of felony or other offences have been reported against the natives in this district. There is scarcely any work here for them, except during the shearing season. The manager of the Fowler's Bay Station taught seven or eight boys last season to shear, and they did remarkably well, and were paid, I considered, fairly. Next year they will do better; and no doubt others will learn. Their health has on the whole been good; there are always some of the old ones ailing.

The quantity of rations supplied here is quite sufficient. I have a difficulty in getting the women's dresses made. The want of a net is much felt, the old one having been in use nearly five years, and I have not time to make another one.

Formerly two men were stationed here; we were then able to devote more time to the natives. Now I am compelled to give them sometimes a week's rations at once, as when absent on police duty there is very often no one here to give out the supplies. So far as the natives' food is concerned, I am confident there is more game of every description here now than there was eight years ago. I account for this through the great number of wild dogs that have been poisoned.

The average number relieved here is from thirty to thirty-five.

Wallianippie.

Mr. W. R. Thompson reports:—

There has been less sickness than usual, and no deaths. Influenza, which proves so fatal to the aborigines in most cases, has been almost unknown amongst them for some time past. No cases of theft, or indeed of misconduct of any kind, have come under my notice during the past six months—the aborigines of this district being singularly quiet and inoffensive. On the other hand, I cannot report very favorably of the amount of work done by them—probably in all not amounting to more than £10. It has not, however, been so much on account of their unwillingness to work as that their services have not been required.

I occasionally notice a good many half-caste children knocking about, not only in this, but also in the adjoining districts. Now, as these children rarely grow to man or womanhood when left with the tribes, it seems to me a pity that the police should not be instructed to have them removed to the Port Lincoln Institution at Poonindie, where they would be properly taken care of, and grow up, in many cases, to be useful members of society.

The average number at this station is seventy-five.

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Mr. Buttfield, S.M. Sub-Protector, Far North, reports as follows for half-year ended 31st December, 1874.

The conduct of the natives in my district has been very good, not one case having arisen calling for judicial consideration.

I am sorry to record the fact, that in common with the settlers here and elsewhere, the aborigines have suffered extensively from measles. At the Sliding Rock, during one of my visits, I found many suffering and instructed Mr. Powell, the surgeon at that time, to attend to them and those in the neighborhood of the Mine, professionally. Two aged blacks, a man and a woman, have died in this neighborhood (Blinman), and I have been informed that several aged blacks at Beltana and Numdowadana, succumbed to the disorder named.

Considerable difficulty is felt in treating sick blacks, arising from their faith in their own nostrums—their fear of infection, which induces them to move from place to place—but more especially from risk of administering suitable medicines to patients so exposed to atmospheric and other changes.

A short time ago I deemed it necessary to administer a powerful drug to a man suffering from congestion of the lungs; on the following day I repeated my visit and found my patient had burrowed a hole in the dampest place he could find in a creek, and there he lay in a state of perfect nudity—this man died. I am more than half convinced that the aborigines, in disorders of the kind named, are better left to their own devices. It is impossible to induce them to make use of the hospital I caused to be erected for them. I am not aware if a single native has spent a night in it since its erection.

Owing to the fact that for some months there was not another Justice of the Peace other than myself within a hundred and fifty miles of the Blinman, I have not been able to travel over the country. However, the depôts are numerous, and at convenient places, and these have been well supplied with rations, medicine, &c.

Apart from the malady (measles) from which so many whites and blacks suffered, the health of my people is satisfactory.

Port Augusta.

Sergeant O'Shanahan reports:—

During the last six months the natives have behaved exceedingly well, but their health has been very bad, especially during the last few months. The prevailing sickness among them is severe colds, eventually ending in death. Venereal disease exists among them, but they will not seek any medical aid for it, but rather die. They have not suffered in any way from measles.

Several are employed at the surrounding sheep-stations, and are generally useful as shepherds, boundary-riders, &c.

Bimbowrie.

Mr. C. Melvin states:—

A few of the young men of this tribe have been employed on the stations in this district, and during the lambing season some of the older natives, male and female, have found work; others are occupied in hunting. Those that are at work on the stations keep themselves clean and tidy.

A good many deaths have occurred lately; some from measles, which were very bad here, both with whites and blacks. All are in good health now. Average number at this station about forty-five.

On Inquiries into Australian Aboriginal Folklore. (By W. H. I. Bleek, Ph. D., For. Memb. of the R. Bav. Acad. of Sciences.)

THE natives of Australia, the Bushmen of South Africa, and some of the Indian nations living to the West of the Rocky Mountains of North America, are probably the lowest types of humanity, as regards civilization and deficiency of political organization. The Australians and Bushmen especially are distinguished by the fewness of numerals contained in their languages; the Bushmen having no more than three (and perhaps originally only two, the third being possibly borrowed from the Hottentot). Yet, with all these deficiencies, it is probable that both Bushmen and Australians, at all events, are nearer akin to ourselves in their languages and intellectual life than other races who far exceed them in point of civilization, e.g., the Negroes of Africa. The mythological character of a good portion of the traditional lore of both Australians and Bushmen is a distinctive characteristic not met with among the Negroes; but only among nations who claim nearer kinship to ourselves. In the faculty of imagination Bushmen certainly, and Australians probably, far exceed anything that we meet with among the Negroes.

To observe, in such rudimentary stages of culture, the development of the same poetic instinct, which is the motive power of the highest human life, is a matter of very great moment for all ethnological inquiry. In this respect, such nations as the Bushmen and Australians, their language and traditional literature, become of the highest importance. It is on this account that, when the opportunity offered itself of studying the Bushman language and collecting their literature, I thought it my duty to put aside for a time the, to me, very important work of a Comparative Grammar of the South African Languages, and to try to rescue, while it was still possible, something of the language and literature of this dying-out nation. The result of these researches, undertaken under the auspices of the Government of this Colony, has exceeded my most sanguine expectations, although we have as yet fathomed only to a small extent the rich mine of Bushman traditional literature.

The publication of last year's report, concerning the Bushman researches, suggested the idea that the amount of success of our Bushman studies might be encouraging, with regard to the possibility of collecting the folklore of races like the Australian Aborigines and the lowest North American Indian tribes to the West of the Rocky Mountains. On this account I ventured to address the Governors of the British Colonies, in which these primitive nations still exist (the Australian Colonies and British Columbia), upon this subject, and to draw their attention to the importance of encouraging the collection of the folklore of the Aborigines in the native languages, with a translation,—so that it might not happen that these very peculiar branches of humanity should be wiped off from the face of the earth, before at least some of the products of their own specific minds had been preserved for posterity.

As His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, and the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Kimberley, kindly interested themselves in the matter, my request was recommended by the latter to the Governors of the Colonies in question.

The first answer which I received to these applications was a letter from the Lieut.-Governor of British Columbia, informing me that "since

the confederation of this Province with the Dominion of Canada, the control of all matters connected with the Native Tribes had been placed entirely in the hands of the Government." It then goes on to say: "With the view, however, of furthering your object, a copy of your letter has been placed in the hands of the Indian Commissioner here, with the request that he will forward it to the authorities at Ottawa, for them to take action on."

But the next reply was more immediately satisfactory, and, indeed, of a highly gratifying character. It was from His Excellency A. Musgrave, Esq., C.M.G., Governor of South Australia, who, in a most interesting manner, tells me that he is happy to say that a sum has been placed upon the Estimates "to enable a more systematic attempt to be made to preserve from oblivion information now fast passing away from us; but which is capable of affording much light upon many interesting and important questions in ethnological and anthropological inquiries."

Mr. Musgrave also kindly sent with his letter several books and pamphlets already published in South Australia, which have reference to this subject. Of these, the latest is one giving notes on the manners and customs, ceremonies, traditions, language, &c., of the Dieyerie tribe (living about six hundred and thirty miles to the north of Adelaide), compiled by Mr. Samuel Gason, a Police Trooper, and published this year. It is exceedingly interesting, as giving so full an account of a distant tribe in the very centre of Australia, whilst almost all other accounts of the Australian Aborigines refer (so far as I am aware of) only to tribes living near the coasts of Australia, or at no great distance inland. It is natural that the author should describe far more in detail the manners, customs, and ceremonies of the natives, than their mythological and other notions; although, regarding these also, he gives some interesting details, which throw a good deal of light upon the reasons for many of their, at the first glance, absurd, and oftentimes repulsive customs and ceremonies. This renders it almost certain that, if we had a thorough knowledge of their own modes of thinking, the Australian Aborigines would appear to us far more rational and human than their (to European eyes) frequently disgusting appearance would intimate.

Another contribution to the knowledge of the more Northern natives of South Australia, is a vocabulary of the Woolner district dialect, Adelaide River, printed also at Adelaide, 1869. It is not stated by whom this was compiled; but the adoption of a very complicated mode of writing, in which the English sounds of the vowels are retained, renders it improbable that it is the work of a Missionary, since almost all Missionaries who have to write native languages feel themselves compelled to adopt the simple Italian values for the vowels. In fact, the Missionary efforts in South Australia seem, as far as I can get any evidence, only to have been made on or near the coast. Several once flourishing Missionary establishments have, I believe, long ceased to exist, on account of the total disappearance of the natives.† Of Missionary institutions still existing in South Australia, we have evidence in the papers sent as regarding those at Poonindie, and also at Point Macleay.

Poonindie, Port Lincoln, a Missionary Station of the Church of England, is described by the Bishop of Adelaide, in "A Visit to Poonindie," &c. (Adelaide, 1872). Mr. Musgrave calls this settlement "a striking instance of what may be accomplished in the way of raising the people from their wild, nomadic, animal existence to an intelligent appreciation of the advantages of steady industry and the appliances of civilization, and even enjoyment of games and amusements hitherto altogether beyond their knowledge."

The Mission at Point Macleay is established by the Aborigines' Friends' Society, whose Fifteenth Annual Report (Adelaide, 1873), has also been sent,‡ together with some fruits of this mission, viz., translations into the language of the Lake tribes of Aborigines called *Naringeri*, of "Lessons, Hymns, and Prayers for the Native School," and of "Extracts from the Holy Scriptures," both printed at Adelaide, 1864. The translator, the Rev. George Taplin, Superintendent of this Mission, "is," Mr. Musgrave says, "one of the best informed men in the Colony on all subjects respecting the natives, at all events respecting those of the district of the Lower Murray; and to him naturally my letter, with enclosures was forwarded. This has elicited a valuable letter from him, which is given below.

The personal interest of His Excellency Governor Musgrave in this matter is also shown in his remarks on the intellectual state and physical development of the natives, to which his experience in different Colonies

† Not in South Australia, this occurred on the Sydney side, N. S. W.—E. L. II., 8.P.A.

‡ Among the works kindly sent by His Excellency Governor Musgrave, the two following—Moorhouse's Vocabulary and Grammar of the Murray River Language and Meyer's Manners and Customs of the Aborigines of Encounter Bay—were already known to me, and are described in "The Library of His Excellency Sir George Grey, Philology, Vol. II.—Part I. Australia," Nos. 14 and 16.

(British Columbia, Natal, the West Indies, &c.) gives an especial value. Thus he says—"For my own part I am disposed to think, from my knowledge of some of them, that the common estimate of the relative grade of savage tribes, in mental development of any kind, is very frequently erroneous. You speak, for instance, of the Australians and Bushmen being distinguished by the few numerals which they possess, and point to this as indicating a low type of humanity as regards civilization. But in the system of the *Dixerie* tribe, as given by Mr. Gason in his account which I send (page 39), you will observe that this alleged deficiency of numerals by no means indicates an inability to compute and express greater numbers than the number of numerals they possess,* any more than the French expression *dix-sept* or *quatre-vingt* denotes inability to compute beyond the numbers ten and seven, and four-and-twenty respectively.

"I know nothing personally of the Bushman people, but from the limited opportunity for acquiring information which I have enjoyed since I resided here, I am disposed to regard the Australian races as not so degraded as the Indian tribes on the North-west Coast of America—as being quite as naturally intelligent, and far more capable of improvement."

Further on Mr. Musgrave says—"In physical formation and development, the Australian natives whom I have seen are decidedly superior, as human animals, to the Indians on the North-west Coast of America; and are quite equal to any African race that I have made acquaintance with, whether Kafirs or Negroes, from the West Coast, or their descendants in the West Indies.

"I enclose, with the publications mentioned in the schedule, four photographs of natives belonging to tribes near Port Darwin, in the far North of Australia, which I think you would scarcely know from portraits of Kafirs, if they had been banded to you as such."

LETTER from the Rev. G. TAPLIN to the SUB-PROTECTOR of ABORIGINES.

Aborigines Mission, Point McLeay, 29th January, 1874.

Sir—I duly received the parcel of papers which you sent to me, including the letters to His Excellency the Governor, of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Earl Kimberley, and of Dr. Bleek, of Cape Town; also the printed papers concerning the Bushman and Australian languages.

As directed by you, I proceed to report thereupon.

I understand from his letter that Dr. Bleek requests His Excellency the Governor of this Colony to have a collection made of the legends and myths found among the different tribes of Aborigines. It is also evident that he desires that more particular researches should be made into the languages and manners and customs of the Aborigines, in order that a correct knowledge of them might be obtained.

I have resided for the last twenty years among the Aborigines, and have been officially connected with them for fifteen years, and during that time have gathered up some of their legends and myths, and also particulars concerning their languages and customs. A short time ago I put the information which I had gained into a connected form, and presented the manuscript to the Aborigines' Friends' Association of Adelaide, in order that it might be published for the benefit of the funds of the Aborigines' Missions.

The Committee accepted the work, and it is now in the printer's hands. I have requested the Rev. F. W. Cox, of Adelaide, who is carrying this little work through the press, to send you one of the prospectuses of the book.† I think that this little book will afford some of the information requested by Dr. Bleek, as far as the tribes of Aborigines who call themselves *Narrinyeri* are concerned. I am sure, also, that this information concerning the *Narrinyeri* might be increased, as I have by no means exhausted it. This nation of Aborigines is the largest now in the Southern part of South Australia, except the *Dieri* of Cooper's Creek.

* Mr. Gason says the *Dixerie* system of notation:—"The only words representing numerals possessed by the natives are *coornoo* 'one,' *mundroo* 'two,' *parroola* 'three.' Should they desire to express any greater number, it is done by adding together the words above, for instance: four, *mundro-la-mundro-la*; five, *mundroo-mundroo-coornoo* (that is, 'twice two and one'); six, *mundroo-la-mundroo-la-mundroo-la* (that is, 'thrice two'), and so on till ten; after which to twenty the term *murrathidna*, from *murra* 'hands,' and *thidna* 'feet,' is used, and the fingers and toes are brought into play. Their arithmetic is then exhausted, and any larger number than twenty is signified in the dumb language, conveying the idea of a mob—an innumerable quantity."

† In the prospectus the book is called "On the History, Manners, and Customs, Language and Mythology of the Natives of the Lakes and Lower Murray." Attention is directed by the Committee of Aborigines' Friends' Association to the facts "that the Ethnological Society of London have recently published, as part of their proceedings, a paper of his" (Mr. Taplin's) "on the Native Languages and other matters; and that Mr. Darwin, in his latest work, 'Expression in Man and Animals,' has repeatedly quoted Mr. Taplin's observations."—W.H.I.B.

I am quite sure that it is practicable to carry out a plan which would obtain all that Dr. Bleek wishes.

It has been my desire for many years to collect into one volume all that could be known of the Australian Aborigines. I have always felt a deep interest in the study of Ethnology. I have gathered up some information and kept it by me, hoping to be able to add to it from time to time; but I find my limited resources, engrossing engagements as the Superintendent of the Station, and private position, prevent me from making much progress. I am sure that all the interesting results which Dr. Bleek hopes for might be obtained, if such researches could be carried on vigorously. As I see the *Meru*, *Morowa* and *Tatiara* tribes fast passing away, I am sorry that I cannot get time to pursue inquiries concerning their mythology, language, and customs, which will very soon be impossible. The *Narrinyeri* possess (for Aborigines) a remarkable vitality, and I do not fear their speedy extinction as a nation.

In order to obtain the information which is desired by Dr. Bleek, it would be necessary that researches should be carried out under the authority and direction of the Government of this Colony. I should propose that the following objects should be sought for:—

1. A collection of all grammars and vocabularies of Aboriginal languages. I have compiled a vocabulary and grammar of the language of the *Narrinyeri*, and would willingly get it copied as a contribution towards this result. I have no doubt that other contributions could be obtained.

2. A comparative table of the languages of the Aborigines, to correspond with the comparative table of Polynesian and Melanesian languages of Dr. Geo. Turner, of Samoa; but it would be desirable to form such a table on a different plan from Dr. Turner's. It could be so compiled as to be much more convenient for reference. The value of such a complete table would be very great. I made an attempt towards such an one, and His Excellency Sir James Fergusson sent the manuscript to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, by whom it was sent to Professor Max Müller. He laid it before the Anthropological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and they published it. I send herewith a corrected copy. Its very limited range prevents it from having any great value. My own object in compiling it has been to endeavour to trace the lines of migration of the Aborigines into this Continent.* I understand that this has been to a great extent accomplished for the Aborigines of the North American Continent. I do not see why it may not here.

3. A collection, by a competent person, of all the legends and myths and folklore, to be found amongst the different tribes of Aborigines. I am sure they would be found to possess many of the characteristics which are supposed by Dr. Bleek. They have a great resemblance to the myths, &c., of the inhabitants of Polynesia.†

4. The tracing of the system of kinship prevalent amongst the Aborigines of this Continent. This is very important. Many tribes have already been found to have the same peculiar system which is in existence amongst the Dravidian Natives of Southern India.

In order to prosecute these researches efficiently, it would be necessary that a list of questions should be carefully drawn up, together with a list of words for which the Aboriginal equivalents are required, and also a table of relationships and degrees of kinship, and the whole printed in a convenient form as a circular. This could be sent to those persons who are best acquainted with the Aborigines to be filled up. By these means a great deal of information might be collected.‡

There exists a great necessity for trustworthy information about the Australian Aborigines. The very first sentence in Dr. Bleek's paper, "On the position of the Australian Languages," contain a most questionable assertion, *viz.*, "that the languages spoken throughout the southern portion of the Australian Continent are derived from one common stock."§

* Although such comparative vocabularies are of certain value in this respect, still this is not so great as was formerly supposed. The comparison of the grammatical structure of the different languages is of far greater importance, as well as a necessary basis for all lexical comparisons, and also as the surest guide to the real relationships of languages and nations.—W.H.I.B.

† My own impression has been that the Australian mythology is of a different character from the Polynesian one; but the sources for my knowledge have been limited. Further researches must clear up this point.—W.H.I.B.

‡ No leading questions should, however, be asked from the Natives; otherwise the information is likely to be untrustworthy. The best way is to take down from the lips of the Natives their folklore and other traditions, and get them to explain them without suggesting anything at all to them.—W.H.I.B.

§ Among the results of the researches made by Sir George Grey, and published in his "Journal of Two Expeditions," thirty-three years ago, the discovery that the languages spoken throughout the southern portion of the Continent are akin to each other, was confirmed to me by the study of the different grammars collected by Sir

I have often seen similar doubtful statements made. The work of Sir John Lubbock, on the "Origin of Civilization," as far as the Australian Aborigines are concerned, abounds in misstatements and mistakes. His authorities have not been trustworthy. It is very desirable that trustworthy information then should be made accessible. It is most important for the advancement of science; and anthropology bids fair to hold no secondary place in the circle of the sciences. I quite agree with Dr. Bleek when he says of the Aborigines, "the present state of their manners and customs, and habits, seems to favor the idea that they have fallen from a higher stage of civilization."* I think it can almost be demonstrated that this has been the case. Mr. Wake is decidedly wrong in maintaining the reverse position. I cannot think how any one who has extensive knowledge of the Australian Aborigines can fail to perceive that they have descended from a state of comparative civilization to their present state of barbarism. Such researches as are recommended by Dr. Bleek would tend to clear up this matter and make evident the truth.

I have been informed that a Mr. Gason, who has been stationed as a Police Trooper at Lake Hope, has drawn up an account of the language, manners, and customs, and traditions of the Aborigines there. Such an account should not be allowed to remain unpublished. It is sure to be valuable.

I have always considered that it was the duty of Missionaries to gather up facts, which scientific men could then arrange and classify. I, therefore, willingly offer my services to the Government for the prosecution of these researches, in so far as I could carry them on without detriment to my work as the Missionary Pastor of the Native Christian Church here. My duties as a Missionary of the Gospel must always stand first; but if without injury to those duties I can assist in this most interesting work, I am quite ready to do so. I feel that I am forwarding the best interests of the Aborigines by helping them into the light. They have suffered, as a people, through there being so little known of them.

In order to carry out Dr. Bleek's plan, it would be necessary that the Legends of the Aborigines should be collected by those who understand their language. I am sure that this could be done. I know for my own part that, time being given me, I could make a collection of legends in *Narrinyerwallin*, with translations into English.

I have sent, herewith, a book of translations into the language of these natives, just to give a slight idea of the capabilities of their language. I have also put in a collection of hymns and lessons.

If this report is not sufficient, I shall feel honored by your making further inquiries of me, and I will do my best to answer them.

I have, &c., &c.,
 GEO. TAPLIN.

We see from these letters of Governor Musgrave and Mr. Taplin, that this matter—so important, because it will not brook delay—is in good hands in South Australia; and we may hope soon to hear similar good news from the other Australian Colonies, giving promise of energetic endeavors to rescue from oblivion something of the inner life of races now fast disappearing before the rapid strides of civilization on that continent.

George, and described in "The Library of His Excellency Sir G. Grey, Philology, Vol. II. Part I. Australia." This view is mainly based upon a comparison of their grammatical structure; whilst Mr. Taplin seems, so far as I can see from his paper, only to have been guided by lexical comparisons, which, certainly by themselves, do not prove common origin. Of course, in the course of a generation many additional facts may come to light, which may disprove former conclusions. But, as yet, I have not seen any Australian grammar which does not show on the whole the same structural peculiarities; and it certainly is new to me that there should be any having the peculiar characteristics of the Polynesian and Melanesian languages, as Mr. Taplin seems to intimate in his "Notes on a Comparative Table of Australian Languages." The *Tasmanian* languages or dialects (now extinct) are the only ones I can remember of which it is doubtful whether they possess Australian or Papuan characteristics. But the scantiness, and to a great extent unreliability, of the material available for a knowledge of the Tasmanian dialects, almost precludes the possibility of arriving at a clear opinion regarding them. Logan ranges them with the Papuan; and I remember being at first of his opinion, and trying hard to find confirmatory indications; but only with the result that it was, after all, more probable that they possessed a structure similar to that of the other Australian languages. I must, however, mention that Professor Finzi, in Florence, who was about to publish a book on the Australian languages, expressed to me his doubts regarding the consanguinity of the Australian languages with each other, and still more with the Dravidian languages of southern India; but as his death, at the early age of twenty-five, prevented the appearance of this book, I do not know on what grounds his doubts were based. The subject is deserving further inquiry, and is well worth the attention of trained philologists. The collection of Traditional Lore in the native languages will be the best help in this direction, as furnishing the most reliable materials.—W.H.I.B.

*My meaning may be best understood by giving the two sentences following this in my paper: "The artificial nature of their weapons, their knowledge of the art of spinning, the peculiar system of castes existing among them, and many other circumstances besides, tend to confirm this view. It is, doubtless, not too much to say that having been spread in small numbers over a vast Continent, produced almost necessarily with them (as it has done with European settlers in new countries) the loss of many of those acquirements of civilization which they had originally possessed."—W.H.I.B.

Return of Aboriginal Natives charged with any offence, during six months ended 31st December, 1874.

Name of Accused.	Charge.	Place where alleged offence was committed.	Date of offence.	Date of arrest.	Date of hearing.	Name of Magistrate before whom charge was heard.	Result of inquiry.
Munginia, alias Albert	Larceny	Streaky Bay	July 4	July 5	July 6	O. K. Richardson, S.M.	Sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment and one dozen lashes. Fined 5s. Fined 5s. Discharged. Discharged with a caution. Committed for 48 hours. Fined 20s.; in default, committed for seven days. Fined 5s. Fined 5s. Fined 5s. Fined 5s. Fined 5s. Fined 5s. Committed for 14 days with hard labor. Discharged with a caution. Fined 1s. Fined 2s. 6d. Fined 2s. 6d. Fined 2s. 6d. Fined 2s. 6d. Fined 2s. 6d.
Tom Lawson	Drunkennes	Wellington	July 31	July 31	July 31	E. C. Hughes, S.M.	
Billy White	"	Penola	July 25	July 25	July 27	George Riddoch, J.P.	
Tommy Bates	"	Millicent	July 21	July 21	July 22	E. Wehl, J.P.	
Archy	"	"	Aug. 8	Aug. 8	Aug. 9	George Glen, J.P.	
Jimmy Tarpot	"	Naracoorte	Aug. 13	Aug. 13	Aug. 14	H. J. Smith, S.M.	
Policeman Dick	"	Adelaide	July 25	July 25	July 27	S. Beddome, P.M.	
Jemmy Hackett	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Ellen Hackett	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Eliza Rankine	"	"	Aug. 8	Aug. 8	Aug. 10	"	
Bob Thomas	"	"	Sept. 3	Sept. 3	Sept. 4	"	
Thos. Watkins	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Bob Thomas	Idle and disorderly	"	"	"	"	"	
Thos. Watkins	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Jack Pike	Drunkennes	Auburn	Oct. 7	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	J. E. Bleechmore, J.P.	
Jimmy Gibson	"	Kingston	Nov. 28	Nov. 28	Nov. 30	E. S. Burkitt, J.P.	
Catherine Gibson	"	"	Dec. 5	Dec. 5	Dec. 7	J. Cooke, J.P.	
Isaac	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Jenny	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Johnny Dunne	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Joe Gifford	"	"	Dec. 6	Dec. 6	"	"	
Mary Gifford	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Old Man Dick	"	"	"	"	"	"	

Deaf Tommy	Drunkenness and resisting Police	" "	Dec. 9	Dec. 9	Dec. 10	E. S. Burkitt, J.P.	Fined 20s.
Mary Ann Jackey			" "	" "	" "		" "
Emma	Drunkenness	Millicent Adelaide	Dec. 20	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Geo. Glen, J.P. S. Beddome, P.M.	Discharged with a caution.
Mary Ann Dungey			Indecent language	Oct. 14	Oct. 14		Oct. 15
Henry Thompson	Drunkenness	" "	Nov. 3	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	" "	Fined 10s.
Billy Weekly			Idle and disorderly	" "	" "		" "
Robert Thompson	" "	" "	Nov. 9	Nov. 9	Nov. 10	" "	Discharged with a caution.
Maria Thompson			" "	" "	" "		" "
Mary Ann Dungey	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	Discharged with a caution.
Bernard Patterson			" "	" "	" "		" "
Charles Johnson	Fighting	" "	Nov. 12	Nov. 12	Nov. 13	" "	Imprisoned 14 days' hard labor.
Bernard Patterson			" "	" "	" "		" "
Robert Thompson	Drunkenness	" "	Nov. 26	Nov. 26	Nov. 26	" "	Fined 5s.
James Campbell			Assault	Nov. 27	Nov. 27		Dec. 4
Jemmy Scrubber	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
Charles Pritchard							
John Nipper	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
Jemmy Hackett							
Henry Hunter	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
Billy Lully							
William Young	Idle and disorderly persons	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
Fred King							
Jemmy Scrubber	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
Bob Thompson							
Martha Newland	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
Amelia Young							
Maria Thompson	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
Mary Ann Dungey							
Emily Pritchard	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
Mary Jane Nipper							
Ellen Nipper	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
Christian Hackett							
Charles Pearce, alias Booth...	Rape	Near Doughty Creek	Oct. 18	Oct. 20	Oct. 22	M. Moorhouse, J.P.	Committed to Supreme Court.
Paul Pry	Drunkenness	Melrose	Nov. 19	Nov. 19	Nov. 21	" "	Fined 5s.
Fanny	Attempt at suicide	Mt. Wedge	Oct. 22	Oct. 22	Oct. 27	J. S. Browne, S.M.	Discharged.
Moongannah	Deserting service	Streaky Bay	Sept. 16	Oct. 5	Oct. 9	O. K. Richardson, S.M.	Three weeks' imprisonment.
Moonea	House breaking	" "	Nov. 21	Nov. 23	Nov. 23	" "	Discharged.
Munginnia	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	One week's imprisonment and two dozen lashes.
Chillingya	Deserting service	" "	Augt. 3	Dec. 13	Dec. 13	" "	Discharged on promising to return to service.

Return of Persons charged with any violation of Clause 17, of Act No. 22, of 1872, (forbidding liquors to be supplied to Aborigines), during half-year ended 31st. December, 1874.

No.	Name of Accused.	Residence.	Occupation.	Place where alleged offence was committed.	Date of Offence.	Name of Magistrate before whom charge was heard.	Result of inquiry.
1	John Cleasy	Traveller	Laborer	Melrose	August 1	J. H. Angas, J.P., and M. Moorhouse, J.P.	Fined £5; in default was committed for one month with hard labor.
2	Isaac Garland	Wellington	Hawker	Wellington	July 29	George F. Dashwood, S.M.	Committed to gaol for three months with hard labor, in default of payment of fine of £10 in each case.
3	Margaret Garland		Wife of hawker		July 29		
4	John Bone Miller	Millicent	Painter	Millicent	Aug. 7	Geo. Glen, and E. Wehl, J.P.'s.	Fined £5 and costs £1; in default six weeks' imprisonment.
5	Mary A. Took	Blinman	Dressmaker	Blinman	Aug. 15	J. P. Buttfield, S.M., and Dr. Vonida, J.P.	Fined £1, and costs £1.
6	Henry Slade	Traveller	Laborer	"	"	"	Fined £1, and costs £1.
7	Henry Smith	"	"	"	"	"	Not found.
8	William Beavorstock	"	"	"	"	"	Fined £1, and costs £1.
9	Margaret Kerr	Adelaide	Widow	Adelaide	June 29	Samuel Beddome, P.M.	Fined £1, and costs 10s.
10	James Gray	Blinman	Laborer	Near Blinman	Nov. 5	J. P. Buttfield, S.M.	Fined £1, and costs £1.
11	Hugh MacDonald	South Avenue	"	Millicent	Dec. 20	Geo. Glen, and E. Wehl, J.P.'s.	Fined £2 and costs.
12	Thomas Lyons	Millicent Flats	"	"	"	"	Dismissed.
13	H. Pascoe	Reddy Creek	Storeman	Reddy Creek	Aug. 15	H. J. Smith, S.M.	Dismissed.
14	H. Lambert	Kingston	Storekeeper	Kingston	Aug. 20	"	Dismissed.
15	C. Horn	Reddy Creek	Laborer	Reddy Creek	Aug. 23	"	Fined £1 and costs.
16	D. McAdam	Coolatoo	Publican	Coolatoo	Nov. 23	J. Cooke, and E. S. Burkitt, J.P.'s.	Fined £5 and costs.
17	"	"	"	"	"	"	Fined £5, and costs.
18	"	"	"	"	"	"	Fined £5, including costs.
19	J. Deut	Kingston	Carrier	Kingston	Dec. 5	"	Fined £5, including costs.
20	"	"	"	"	Dec. 6	"	Fined £5, including costs.
21	C. Wilson	"	Publican	"	Nov. 28	"	Fined £10, including costs.
22	Edward Meyers	Burra	Hawker	Winninrie	Dec. 26	G. Goodhart, and Alex. McCulloch, J.P.'s.	Fined £1, including costs.

Return showing the Distribution of Stores issued by the Aborigines Department during the year ended 31st December, 1874.

Name of Depôt.	Flour.	Sugar.	Tea.	Rice.	Tobacco	Soap.	Sago.	Blankets (Single).	Blue Shirts.	Blue Serge.	Miscellaneous.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.			yds.	
Arrowie	2,000	250	43	56	10	—	—	15	6	—	
Angipena	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	
Bimbowrie	4,000	750	127	56	35	56	—	80	—	—	
Blanchetown	1,000	250	43	168	20	84	96	30	6	—	{ 6 tomahawks, 10lbs. netting twine, 24 fishing lines, 100 fish-hooks, 12 quart pots, 12 pannicans, 24 spoons, medicines.
Blanchewater	2,000	250	43	56	10	—	—	20	—	—	
Blinman	1,000	150	20	56	10	56	20	60	—	—	
Border Town	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	
Bundaleer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	
Bungaree	1,000	200	40	56	10	56	—	20	6	24	
Chowilla	100	250	20	56	6	56	—	40	—	24	{ 100 needles, 2lbs. thread, 12 tomahawks, 20lbs. netting twine, 24 fishing lines, 100 fishhooks, 12 quart pots, 12 pannicans.
Clarendon	—	100	20	56	—	14	—	5	—	—	{ 4 tomahawks, 10lbs. netting twine.
Crystal Brook	1,000	100	20	—	5	—	—	20	6	20	{ 6 tomahawks, medicines.
Fowler's Bay	6,000	750	129	112	30	56	48	40	24	36	{ 6 tomahawks, 2lbs. thread, medicines.
Franklin Harbor	4,000	500	86	56	20	56	56	30	12	48	{ 6 tomahawks, 100 needles, 2lbs. thread, 20lbs. netting twine, 12 fishing lines, 100 fishhooks, 36 quart pots, 36 pannicans, 24 spoons.
Goolwa	10,000	1,250	215	224	50	112	68	100	18	48	{ 12 tomahawks, 200 needles, 2lbs. thread, 25lbs. netting twine, 20 fishing lines, 100 fishhooks, 3 axes, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans, 1 load firewood, medicines.
Guichen Bay	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	30	12	—	{ 6 tomahawks, 6 quart pots, 6 pannicans, 12 spoons.
Kopperamanna	2,000	250	43	—	10	—	—	25	12	—	{ 6 tomahawks, 100 needles, 2lbs. thread, 2 axes, 12 quart pots, 12 pannicans, $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton red ochre.
Lacedpede Bay	3,000	250	86	112	30	20	—	40	12	60	{ 6 tomahawks, 35lbs. netting twine, 20 fishing lines, paints, oil, 1 pair oars, 12 pannicans, 12 quart pots.
Ditto Native School	4,000	500	129	168	—	112	20	—	—	60	
Long Island	6,000	750	129	112	30	—	28	25	6	—	{ 6 tomahawks, 39lbs. netting twine, 12 fishing lines, 100 hooks, 12 quart pots, 12 pannicans, 2 canoes, medicines.
McDonnell Bay	1,000	100	20	28	5	—	20	12	—	—	
McGrath's Flat	6,000	750	129	140	30	56	56	50	12	36	{ 6 tomahawks, 20lbs. netting twine, 12 fishing lines, 100 hooks, 5 gallons tar, 2 canoes.
Milang	8,000	1,000	215	112	60	112	56	60	—	50	{ 6 tomahawks, 2lbs. thread, 20lbs. netting twine, 20 fishing lines, 200 hooks, 18 quart pots, 18 pannicans, 18 billy cans, 24 loads firewood, medicines.
Mount Deception	4,000	500	86	56	20	—	20	50	—	—	
Mount Gambier	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	
Mount Freeling	3,000	300	43	56	10	—	—	30	—	—	
Mount Remarkable	1,000	100	20	28	5	28	20	5	6	—	{ 6 tomahawks, 50 needles, 1lb. thread, 6 quart pots, 6 pannicans, and 12 spoons.
Millicent	2,000	455	83	—	15	56	—	25	12	12	{ 12 tomahawks, 50 needles, 1lb. thread, 10lbs. netting twine, 10 fishing lines, 100 fishhooks, 18 quart pots, 18 pannicans, 12 spoons.
Mundowadana	2,000	250	20	56	10	56	20	20	—	—	
Naracoorte	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	
Nilpena	1,000	100	20	—	5	—	—	20	—	—	
Overland Corner	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	12	24	{ 6 tomahawks, 20lbs. netting twine, 12 quart pots, 12 pannicans.
Parallana	2,000	250	43	—	10	—	—	20	—	—	
Penola	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	
Point Macleay	16,000	2,000	344	336	40	336	56	120	24	96	{ 12 tomahawks, 200 needles, 2lbs. thread, 30lbs netting twine, 20 fishing lines, 200 fishhooks, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans, 4 axes, 50 spoons, and medicines.
Point Pierce	8,000	550	170	224	30	112	28	60	24	72	{ 12 tomahawks, 200 needles, 2lbs. thread, 40lbs. netting twine, 200 fishhooks, 20 fishing lines, 48 quart pots, 48 pannicans, 3 axes, 60 spoons, 24 yards wincey.
Poonindie	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	—	—	
Port Augusta	6,000	750	129	336	20	56	28	30	24	—	{ 20 fishing lines, 100 fishhooks, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans.
Port Lincoln	1,000	100	20	56	10	56	—	20	—	—	

Strangways Springs	3,000	300	43	—	10	—	—	60	—	—	{ 12 tomahawks, 200 needles, 2lbs. thread, 20lbs. netting twine, 20 fishing lines, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans, 24 spoons, and medicines. 20 fishing lines, 100 fishhooks, 24 quart pots. 6 tomahawks, 100 needles, 2lbs. thread, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans. 6 tomahawks, 200 needles, 2lbs. thread, 20 fishing lines, 100 fishhooks, and medicines. 6 tomahawks, 5lbs. netting twine, 10 fishing lines, 12 quart pots. 6 tomahawks, 20lbs. netting twine, 20 fishing lines, 3 axes, 12 quart pots, 12 pannicans, and medicines. 6 tomahawks, 100 needles, 1lb. thread, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans, and medicines. Medicines.
Streaky Bay	8,000	1,000	129	168	40	112	60	50	48	96	
Three Lakes	1,000	—	—	56	—	—	—	30	12	—	
Tarpeena	4,000	500	86	84	20	56	56	30	6	68	
Venus Bay	4,000	500	96	56	20	112	56	40	24	36	
Umberatana	2,000	250	43	—	10	—	—	20	—	—	
Wallaroo	—	100	20	28	5	—	—	30	6	12	
Wallianippie	8,000	1,000	86	168	40	112	112	30	—	—	
Wellington	4,000	500	86	56	20	112	40	70	—	—	
Wirrialpa	4,000	500	63	56	20	—	20	20	—	—	
Walleperdina	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	
Warrakimbo	2,000	250	43	—	10	—	—	20	—	—	
Yardea	4,000	500	86	56	20	—	—	30	24	54	
Yadlamalka	1,400	150	32	76	7	—	—	12	—	—	
Totals	153,500	19,050	3,348	3,576	788	2,050	984	1,698	354	876	

Return of Sick Natives under Treatment in the Tatiara District during the six months ended 31st December, 1874.

No.	Name.	Country or Tribe.	Sex.	Age.	Disease.	Where attended	Distance.	Dates of Attendance.	Result.	Remarks.
1	Punch	Tatiara	M.	23	Constipatio	Charla	Miles. —	July 6	Relieved	The aborigines are all busily employed in the district on sheep stations, it being shearing time. No epidemic among them, and all orderly and sober this season.—R. B. P.
2	Pinkie's child	"	F.	2½	Fever	Cannaringa	5	July 11	"	
3	Tommy Little	"	M.	30	Ophthalmia	Charla	—	July 28	"	
4	Scottie	"	M.	20	Constipatio	"	—	Aug. 30	"	
5	Young Louisa	"	F.	30	Cardialgia	Cannaringa	5	Sept. 1	"	
6	Bobby Wirrega	"	M.	22	Stitch in the side from jumping	Charla	—	Sept. 9	"	
—	Scottie	"	M.	20	Constipatio	"	—	Sept. 13	"	
7	Archie	"	M.	21	"	"	—	"	"	
—	Bobby	"	M.	22	"	"	—	"	"	
8	Old Mary	"	F.	48	Influenza	"	—	Sept. 19	"	
9	Old Louisa	"	F.	38	Rheumatism	"	—	Oct. 29	"	
—	Punch	"	M.	26	Constipatio	"	—	Nov. 4	"	
10	Pinkie	"	M.	21	Toothache	"	—	Nov. 18	"	
—	Scotty	"	M.	20	"	"	—	"	"	
—	Bobby	"	M.	22	Fall from a horse—bruises	Wirrega	6	Dec. 1	"	
—	Scottie	"	M.	20	Constipatio	Charla	—	Dec. 6	"	

31st December, 1874.

ROBERT BANKS PENNY, M.R.C.S., L., District Medical Officer for Aborigines, Tatiara.

Return of Sick Aborigines under Treatment in the Adelaide Hospital during six months ended 31st December, 1874.

No.	Name.	Country or Tribe.	Sex.	Age.	Disease.	Date of Admission.	Result of Treatment.	Date of Discharge.	Remarks.
1	Susan Gollan	Meningie	F.	15	Syphilitic nodes on tibia	1874. May 29	Relieved	1874. July 29	
2	George Dermoty	Riverton	M.	24	Ascites	June 10	Died	July 14	
3	Mary Newland	Goolwa	F.	22	Axillary abscess	July 24	Cured	Aug. 4	
4	Murtha Newland	Willunga	F.	37	Bronchitis	Aug. 22	Cured	Aug. 25	
5	Maria McCarthy	Milang	F.	30	Pneumonia	Aug. 26	Cured	Sept. 5	
6	Mary Newland	Goolwa	F.	22	Pneumonia	Oct. 1	Recovered	Oct. 19	
7	Billy Barlow	Mount Margaret	M.	24	Febricula	Oct. 19	Recovered	Oct. 27	
8	Billy	Tungatta	M.	12	Disease of ancle joint	Oct. 28	Still under treatment	—	Amputation performed.
9	Mary Newland	Goolwa	F.	22	Bronchitis	Nov. 25	Recovered	Dec. 10	Second time admitted this quarter.
10	Sarah Newland	Goolwa	F.	1	Measles	Nov. 30	Recovered	Dec. 10	Infant daughter of above.

Tabulated Statement showing Return of Births, Deaths, and Causes of Death, during the Six Months ended 31st. December, 1874.

Name of Depôt.	Births.	Deaths.
Bimbowrie	2	7
Blanchetown	1	2
Blanchewater	—	5
Fowler's Bay	—	1
Franklin Harbor	—	2
Goolwa	—	2
Guichen Bay	1	—
Kopperamana	1	5
Laccpede Bay	—	1
Long Island	1	1
MacDonnell Bay	—	1
McGrath's Flat	2	1
Milang	1	2
Mount Deception	—	6
Mount Freeling	—	1
Millicent	—	2
Overland Corner	—	2
Point Macleay	2	2
Port Pierce	—	1
Port Augusta	—	2
Port Lincoln	2	—
Strangways Springs	—	5
Streaky Bay	1	—
Venus Bay	1	3
Umberatana	7	3
Wellington	2	3
Wirralpa	—	1
Warrakimbo	1	1
Yardea	—	2
Yadlamalka	1	1
Total	26	65

Causes of death.—Bursting blood vessel, 1; consumption, 19; convulsions, 1; dysentery, 1; drowning, (accidental) 1; falling from a dray, 1; heart disease, 2; inflammation of intestines, 1; influenza, 6; liver complaint, 2; measles, 11; old age, 6; paralysis, 2; teething, 2; unascertained, 9.