REPORT FROM PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES,

For Six Months ended June 30, 1867.

Aborigines Office, Adelaide, 1st July, 1867.

Sir,—I have the honor to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor-Chief, my report for the six months ending 30th June, 1867.

SOUTH-EASTERN DISTRICT.

Point Macleay.—The following is extracted from Mr. Tappin's report of 17th May:—"As regards the general state and prospects of this mission, I can report favorably. There are now upwards of twelve natives under instruction at the school-house; fourteen of these are children, and the rest are youths who work all day at farm work and receive instruction in the evening. Our Sabbath congregations are regular and attentive, and average between forty and fifty individuals. I am also aware that several young men and women who have left this station are exerting a good influence among the natives where they reside. I heard of one instance, where a native of ours was received into communion with a Christian church in the neighborhood where he is employed. Of course, there are some who resist our efforts for their good; it would, indeed, be remarkable if we were invariably successful in our efforts to influence for good the moral character of the natives.

"Our farm has turned out very well, and is likely to continue to do so. I look to it as a means of making this station self-supporting in the course of time, and thus enabling the Aborigines Friends Association to transfer the funds now expended here to other stations among the aborigines. I also regard our farm as an important agency for civilizing the natives, by giving them employment and cultivating habits of industry, forethought, and economy among them. The next harvest we shall have about 100 acres of wheat, and also some few acres of hay, and our small flock of sheep is likely to do well and be remunerative."

"I have also to report that for the last four months there has been a great dearth of employment for natives. White labor is so easily obtained, and many farmers have such an aversion to employing natives that almost every means of employment has been shut against them. If it had not been for this station, I think much distress would have prevailed amongst them. I wish we could employ more than we do. I often have to turn people away who seek for work. Many of the young men are intelligent laborers, and always get cheated. I have warned the natives generally against the temptations held out by the superior race to the inferior. I am aware that some of the natives are attracted to prostitution, such is not the case, many of them are well-conducted.

"There has been no fight among the natives for three years. The statistics of the police for the last six months show no alteration in this respect, and among the aborigines generally I have found no signs of a growing tendency to return to their old habits. I am of opinion that there is a great improvement in them during the past six months, there is less drunkenness and less fighting, their general conduct is comparatively good as the generality of the laboring class of white men.

"The various depots being at convenient distances from each other in this district they can indulge in their migratory habits, and can go to any depot in search of employment. They get their blankets as far as they would go to the women, and are sometimes very willing to return to the settlement. They subsequently returned to the Mount when they met many of their friends, some from the Glenelg, and they held a corroboree.

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"Having travelled over a large proportion of my district and mingled with the natives, I am enabled to speak from personal observation of their condition; and thus the subjects of my charge have come to know me personally, and to understand the relation I sustain to them. The aborigines gratefully appreciate the efforts of the Government to minister to their necessities, protect them in their rights, and to enlighten them in their own duties and obligations towards the settlers, through the medium of "blackfellows master" all about.

"During the last six months I visited officially the following places, viz.—Ooruparna, Appinna, Nuccaleena,
Bobmooneywest, Windy Creek, Patey’s Springs, Fink’s Creek, Mount Serle, Umbertana, Yerehina, Mount Freeling, Blanchewater, Tooncatachen, Mannwalkanina, Coldrinna, Lake Hope (Mount Serle and the five last-named places twice), Wilpena, Arkaba, Warrina, Kanraka, Siding, Port Augusta, Beautiful Valley, Mount Remarkable, Willowie, Coonatto, Yanurol, Muttawarangalla, Hollowwilliana, Warrowia, Angorichina, Wirribirruma, Wirralalala, Arrowio, Warreesta, Koppromaran, Killinpalinina, Lake Gregory, and many other adjacent or intermediate places. I have thus gone over some 2,000 miles, seeking in every way in my power to discharge the duties of my office, so as to secure the best results.

“ There has been a great amount of sickness (but little mortality) among the aborigines. I am happy to report a great improvement in this respect. I always carry in my vehicle medicines and medical comforts, and thus have been enabled to render needful assistance to many poor sufferers.

“I feel myself justified in stating the general health of the aborigines to be good. The timely arrival at the several depots of blankets and other clothing, will no doubt contribute alike to the health and comfort of the aborigines.

“The provisions are, I believe, distributed with care and discrimination by the issuers.

“The almost total absence of native animals, and the failure of other resources, native and extraneous, have placed a very large number of aborigines in most trying circumstances, and dependent upon the generosity of the Government.

“Notwithstanding the hard times the general conduct of the aborigines has been such as to excite sympathy, surprise, and gratification. They are for the most part, patient, peaceable, and well-disposed—occasionally an unprotected hut is robbed of stores; and there have been one or two instances of crimes of a more aggravated nature.

“There are now 17 depots judiciously distributed over my district as follows:—

East and North-East. — Melrose, Muttawarangalla, Arrowia, Booloomata, and Bimboursie.

North.—Port Augusta, Arkaba, Wilpena, Blinman, Umbertana, Yunadamutana, and Mount Freeling.

West and North West.—Franklin Harbor, Ogilvies’, Mount Eyre, Wintalatingaro, and Mount Deception.

“I think it will not be necessary to augment materially the number of regular depots.

“I have not visited the west and north-west portion of my district during the past six months, I was preparing to do so when intelligence reached me of the menacing conduct of the natives at Koppromaran, and I felt it to be my duty to accompany the detachment of troopers sent there by the Government instead.”

The natives west of Port Lincoln have suffered very much during the past six months from an attack of a disease said to be small pox. The late Dr. Lawson, of Port Lincoln, and Dr. Gething, of Port Adelaide, were sent, by the direction of the Government, to visit and prescribe for these people, and it is gratifying to state that their efforts and advice, in addition to the care and considerate attention, the issuers of stores at the various western depots have been instrumental in stopping a disease that threatened destruction to the native population of that portion of the province.

Since my term of office, extending to a period of six months, I have travelled a distance of 2,565 miles, in making official visits to the following places, viz.:—Milang, Point Maclesy, Waterside, Wellington, Goolwa, Port Elliot, Victor Harbor, Long Island, Meningle, McGrath’s Flat, Lacepede Bay, Narracorte, Penola, Mount Gambier, Tarpanna, Mount Burr, Merre, Port Lincoln, Port Augusta, Beautiful Valley, Mount Remarkable, Stockport, Blinchetown, Overland Corner, Chawilla, Clarendon, and Rapid Bay, for the purpose of inspecting the various depots, and ascertaining the condition of, and rendering all the assistance I could to the aborigines who resort to those places of relief when occasion requires it.

There are fifty-eight depots in the Colony, at which stores and medicines of various kinds are kept for distribution among the aborigines, so that the wants of these people during times of scarcity of food and sickness are met, and whenever it is possible and necessary, medical practitioners are employed to attend upon the sick.

“I have the honor to be, Sir,

E. B. Scott, Acting Protector of Aborigines.

To the Hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands.
No. Native School at Walboune. N.

Opened in April 1844

under Superintendence of Mr Smith — formerly

cartographer in Land Office.

Rev. A. Abbott, Minister & Superintendent

of the Methodist Church Conducted a

Native Sunday School at Walboune...

Pamphlets purchased by them for the purpose,

& had from 60 to 70 Native Children under

instruction there.

Children divided into 5 Classes —

2 Classes able to read tolerably well &

sing Hymns in English.