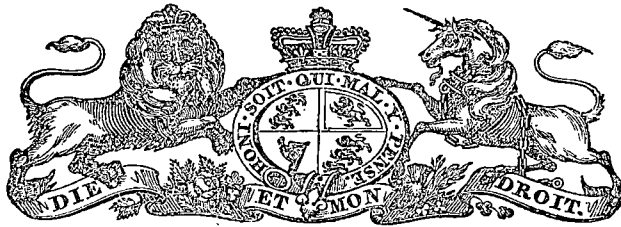


(No. 130.)



1861.

T A S M A N I A.

M R S. H A R N E T T.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Brought up by Mr. Sharland, and ordered by the House to be printed,
1 November, 1861.



REPORT of the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed on the 10th October, 1861, for the purpose of enquiring into the Statements contained in a Petition from THOMAS and JOHANNA WINGFIELD; with power to send for Persons and Papers.

M E M B E R S.

MR. BALFE.	MR. DODERY.
MR. ATTORNEY-GENERAL.	MR. SHARLAND.
MR. GRANT.	

DAYS OF MEETING.

- No. 1.—18 October, 1861. *Present*—Mr. Sharland, Mr. Balfe, Mr. Grant, Mr. Dodery, and Mr. Attorney-General.
 No. 2.—24 October, 1861. *Present*—Mr. Sharland, Mr. Balfe, Mr. Dodery, and Mr. Attorney-General.
 No. 3.—25 October, 1861. *Present*—Mr. Sharland, Mr. Balfe, Mr. Grant, Mr. Dodery, and Mr. Attorney-General.
 No. 4.—31 October, 1861. *Present*—Mr. Sharland, Mr. Grant, Mr. Dodery.
 No. 5.—1 November, 1861. *Present*—Mr. Sharland, Mr. Dodery, and Mr. Attorney-General.

WITNESSES EXAMINED.

- No. 1.—24 October, 1861. Mr. Chief District Constable Richardson.
 No. 2.—24 October, 1861. Mr. Menzie, butcher, New Norfolk.
 No. 3.—25 October, 1861. Rev. M. H. Ryan, Catholic Chaplain.

R E P O R T.

YOUR Committee have enquired into the statements contained in the Petition referred to them by your Honorable House, and have taken evidence thereon, which evidence they append to this Report.

2. They felt it to be their duty to see Mrs. Harnett (or Arnott) in the Hospital, and they found her to be an aged woman of probably between 70 and 80 years of age. She asked the Committee why she was detained against her will, and said that she had been brought to the Hospital under a false pretence. She claimed to be allowed to return to her house at New Norfolk. Your Committee believe she has been a year in Hospital.

3. Your Committee find that the property in New Norfolk claimed by Mrs. Harnett (or Arnott) was originally located to her husband, Daniel Harnett (or Arnott) who died in 1852, leaving his widow in possession. He left no will, and there was no grant of the land, it consequently descended to his heir-at-law, if he had any; and Mrs. Harnett (or Arnott) by law never took any interest whatever in the land. Mrs. Harnett (or Arnott) stated to your Committee that her late husband had a son, who was by trade a copper-plate printer, and who resided in Ireland; and the property of the said land has legally descended to him.

4. Your Committee find that by Deed, dated 3rd November, 1853, Mrs. Harnett (or Arnott) purported to convey to certain Trustees the property at New Norfolk, in trust for herself during her lifetime, and after her death to the Church of Rome; the consideration being the payment of 5s. per week and fuel out of the Church funds during her life. This property has since been sold by the above-named Trustees to a man named James Donnellan, who is now in possession.

5. Your Committee find that Mrs. Harnett (or Arnott) continued to reside in her cottage for

some years after her husband's death, where she appears to have suffered great privations, and to have been often relieved by her neighbours. That in 1859 she was placed with a Mr. Fitzgerald, a tanner, of New Norfolk, who lived next door, where she remained a few weeks, and then went to reside with the Petitioners, *Thomas and Johanna Wingfield*, who appear, from certificates laid before your Committee from the Protestant Clergyman, two Magistrates, the Chief Constable, the Bench Clerk, the Surgeon, and several tradesmen of New Norfolk, to be both sober industrious people, renting land on which they keep 6 or 8 cows and a horse and cart. With the Wingfields she remained more than a year. That two days previously to her being taken to the Hospital she went from the Wingfields to the cottage, where she was admitted by Donnellan, who brought her down to the Hospital, as she states against her will, where she was received. That whilst at the Wingfields she by deed, dated 1st October, 1859, purported to convey the cottage to Thomas Wingfield, his heirs and assigns, in consideration of Wingfield covenanting to support and maintain her during her life, and at her death give her decent burial.

Your Committee are of opinion that, after their conversation with Mrs. Harnett (or Arnott), she is not imbecile, and that she is legally entitled to leave the Hospital whenever she may desire, and reside with whom she may think proper, and your Committee are of opinion that in no case should the authorities detain any persons in the Hospital against their will.

W. S. SHARLAND, *Chairman*:

Committee Room, 1st November, 1861.

E V I D E N C E.

24TH OCTOBER, 1861.

MR. JOHN RICHARDSON, *called in*.

I AM Chief District Constable of New Norfolk, and I have lived there for ten years. I have known Mrs. Arnott ever since I have been at New Norfolk. She lived in a cottage at the corner of High-street. Her husband has been dead more than 7 years. She has been living in the cottage till within the last 2 years. She has been living with the Wingfields. Mrs. Wingfield is a sober woman, and an industrious hard-working woman. She has never been brought to the Police Office but once, and that was owing to some disturbance relative to Mrs. Arnott's cottage. Wingfield is a hard-working man in comfortable circumstances, renting land from Mr. Turnbull, on which he keeps horses and a cart. Mrs. Wingfield has 6 or 8 cows.

I have frequently seen Mrs. Arnott after her husband's death. For some time she kept herself steady and pretty middling comfortable; in fact I think she was a teetotaler at that time. Latterly she was in a deplorably wretched state, giving way to drink; and there was scarcely anything in the shape of bedding or bonnets, or anything in the place. The neighbours assisted her. Mrs. Price and Mr. and Mrs. Turnbull were exceedingly charitable to her, and gave her tea and bread and butter. I have been told of this assistance having been afforded. She had no visible means independent of charity.

I made a representation to Mr. Fitzgerald as the Agent of the Roman Catholic Church. I found her in a deplorable way, with no bed covering nor clothes. I went to him and told him this, and the Fitzgeralds took her into their own cottage, which was next door.

Mr. Turnbull, J.P., I think sent for me on that occasion. This was I think in the middle of 1859. I don't know how long she remained at Fitzgerald's. I saw her next in the street with Mrs. Wingfield. I asked her what she was going to do with her. She said she was going to her own place. I said it was an act of charity for her to do so. I think Mrs. Wingfield told me she had put her clothes upon her. This was about 3 or 4 months after, but I am not sure about the time.

I did not see her while at Wingfield's, where I think she was taken care of, because I heard no complaint of her while she was there. Mrs. Wingfield is a charitable woman, for I know of an orphan boy named Fielding, whose parents were both dead, who she took as an infant, and has brought him up. I felt that Mrs. Arnott was in good hands.

There has been a disturbance about Arnott's house, shortly after which I understood that Wingfield had got possession of Arnott's cottage. The garden was let to a man named Fitzgerald for, I have heard, £9 a-year. A constable of mine bought the apples from Father Magorian for £7 one year. Fitzgerald took it from Mr. Magorian, the Catholic Chaplain, when that gentleman left the Colony. I don't think Father Bond held it.

A man named Tyler, a son-in-law of Wingfields, a noisy fellow, was put in by Wingfields for some time, and after he left Wingfield put a man in charge of the place, who kept possession till he was forced out one Saturday night, about 12 o'clock, by about 16 persons, who were brought up at the Police Office for an assault on Mrs. Wingfield.

I remember Lawlor being fined £5, I don't know of Mrs. Wingfield having been bound over to keep the peace.

By the Attorney-General.—The man in possession now is James Donnellan. I know a Mrs. Hatch, who is a hard working sober woman, who held for some time a situation as nurse or something in the Lunatic Asylum. She married Hatch. Her house is not a house of bad reputation. I have not had a single complaint against her. Her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Berry, lived in the same house with her. It is not frequented by females of bad reputation. We look pretty closely after that sort of people.

I know Michael Hurley. He lodged at the Hatch's. My impression was that he ought to have gone to the Asylum. I don't think him right in his mind. I have now heard his statement read, and I don't believe it to be true. He separated from his wife, who was an elderly woman, almost immediately after marriage.

By Mr. Sharland.—I don't believe his assertion as to Mrs. Hatch's house, for I live in sight of it, not a stone's throw off. I was not present when the man was fined. The house and garden are worth about £200; it is in a good business situation. The house is on the Valuation Roll for £15 a-year. I heard that Mrs. Arnott had gone from New Norfolk; she went away without my knowledge. I have heard that the Catholic Church made her an allowance of 5s. a week. I know the Catholic Church paid me money for the Road Trust, but it was a small rate. Mrs. Wingfield is a Roman Catholic, and I think attended at the Chapel. I don't think that Arnott and his wife were married here.

MR. CHARLES MENZIE, *Butcher, residing in High-street, New Norfolk, called in.*

I LIVE next door to where old Daniel Arnott lived, and remember his death. I don't know how long ago, I should say 7 years. I know Mrs. Arnott, and have known her many years.

She has been badly supported since her husband's death, the greater part of the time. I have been in her house since her husband's death 3 or 4 times. She complained of starvation. I saw nothing in the house,—no blankets. I made a complaint to a Justice of the Peace. This may have been three or four years ago. We have given her cold victuals. She has applied to me to take the property, but I declined to have anything to do with it.

I know that my daughter, Mrs. Thompson, has aided her almost every day. The Prices also helped her with firewood and vegetables. I was in the place one day when they were brought in by the Prices.

She went to the Wingfields and I saw her when she left there. I don't remember seeing her at their house. I met her once there after she went there, looking clean and wholesome from what I ever did see her.

She went to the gate of her own house and entered it after some scrupuling by the people in the house who are there now. I think their names are Donnellan. They let her in, and I saw her next morning, but the following night she went away. She was removed to another place of Donnellan's, near the old Station.

I was told that she was wheeled to the Steamer in a wheelbarrow; and I believe she went to Hobart Town in the Steamer. It is the best part of a mile from Wingfield's to Mrs. Arnott's house. She had walked. I stood and talked to her.

The property is now not worth so much as £200. I offered once £200 and to let them both reside there during their lives. I wanted it to become mine at their death.

I know Mrs. Hatch; as far as I know she is a respectable woman. Wingfield and his wife are, I have no reason to believe, other than sober, hard-working, respectable people. He in particular is a quiet man. I have never known Mr. Wingfield to be under the influence of drink, nor Mrs. Hatch either. I see her go round with milk.

When Mrs. Arnott was taken away from New Norfolk, it was much talked of in the Township, as she was said to have been taken away against her will. The Wingfields would be proper people to take care of Mrs. Arnott. She would be better off the Township. She is inclined to drink. She has complained to me several times that she was nearly starved, and I have helped her to pull the palings down to make her fire.

Father Magorian used to visit her, and so did Father Bond, but I have never seen Father Ryan there since he came backward and forward to New Norfolk. I live next door to Mrs. Arnott's house. She has frequently made complaints to me. There are other tradesmen in New Norfolk who can give similar evidence to mine.

I have not read the *Advertiser* newspaper. My daughter visited Mrs. Arnott in Hospital, in Hobart Town, and she complained to her of being kept a prisoner, and asked her to take her out. Mrs. Arnott is about 80 years of age. She has complained to me that she rented a room in her own house for 1s. 6d. a week, and received 3s. 6d. besides. Arnott was a hardworking industrious man, and had built his house and made his orchard.

25TH OCTOBER, 1861.

THE REVEREND MR. RYAN, *Catholic Chaplain, called in and examined.*

IN reply to a question from the Chairman, that he will be good enough to explain circumstances under which Mrs. Arnott was sent to the Colonial Hospital?

I anticipated that the Wingfields would turn her away as soon as the decision of the Caveat Board was given. After that decision was arrived at. I called on Mr. Smith, who was then Attorney-General, and stated the whole case to him, with the decision of the Caveat Board. I also told him of the circumstances under which the property was given by old Arnott at New Norfolk, and as there were no funds at my disposal I knew not what to do with the old woman if the Wingfields turned her out. I also explained to him how much the Catholics of New Norfolk felt aggrieved for what they had paid on account of the property. He advised me to tell the Bishop to sell the equitable claim, and his possession of it for what he could get for it. I should have said that I told Mr. Smith if we could get a title to the property we could get means for supporting the old woman. Mr. Smith said that the Government could not interfere in the matter, and gave me the above advice. I then put the question to him if he believed the woman was really a pauper, and that I should be justified in recommending her to the Hospital as a pauper. He said, "decidedly so; worse than a pauper, for she has been receiving money for what she has legally conveyed nothing, and by a recent Act, if she be accountable for it, tried to rob them of the sum she received for that property."

I acted accordingly on this advice, and directed persons at New Norfolk, if the old woman were turned away from the house, to send or bring her to Hobart Town. She was turned out by the Wingfields, and brought to Hobart Town by a man named Donnellan.

I explained the circumstances of her case to the House Surgeon, who at once took her in as a pauper. I never saw a more wretched creature than she was when she came to town.

The Matron remarked to me the following day, "What brutes they must have been who had the old woman; we had to burn all her duds of clothes, as they would have swarmed the place with vermin."

I heard it said at New Norfolk afterwards that Mrs. Wingfield said she would bring the old woman back and put her into her house.

I have great reason to fear that serious consequences might follow from the disturbances at New Norfolk. The minds of some Irishmen up there, Roman Catholics, had already been, I feared, desperately exasperated by a sense of the injustice to which they believed they had been subjected.

Through fear of the evil effects, and also feeling assured from what I have already stated, and other reasons, that the Wingfields had no kindly or charitable feeling towards Mrs. Arnott, I advised the House Surgeon not to discharge her at their request. Mrs. Wingfield applied for her, and Mrs. Arnott refused to go out with her, and indeed refused to see her. The Superintendent told me so. A Mrs. Hatch then applied for her. I may add that the principal difficulty Dr. Turnley had in refusing these women was, that they both brought certificates of character from Mr. Sharland, and he deemed it proper that I should write to him a letter, and also one to the Board, and when Mrs. Hatch applied I followed the same course, for I then wrote a letter to the Board stating my reasons for doing so, and I was informed that on that letter and Dr. Turnley's statement that she was imbecile, the Board refused Mrs. Hatch's application.

I was also under the necessity of submitting a statement from a man who lived at Mrs. Hatch's, that it was not a fit place for the old woman. I may also state that I had a communication with Mr. Henty, the Colonial Secretary, and in deference to a wish he expressed, I resolved to take the old woman out for a time at my own expense, because he said she expressed a wish to go out; but when I went to Hospital she told me, in the presence of Dr. Turnley and the Superintendent, that she was very comfortable there; and the only condition on which she would leave was, that she should be sent home, I think, to Gloucester in England.

By Mr. Sharland.—I think there has been about £170 or £180 paid to Mrs. Arnott. She was supplied with wood and water by a person named Fitzgerald, and she also got 5s. a week for about 8 years after the death of her husband up to the time she went to the Wingfields; I made a rough calculation, and I think it was about £170. She did not receive this allowance after she made the conveyance to the Wingfields.

About 2 years ago, I may say that the persons at New Norfolk told me, that immediately the old woman used to get the money, Irish Ann (Mrs. Wingfield) used to go with others and either get her to send out for rum, or take the money from her for the purpose.

I visited her one day, and found money in sixpences and shillings lying on the floor. I then agreed with Mr. Fitzgerald for about, I think, 15s. a week, to take care of her, and after her death, if the property was sold, he should be repaid any further expense. I told Fitzgerald not to let her go on the streets to get drink, or to be drunk. She was with Fitzgerald only a few weeks, and was anxious to get away so as to get drink, to which she was much given. I don't know how she got on at Wingfield's. I think she was kept almost a prisoner there, where old Watson was beaten when he went there with a letter for Mrs. Arnott.

Mrs. Wingfield has been brought up at the Police Office more than twice. Once she was bound over to keep the peace; then she was tried for perjury; and she was also tried for assaulting Watson.

Mrs. Arnott told me that everything she had was once stolen from her house, and she blamed Irish Ann for stealing her bedding.

It was in Hatch's house that Hurley and the woman he afterwards married were living before they married. I was so informed by the woman who afterwards died in the Hospital.

By Mr. Dobson.—Do your co-religionists now feel injustice, now that they have possession of the cottage? I could declare on oath that they say that Mr. Sharland is moving in a spirit of persecution against my flock at New Norfolk. It was carrying out old Arnott's views that the conveyance was made, and Donnellan has taken the property merely to save the money which has already been paid, and it is said that the woman Wingfield is supported in her suit by Mr. Sharland.

By Mr. Grant.—I believe Mrs. Arnott is quite imbecile. She is about 80 years of age. Mrs. Wingfield is nominally a Roman Catholic, but never attended my ministrations; in fact, she has insulted me.

To the Honorable the House of Assembly in Tasmania.

The humble Petition of Thomas and Johanna Wingfield, of New Norfolk.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners beg leave most respectfully to inform your Honorable House that there is a person in Hobart Town Hospital of the name of Mary Harnett, confined as a pauper, who I beg leave to state has been so confined against her will, she having sufficient property at New Norfolk to support her, and that your Petitioners are willing to take and keep her, she being a cousin of Mrs. Wingfield's, the said parties have made several applications for her release, but have been refused; and your Petitioners have every reason to believe it is Mr. Ryan, the Priest, who has been the sole cause of it all.

I, Charles Hone, a discharged soldier of H.M. 73rd Regiment, arrived in this colony in 1818, in the *Greyhound* brig, Captain Richie, a Free Settler. I had known the deceased Daniel Arnott when he was assigned to Robert Williams, farmer, of Sorell Creek, New Norfolk. Some time after his wife came out, Mary Arnott, and with the sanction of His Excellency Governor Sorell they had liberty to live together as man and wife, and His Excellency gave the said Mary Arnott an allotment of ground at New Norfolk on account of receiving a good character from home, on which allotment the late Daniel Arnott erected the cottage now in dispute, and which is at present occupied by James Donnelly. I was in Port Phillip a short time, and when I returned to Tasmania Daniel Arnott was dead. I enquired of Mrs. Arnott how she had settled about her property, and she said that Mr. Bond had ordered her 3s. per week to maintain her. I went to Mr. Bond, and told him the amount he allowed her was not sufficient to support her, she being starved. He advanced her 2s. more. I beg to leave it to any gentleman of conscience if that sum was sufficient for the support of any person, meat at the time being 6d. per lb., and bread 5d. the 2lb. loaf, and this sum was paid to her from the Altar for some time. After this the fruit in the garden was sold by Mr. Magorian, the Priest, to James Shearing, a constable of New Norfolk, and Mr. Magorian then rented the garden to Mr. Fitzgerald, a tanner of the same place. Had it not been for the Inhabitants and Petitioners she must have perished for want. I am myself a Catholic, a member of the Holy Church of Rome, but have not attended my Church as usual on account of the treatment shown Mrs. Arnott by Mr. Ryan, the Priest, and for advising me not to speak to Mrs. Wingfield which I thought a very wrong course for a Priest to pursue. I beg leave most respectfully to state that after Mrs. Arnott gave Petitioners up possession, and a man put in the house to take care of it, he was forcibly turned out in the middle of the night, which has been a great loss and trouble to Petitioners.

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray that your Honorable House will order possession to be given up, and your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

his
THOMAS × WINGFIELD.
Mark.

Witness—H. J. MOTT.

her
JOHANNA × WINGFIELD.
Mark.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF }
VAN DIEMEN'S LAND. }

CLAIMS TO GRANTS OF LAND JURISDICTION.

In the matter of the application of THOMAS WINGFIELD for a Grant of Land at the angle of Charles and High-streets New Norfolk in Tasmania.

I, WILLIAM PETER BOND, of Hobart Town, in Tasmania, (but shortly about to depart therefrom for Europe), Clerk in Holy Orders, do hereby make Oath and say:—

1st. That in the years One thousand eight hundred and fifty-two and One thousand eight hundred and fifty-three I was Roman Catholic Chaplain of New Norfolk in Tasmania aforesaid.

2nd. That I knew Daniel Arnott (or Harnett) formerly of New Norfolk aforesaid, stone-cutter, now deceased, and I know Mary Arnott, now of New Norfolk aforesaid, his widow.

3rd. That to the best of my belief the said Daniel Arnott died in or about the year One thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, having frequently told me before his death that it was his desire that the land then belonging to him, situate at the angle of Charles and High-streets, New Norfolk aforesaid, should after his decease go to his widow during her life, and after her death to the Church of Rome.

4th. That soon after the death of the said Daniel Arnott, his widow, the said Mary Arnott came to me and told me that she wished to convey the said land, so that the same should go to the Church of Rome after her death, in accordance with the desire of her deceased husband, and I then agreed with her that she should be paid Five shillings per week and be supplied with fuel out of the Church Funds during her life, after the execution of the conveyance.

5th. That a conveyance from the said Mary Arnott to the Very Reverend William Hall, myself, and the Reverend Thomas Butler, in trust for the Church of Rome, was accordingly prepared by Robert Pitcairn, Esquire, of Hobart Town aforesaid, Solicitor, and was executed by the said Mary Arnott, in Mr. Pitcairn's Office, in my presence, on or about the third day of November, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

6th. That the said weekly sum of Five shillings was duly paid to the said Mary Arnott, and she was also supplied with fuel and other comforts during my stay as Chaplain at New Norfolk aforesaid.

W. P. BOND.

SWORN at Hobart Town aforesaid, this Twenty-second day of March, One thousand eight hundred and sixty, before me

W. SORELL, *Commissioner Supreme Court of Van Diemen's Land.*

To the Honorable the House of Assembly in Tasmania.

The humble Petition of Johanna Wingfield.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioner begs leave most respectfully to inform your Honorable House, that your Petitioner read in the Hobart Town *Advertiser* of the 11th instant, things spoken by the Honorable Mr. Balfe very prejudicial to my character, and most notoriously false, which I hope I shall be able to show to your Honorable House, that I am not the character Mr. Balfe represents me to be.

That your Petitioner is neither a nuisance nor a drunkard, which I hope your Honorable House will be convinced of when Honorable Gentlemen read the names of those gentlemen who have been long residents of New Norfolk, and have known me for many years, and, who can certify to my character.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

her
JOHANNA × WINGFIELD.
Mark.

Witness—HENRY MOTT.

I HAVE known the Petitioner for 12 years, and can certify that she is a most sober and industrious person.
RALPH TERRY, J.P.

AND so I can most truthfully certify.
JOHN A. MOORE, *Surgeon.*

I CAN likewise certify to the above statement, she having been a tenant of mine for several years.
CHARLES GRIST.

I HAVE known Mrs. Wingfield for about 11 years ; she is a sober and industrious woman.
WILLIAM CAHILL.

I HAVE known the Petitioner 12 years ; was in my employ twelve months ; and always knew her to be an industrious and sober woman.
R. THOMPSON.

I HAVE resided in New Norfolk for the last 16 years, and beg to add my testimony to the above.
WM. BARNETT, "*Clifton House,*" *New Norfolk.*

I HAVE known Mrs. Wingfield for the last 15 years, and during the greater part of that time she has been employed by me, and her husband has rented a farm from me for the last 7 years; and I consider her a woman not given to drink.

J. TURNBULL.

New Norfolk, October 17, 1861.

I CAN testify to the correctness of the above testimony, and believe them to be quite true.

EBENEZER SHOOBRIDGE.

HAVING known Wingfield and his wife for some years, I am happy to have in my power to testify on their behalf that they have always borne the character of being sober hard-working people.

W. W. F. MURRAY, M.A., *Chaplain.*

I HAVE known Ann Wingfield these 12 years, and always took her to be a very industrious sober woman, and also her husband Thomas Wingfield.

CHARLES MENZIE.

I HAVE known Mrs. A Wingfield for 12 years, and have never seen or heard of her being drunk, *but the reverse*—a most sober and industrious woman.

Further, when Mrs. Wingfield took Mary Arnott she was filthy, helpless, and wretched, and after Mrs. Wingfield had her some time, the poor woman looked healthy, clean, and wholesome, which she had not done before for a very long time.

W. G. SALIER.

High-street, New Norfolk.

FROM what I have seen of the Petitioner for the last 19 months, I believe her to be a sober and industrious woman.

WM. WHITAKER.

I HAVE been Chief District Constable at this place 10 years, and have known Mrs. Wingfield that time; she is both sober and industrious.

JOHN RICHARDSON.

Hobart Town, 21st February, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I have requested the House Surgeon not to discharge Mary Arnott from the Hospital on the application of Mrs. Hatch until some circumstances affecting her might be submitted to the Board; and I now beg leave to state some of the reasons why I considered it my duty to make such request.

In the first place, Mrs. Hatch made her way into the Hospital without permission, taking some rum with her, which she gave Mrs. Arnott.

I had previously heard of this woman's character, and had reason to fear she was not a fit person to be entrusted with Mrs. Arnott, and I had reason to believe that females of bad reputation were harboured in her house at New Norfolk. Indeed, one of these characters came out of that house once to speak to me as I was passing, she said she had been residing there for some time.

I will take the liberty of naming another woman (M'Carthy), who lived for a time with Mrs. Hatch in the same house, and who is now under sentence of three months in the Cascade Factory for disorderly conduct in the public streets; and who, I may add, has been repeatedly sent there for similar offences.

I am informed on good authority, that females of the same character are seen at Mrs. Hatch's house continually. On this subject I beg to call attention to the statement annexed. The man who makes it has been for some considerable time in the service of Mr. Sharland.

I regret having to submit so homely a statement, but I have no reason to doubt its truth; and, taken in connection with what I have myself seen and heard, it confirms me in concluding that Mrs. Hatch's house is a most unfit place for Mrs. Arnott.

I may be permitted to say, however, that I do not believe Mrs. Hatch means to keep Mrs. Arnott in her house: on the contrary, I have strong reason for presuming that she is merely acting at the instigation of a Mrs. Wingfield, who has already applied to get Mrs. Arnott out of the Hospital, but with whom (in the presence of the Superintendent and one Member of the Board) Mrs. Arnott declined to go.

This woman Wingfield, I must remark, has been the cause of all the suffering to which Mrs. Arnott has been subjected, and of all the annoyance that has been given to others on her account. Her object is to

get possession, by unjust and violent means, of a small property at New Norfolk that has been disposed of years ago, for which Mrs. Arnott has already received more than its value, and on account of which she would still receive support had it not been for Wingfield's interference.

About two years ago I was directed to agree with a very respectable family at New Norfolk to board and lodge Mrs. Arnott during her life. I did so, and she was most comfortably situated with them when Wingfield inveigled her away, made her intoxicated, and caused her to sign a fraudulent document, which led to law proceedings that involved considerable expense, and terminated in Mrs. Arnott being declared a pauper. She was then turned off by the Wingfields in the most wretched condition, as the Matron of the Hospital can testify; her clothes, such as they were, had to be burned, lest they should infest the whole place with vermin.

It cannot, therefore, be kindly feeling towards Mrs. Arnott that now actuates Mrs. Wingfield. No. But she expects if Mrs. Arnott goes again to New Norfolk, that her presence there may be the occasion of serious disturbance, which would give Wingfield's faction a chance of taking forcible possession of the house in which she formerly lived, or at least of injuring the industrious man by whom it has been purchased.

I trust the Board will therefore mercifully protect this poor old imbecile from the machinations of these mischievous people, and all others who may feel disposed to co-operate with them.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,
M. H. RYAN.

*The Chairman of the Board of Management,
General Hospital.*