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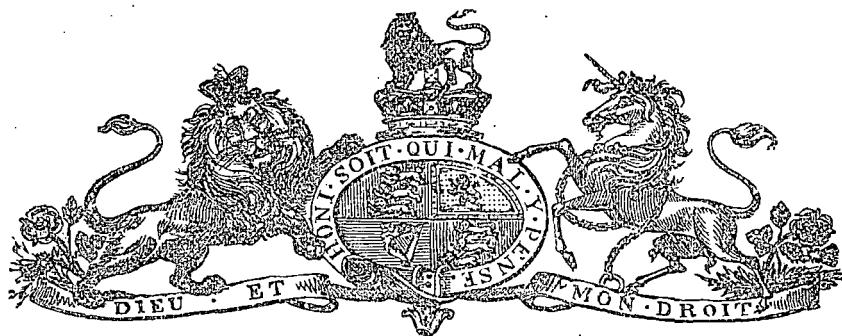
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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

THE FOUNDING OF HOBART BY LIEUTENANT-
GOVERNOR COLLINS.

BY JAMES BACKHOUSE WALKER.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



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1. THE CHOICE OF SULLIVAN'S COVE.

On the 30th January, 1804, the *Ocean* and *Lady Nelson*, with the first detachment of Lieut.-Governor Collins' establishment, sailed from the Heads of Port Phillip for the Derwent. The *Lady Nelson* was commanded by Lieut. Simmons, with Jorgen Jorgensen as first mate. She took the settlers and their families, and the stores. The *Ocean* had on board 178 prisoners, with some women and children, a guard of 25 marines, under Lieut. Edward Lord, and the civil establishment, consisting of the Lieut.-Governor, the Rev. Robert Knopwood, Surveyor-General Geo. Prideaux Harris, Mr. Adolarius W. H. Humphreys, the mineralogist, Dr. Bowden, and two Superintendents of Convicts. The ship was greatly overcrowded. She had been fitted up in England to carry some 30 people besides her crew. She had now over 200 souls on board, and we can well believe Mr. J. P. Fawcner when he says that they had a miserable time of it during their 15 days' passage, cooped up in a small vessel of 480 tons. Fawcner says they suffered terribly from the want of cooked food, as the cooking accommodation for 25 had to serve for the whole 200. They were 10 days reaching the Pillar, and were there caught in a heavy south-wester, which kept them two days off the Raoul. It then came on to blow hard from the north west, which obliged Capt. Mertho to bear up for Frederick Henry Bay, where he came to an anchor off Pipe Clay Lagoon. Here Lieut. Lord and Mr. Humphreys were landed, with four men, to walk up to Risdon with despatches, while the vessel lay wind-bound for another three days, the officers amusing themselves by going ashore, where they were very much pleased with the appearance of the country and the abundance of game and wild fowl. The boat's crew filled their boat with fine oysters in half an hour on the shores of the lagoon. They also fell in with a party of 17 natives, who were very friendly. On the 15th February a change of wind enabled them to make the entrance of the river, where they were met by the boat of the *Lady Nelson*, which had arrived before them, and they ran up before the sea breeze, anchoring at half-past six in Risdon Cove, off the settlement of which Lieut. Moore was in charge, Lieut. Bowen being absent at Port Jackson.

At 10 the next morning, the Lieut.-Governor, with Lieut. Lord and the Chaplain, landed under a salute of 11 guns from the *Ocean*—the first salute fired in the Derwent—to inspect the Risdon settlement. They were received with military honours by Lieut. Moore and the 16 privates of the New South Wales' Corps drawn up

under arms. After inspecting the settlement, the Lieut.-Governor came to the conclusion that Risdon was not a suitable site for a town, and returned on board the *Ocean* very much disappointed. It was the report of the advantages of Risdon that had led him to decide in favour of the Derwent rather than the Tamar, and now he had brought his people to a spot that promised as little as the abandoned Port Phillip. However, the next morning was bright with sunshine, and as he looked out over the waters of the Derwent, with its picturesque scenery of hill and valley and thickly wooded plains, things looked less gloomy. To be prepared for the worst, he directed the tents to be pitched at Risdon. Then the boat was ordered out and put in charge of the trusted William Collins, and the Governor, taking with him his favourite companion, Mr. Knopwood, was pulled down the river to a cove on the opposite shore some five miles below Risdon, and which had probably attracted attention on the way up. Here Collins landed, and, after a short examination, made up his mind that it was the very place for his settlement. We can imagine his admiration of the fine cove, with deep water up to the shore, and his profound satisfaction, after four months on the dry sand-hills of Sorrento, at finding himself on a well-wooded and fertile plain, lying at the foot of the great Table Mountain, and watered by a copious stream of splendid fresh water. In his first despatch to Lord Hobart, he says that the situation was all he could wish. There was land of good quality immediately about him sufficient for extensive agricultural purposes. The timber and stone were in sufficient quantity and quality for all his needs, and the cove would make an admirable harbour. Knopwood describes the site, not very accurately, as an "extensive plain, with a continual run of water, which comes from the lofty mountain much resembling the Table Mountain at the Cape of Good Hope. The land is good, and the trees excellent. The plain is calculated in every degree for a settlement. At five we returned and dined with the Governor, much delighted with the excursion." Collins devoted another day to the examination of a plain further up the river—probably in the neighbourhood of Glenorchy—which, he thought, might serve for the location of his free settlers. The trees were large and good, but the ground was so cut up by torrents that he decided it to be unsuitable. In the meantime the officers had been sent to look at the first site, and they returned with their unanimous approval of it. The Governor forthwith ordered the tents to be struck and sent on board the *Lady Nelson*, and the two ships were moved out of the cove. On the Sunday morning, in a strong northerly breeze, they

dropped down the river and anchored off the bay, to which the Lieut.-Governor gave the name of Sullivan's Cove, in honour of his friend Mr. John Sullivan, the Permanent Under-Secretary at the Colonial Office.

Monday morning (20th February) was squally and wet, but in the afternoon the weather cleared, and a body of prisoners with a military guard was landed to pitch the tents on the selected site. At four o'clock the Lieut.-Governor himself, with his officers, went on shore for a short time to superintend operations. That night the marines and convicts slept at the new camp—the first Europeans to sleep on the site of the future capital of Tasmania.

In a despatch to Governor King, Collins gives a description of the Cove in its original state. "In the centre of the Cove," he writes, "is a small island, connected with the mainland at low water, admirably adapted for the landing and reception of stores and provisions. Round this island is a channel for a boat, at the head of which is a run of clear fresh water, proceeding from a distance inland, and having its source in a rock in the vicinity of Table Mountain. The ground on each side of the run is of gradual ascent, and upon that next the Cove I have formed my camp. The *Ocean* and *Lady Nelson* are lying within half a cable length of the shore in nine fathoms water." The inhabitants of Hobart will hardly recognise their harbour in Collins' description. The filling up has been so considerable as to obliterate the original natural features. The creek has been diverted from its course, and the island, which Collins named Hunter's Island, after his old patron, has been swallowed up in the Old Wharf. Originally the Cove was much more extensive than it is at present. The island, which now forms the extremity of the Old Wharf, was then in the middle of the bay. This island was connected with the mainland by a long sandspit, covered at high water, and the site of which is now occupied by the long range of stores forming the Old Wharf. The bottom of the Cove was marked by a yellow sandstone bluff, since cut away, and now forming the cliff overhanging the creek at the back of the hospital. A little below this was the original mouth of the creek, which issued out of a dense tangle of tea-tree scrub and fallen logs, surmounted by huge gum trees. It fell into the river just at the intersection of Campbell-street and Macquarie-street, at the lower angle of the New Market building. The land at the creek mouth was flat and marshy for some distance. On the side towards the town the beach curved round the site of the old Bonded Stores, thence, along a slope covered with gum trees, by the back of the Town Hall, by Risby's Saw-mill and the Parliament Houses, past St. David's churchyard, and thence along the line of stone stores on the New Wharf to the Ordnance Stores, and round the old Mulgrave Battery Point. On the side of the creek towards the Domain was a low swampy flat, extending over Wapping and Lower Collins and Macquarie Streets to the Park-street rivulet and the present bridge leading to the Domain. Thence the beach ran round the foot of a wooded slope by the present Gas Company's office, along the course of the railway embankment, to Macquarie Point.*

2. THE FOUNDING OF HOBART.

On Tuesday, the 21st February, 1804, the *Ocean* and *Lady Nelson* were warped up to within half a cable length of Hunter's Island, the rest of the people were landed, and

the discharge of the stores began. The Lieut.-Governor's tent was pitched on the slope overlooking the cove near the spot where the Town Hall now stands. The Chaplain's marquee was pitched next to the Governor's, and those of the other civil officers in close proximity on the same slope. The tents of the convicts were further inland, extending from about the present Telegraph Office at the corner of Macquarie and Elizabeth Streets, back to Collins Street to the edge of the scrub in the valley of the creek. The camp of the marines was placed higher up towards the Cathedral. On the Tuesday night, Knopwood says, "I slept at the camp for the first time, and so did the Lieut.-Governor." Jorgensen, who as mate of the *Lady Nelson*, had assisted at the settlement of Risdon in the preceding September, and was now in the same capacity assisting at the founding of Hobart, gives us a graphic sketch of the scene on that first day. As soon as the tents had been pitched under the shadow of the great gum-trees, spades, hoes, saws, and axes were put into the hands of the prisoners, and they began clearing away as fast as they could. The block just opposite the Tasmanian Museum, behind the old Bank of Van Diemen's Land building to the neighbouring mouth of the creek, was then an impervious grove of the densest tea tree scrub, surmounted by some of the largest gum-trees that this island can produce. All along the rivulet, as far up as the old mill beyond Molle Street Bridge, was impassable from the denseness of the scrub, and the huge collections of fallen trees and dead timber which had been washed down the stream and were strewed and piled in confusion in its bed. In many places the stream was dammed back, and spread out into marshes covered with rushes and water.

Governor Collins had amongst his various stores a small printing press, which had already done service at the Port Phillip camp. This was set up under a convenient gum-tree, and on the day of landing the first printed work issued from the Tasmanian press. It was a General Order, fixing the weekly rations to be issued to each person—viz., 7 lbs. beef or 4 lbs. pork, 7 lbs. flour, and 6 oz. sugar. The second day's order, with a backward glance at the casks sunk at the foot of the Port Phillip sandhills, expressed the Governor's satisfaction at having been enabled to fix the settlement advantageously, and in a situation blessed with that great comfort of life, a permanent supply of pure running water, and cautioned the people against polluting the stream. On the third day the hours of labour were fixed. The Lieut.-Governor having thus given his people some elementary lessons, enforced by appropriate sanctions, on the mutual rights and duties of the individual and the State, proceeded to care for their spiritual requirements, and on the fourth day issued an order for a general muster of the prisoners, and notified that on Sunday, weather permitting, divine service would be performed, at which all were expected to attend.

Hunter's Island had been appropriated for the site of the store tents, for which purpose it was admirably adapted, not only on account of its handiness as a landing place, but also because its isolated position made it comparatively safe from plunderers. All available hands were now employed to discharge the stores. The ships were moored at a short distance from the shore, and the cargo taken off in boats. A wharf was begun at the landing-place on the island, and a way was formed along the sandspit by means of which the mainland could be more conveniently reached at low tide. These works were placed under the superintendence of Mr. William Collins, the hero of the boat expedition to Port Jackson, and who had already given the Governor many proofs of his capacity. Even the Chaplain, usually the only idle man in the settlement, found employment during the first week. His diary tells us that it cost him three days' work to prepare a sermon worthy to be the first

* I am indebted to my friend Mr. Mault for a beautifully executed plan (see Appendix) which shows very clearly the original features of the ground, and the position of the first camp, and also indicates the alterations which have since taken place. It is taken from a survey made by Surveyor-General Harris in 1804-5. The original plan was discovered many years ago in the Lands Office at Sydney, and was presented by the New South Wales Government to our Lands Department. The Deputy-Commissioner of Crown Lands, Mr. Albert Reid, kindly presented me with a tracing of it.

preached in the new colony. On Sunday, then, under the gum-trees on the slope near the Governor's tent, overlooking the waters of the Derwent sparkling in the bright February sunshine, the military paraded, the prisoners were drawn up, the officers and settlers formed a group apart, and the Rev. Robert Knopwood conducted the first service in Tasmania. "The sermon, by request of the Lieut.-Governor, was upon the prosperity of the new settlement, and to pray to God for a blessing upon the increase of it." This first Sunday had, however, practical duties, and after service the *Ocean's* boats moved the settlers, with their families and baggage, to the spot which had been fixed upon for them on the shores of New Town Bay, then known as Stainsforth's Cove, not far from where the Risdon Road leaves the Main Road.

On the same day the first census was taken, and it appeared that the population consisted of 262 souls, of whom 15 were women and 21 children.*

Of the group who landed at Sullivan's Cove in February, 1804, with our first Governor, the best remembered, and, indeed, the only one of whom tradition has anything to say, is the Chaplain, the Rev. Robert Knopwood. The survivor of all Collins' officers, he lived to times well within living memory, and many an old settler still tells stories of his eccentricities. His spare wiry little figure, on the well-known cream-colored pony, is familiar to us from Mr. Gregson's painting, taken in his later days when the camp had grown into a town, and he had bachelor quarters at Cottage Green. Of his qualifications as the spiritual guide of the young colony not much can be said, and of this he must have been fully sensible if the tradition is correct which reports his favourite saying to have been, "Do as I say, not I as do." The choice of Mr. Knopwood as chaplain was an unfortunate one. There was a fine field in those early days for a man who would have devoted himself—as Bishop Willson and others did in later years—with wise enthusiasm to the elevation of the society in which his work lay. It is doubtful whether Mr. Knopwood, clergyman though he was, ever made any serious attempt to raise the moral or religious tone of the community. He had been a chaplain in the navy, and, like too many chaplains of those days, was content to acquiesce easily and without uncomfortable protestations in the ways which were current. As a colonist, or in any other capacity than a clergyman, he would have been valuable; as a chaplain he was a failure. Yet he was a genial little fellow, fond of good company and of a good dinner, not averse to a glass of good wine or a pipe with a friend, a lover of animals, an ardent sportsman, of a kindly nature, always ready to give good-natured help to any one in need. In spite of his grave deficiencies, and the conviction that he would have been better in a secular calling, one cannot help having a kindly feeling for the man who was always popular in the settlement, and was long familiarly remembered amongst early settlers as "Old Bobby Knopwood." The diary of the

chaplain is the only contemporary material, except grave official documents, which we have for the history of the founding of Hobart. It runs to the end of 1804. The entries are meagre, and too much limited to records of dinners and the interchange of hospitalities amongst the officers; yet it is naïve and candid, and supplies interesting detail. Official records are dry reading, but even they yield unexpected treasures to careful study; and, from the early despatches of Lieut.-Governor Collins to Governor King and Lord Hobart, and from Collins' General Orders, with occasional side-lights from the Chaplain's diary, we can form an idea of life in the quaint little camp which at the beginning of this century was pitched on the narrow rise between the waters of Sullivan's Cove and the thick belt of tea-tree scrub shading the course of the Hobart Creek.

The Governor had planted his settlers at a safe distance at New Town Bay, and his total strength at Sullivan's Cove consisted of 178 convicts and the guard of 25 marines under Lieut. Edward Lord. The selection of prisoners for the settlement had been very carelessly made. The frequent burden of Collins' complaint to the Colonial Office is that he was encumbered with so many old, worn out, or useless men, who ate the precious provisions, better bestowed on artificers and stout labourers. Out of the whole 307 men who sailed with him 137 were labourers, but the trades useful in a new colony were very insufficiently represented, and the weavers, silversmiths, engravers, and clerks supplied to him by the authorities with more than sufficient liberality were likely to have long to wait before finding scope for their talents. In fact, the usual official bungling was exemplified in the new colony. The stores supplied by contract were as bad as usual. The Governor makes an exception in favour of the provisions, which he says were excellent, the salt beef and pork being better than any he had seen in New South Wales. But with respect to the other stores he has one long complaint to make. The tools were bad; the axes so soft that the commonest wood would turn their edges; of the gimlets scarce one in a dozen would stand boring twice. The materials for clothing were of poor quality, and the thread rotten. The shoes were made of inferior leather, and were all of one size. The surgical instruments were of an obsolete pattern, and many of them worn out. The iron was rolled and not wrought, while neither glue, borax, rosin, nor bar steel had been thought of, so that the carpenters and smiths were in difficulties. The ordnance that had been given him for defence was incomplete, the guns of different sizes and patterns, while the ammunition was all of one sort. The seed corn brought from England would not vegetate, and if it had not been for some good seed which he obtained at the Cape, and some more which Governor King sent him, he could not have raised a crop of wheat. Except the provisions, the printing press was the only item of which he could speak with satisfaction, but for this they had not given him a sufficient supply of type or of paper. Of course, when the contractors were communicated with they all protested that the goods were carefully selected, of a quality superior to the pattern, and quite equal to those which the convicts had had heretofore. Perhaps this last statement was correct.

In spite of these minor difficulties, the work of settlement and improvement was pushed on with an energy and system presenting a strong contrast to the inaction and disorder of the Port Phillip camp. When the landing jetty at Hunter's Island was completed, all the strength that could be spared from the work of clearing was bent to the building of a Government House. He had 178 men in all, but when the necessary deductions were made for overseers, servants, cooks, boats' crews, labourers clearing away scrub or employed in other necessary work, and for the sick—always a large item owing to the prevalence of scurvy and other ailment,

* Number victualled at Sullivan's Cove, Derwent River, 26th February, 1804:—

Qualities.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
			Over 10.	Over 5.	Under 5.
Military Establishment.	26	1	—	—	—
Civil	6	—	—	—	—
Settlers	13	5	8	2	3
Convicts	178	9	2	—	6
Supernumeraries*	3	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	226	15	10	2	9

* Mr. Brown, Botanist.
Henry Hacking.
Salamander, a Port Jackson native.

induced by the exclusive use of salt provisions—it will be seen that no large number would be left for the actual work of building.* It is most probable that the Governor selected and brought with him in the first detachment all the skilled workmen, leaving the most useless at Port Phillip with Lieut. Sladden; but still the number available was small.

No idle time was allowed in the settlement. The bell rang at five in the morning, and the convicts turned out, clad in blue kersey jackets and trousers, and proceeded at once under their overseers to their various employments. Work was continued, with intervals of an hour for breakfast and an hour and a half for dinner, until six o'clock in the evening, when the bell gave the signal for the close of the day's labour. On Tuesday an extra hour was allowed for the issue of rations; Saturday was a half holiday after 11 A.M.; and it was only under exceptional circumstances that any labour was required on Sunday.

There was ample work for all hands. A large proportion of the people had to be employed clearing away and burning the scrub, grubbing stumps, trenching, digging and preparing garden ground. Building operations were necessarily slow. A quarry had to be opened on the sandstone Point near the mouth of the creek to supply stone for foundations. Oyster shells were gathered from the beaches and burnt for lime. Governor King had sent a quantity of bricks from Port Jackson, and these were utilised for chimneys. The fine gums on the banks of the creek furnished an abundant supply of good timber. Stringent regulations were enforced against the useless destruction of the timber, and no trees might be felled without the permission of the Superintendent of Carpenters, to which office the Governor had appointed Mr. Wm. Nicholls, who had come out in the *Ocean* as a free settler. With the inferior axes supplied by the Government contractors, and which had their edges turned by the hard gum wood, felling was a tedious operation; and when the trees were felled and sawn into lengths, the logs had to be dragged to the sawpits by hand labour, and the sawn timber carried thence by the same means, for as yet there were neither horses nor oxen in the colony. The sawyers, of whom it appears there were nine, were constantly employed at the sawpits cutting the logs into posts and planks—two men at each log with a ripping saw—in the slow and laborious method so familiar to those whose memory goes back to the days when steam saw-mills were not. The progress at the sawpits was so slow that the Governor, notwithstanding his preference for day work, found it necessary at a later period to put the sawyers on task work; and no sawyer was allowed to work for his own profit unless he and his mate had turned out at least 400 feet of sawn timber in the week on the public account. It speaks well for the industry of the community and the energy of the administration, that the sawyers, carpenters, and other mechanics made such good progress with their work that in less than three weeks from the day of landing Government House was completed, and the Chaplain records in his diary on the 9th March, "The Lieut.-Governor slept in his house for the first time." This first wooden Government House was not on the same site as the brick building of later years, but stood on the spot now marked by the main entrance of the Town Hall.

So soon as the Lieut.-Governor had got his house built he turned his attention to agriculture. A gang of some thirty men was sent to prepare ground for wheat for the use of the settlement. The place chosen was near the locations where the settlers had been set down a month before, on the shore of a bay named Farm Bay. This appears to have been at Cornelian Bay, at what was long known as the Government Farm, but is now occupied by the Cornelian Bay Cemetery. The farm

was placed under the charge of Mr. Thomas Clark, who had been brought out from England as Agricultural Superintendent.

Collins' next care was to get his people housed under better shelter than canvas tents afforded. They were encouraged to use their spare time in building huts. This was an employment for Saturday afternoons, for Sundays—after service, when that was held—and for the occasional holidays allowed for the purpose by the indulgence of the Governor. The huts were of most primitive construction, being for the most part what old settlers will remember under the name of wattle-and-dab—or wattle-and-daub—with a rush thatch. Let me give you an idea of what a wattle-and-dab hut was like, and how it was built. Four corner posts were stuck in the ground, and upon these wall-plates were rested or nailed; further uprights were then added, and long rods of wattle from the bush were interwoven with the uprights, openings being left for door and windows. Mortar was then made of clay and loam, into which was mixed and beaten up wiry grass chopped up as a substitute for hair. This mortar was dabbed and plastered against the wattles outside and in, the roof covered in with flag-grass, a chimney built of stones or turf, a door and window added, the earthen floor levelled, and a coat of whitewash completed the cottage. It is said that the first house in Hobart was a wattle-and-dab hut built by Lieut. Lord on land adjoining Macquarie House. In less than two months after the *Ocean* and *Lady Nelson* had anchored in Sullivan's Cove the huts were completed and the people were all provided with fairly comfortable habitations, occupying a line from the Commercial Bank to the Hobart Club in Collins Street, and thence along the edge of the scrub to the Australian Mutual Provident Society's Building. A General Order of 17th April enjoins strict attention to the cleanliness and order of the huts, and to precautions against danger by fire.

When the huts were finished the prisoners were at liberty to work in their spare time for the officers and settlers, in clearing locations, preparing and fencing in gardens, trenching and hoeing the ground for corn or vegetables, and building houses. Labour was scarce, and the demand being greater than the supply, the work people were not slow to take advantage of the necessity by demanding exorbitant prices for their labour. The abuse became so considerable that by General Order (1st June), the Lieut.-Governor appointed a Committee composed of the civil and military officers, together with three of the settlers, to meet on Sunday after service and fix the rate of wages. The new prices for labour were promulgated by General Order of 22nd June. Mechanics for the day of 10 hours were to be paid 3s. 6d., and labourers 2s. 6d. For felling and burning timber, 30s. per acre; for grubbing and burning, £4 per acre; for breaking up new ground, £2 per acre. For reaping wheat, 10s. per acre. For sawing, 8s. 4d. per 100 feet. Splitting 7 feet palings, 3s. per 100; 5 feet palings, 1s. 6d. per 100. Oyster shells for lime, 3d. per bushel. Thatch, 6d. per bundle of 9 feet girth. The workmen were often paid for their labour in provisions, and the Order fixed the following equivalent rates:—Salt beef, 9d. per lb.; Salt pork, 1s.; Kangaroo, 8d. per lb.; Flour, 1s. per lb. So that for a day's work of 10 hours, a labourer could procure 1 lb. of pork and 1½ lbs. of flour, and a mechanic 2 lbs. of beef and 2 lbs. flour. Payment for labour, however, was often made in a more objectionable medium, raw spirit. At a very early period the Governor issued a stringent order against this most pernicious practice. Nevertheless, in spite of Government regulations it continued to be a crying evil, and for many a long year the abuse continued. Many a Hobart building has been paid for in rum. More could be got for spirits than for cash. A bottle of rum was long recognised currency

* See Appendix: Return of Employments.

for £1, or even a higher value. It is probable that very little labour in those early days was paid for in cash. The want of specie prevented the payment of the salaries of the officers and superintendents, and to meet this difficulty, and to supply the officers with the means of purchasing necessary articles brought by vessels coming from Sydney, the Commissary was directed to issue small promissory notes of not less than £1 sterling in value. These were to pass in circulation until specie was sent out.

The little camp on the hill above Sullivan's Cove must have been a grotesque and rough-looking village, with its collection of wattle-and-dab huts thatched with grass. The officers, for the most part, still occupied tents, the hospital was a marquee, and the only piece of architecture making any pretence to be a civilised dwelling was the wooden cottage of the Governor. Hunter's Island was the citadel of the colony. Here all the stores were kept in large tents under a strong guard, which, however, did not always prevent robberies. At low water the island could now be reached by the sandspit. The approach was carefully guarded, and the most minute regulations were laid down for the issue of stores and provisions, only one person at a time being allowed to come up to the store tent. Those who landed at the jetty were not permitted to make any stoppage at the island; no boat was allowed to land passengers at the jetty or come into the creek after sunset, nor was any person suffered to approach the island after that hour without a special permit from the Governor. These precautions were necessary, not only for the protection of the stores, but to secure the safety of the boats, always in danger of seizure by intending runaways. The boats were moored every night by a locked chain, a sentinel was always on guard over them, and one of the earliest works, after the completion of Government House, was the building of a boat-house for their security.

Mr. William Collins was supreme in the direction of the works in and about the island, and the Governor was already planning the erection of substantial store-houses there, in which the precious provisions and stores, on which the very existence of his little community depended, might be safely housed beyond the reach of marauders. This William Collins was a prominent man in the new colony, a position which his training as a master in the navy, his enterprising character, and his capacity and judgment fully justified. His adventurous and plucky voyage in an open boat from Port Phillip to Port Jackson with despatches will be remembered. Since that time he had done good service in examining Port Dalrymple, in company with Surveyor-General Harris and Agricultural Superintendent Clark, while the Governor was still lingering at Port Phillip undecided as to his final destination. He was now raised to the dignity of Harbour Master of the port, and was a person of no small consequence in the settlement.

The Lieut.-Governor, in his despatches to the Colonial Office, enlarges on the advantages of Hobart for purposes of commerce, and speaks of the spot chosen for the settlement as "a port the advantages of which, when once known, will ensure its being the general rendezvous of all shipping bound into these seas." For the present, however, merchant ships were absolutely forbidden, under severe penalties, from entering the Derwent, except in case of absolute necessity. The masters of vessels sailing from Port Jackson for Van Diemen's Land had to enter into a recognizance of £100, and two sureties in £50 each, to be forfeited if they landed any person or took any one away without the Governor's written permission. No one but the Harbour Master was allowed to board any vessel arriving in the river. These restrictions on merchant ships were not removed until the year 1813.

But while trading was thus prohibited, the development of the whale fishery, from which Hobart in after

years drew so much wealth, early engaged the Governor's attention. By his desire William Collins drew up a scheme for the establishment of an extensive whaling station at Sullivan's Cove. This memorandum, which was forwarded to the Secretary for the Colonies for his approval, is well written, and shows that the Harbour Master was a man of good education and shrewd practical sense. He works out a plan for making Sullivan's Cove the centre of a South Sea sperm whale fishery,—advising on the description of the vessels to be employed, their plant and equipment, the number of men required, the mode of their remuneration by lays on the take, the necessary local superintendence, and all the details of the scheme, with an estimate of probable profits. The sperm whale season lasted from December to April. William Collins says that when the season for sperm whales and for sealing on the islands was over, the vessels could arrive in the Derwent in time to get rid of their catch, and then pursue the beach whale fishery, which commenced early in July and continued until September. During these months Storm Bay Passage, Frederick Henry Bay, and the Derwent abounded with the black whale or right fish, and a dozen vessels yearly could be freighted and sent home with their oil. The right whale was frequently seen in the Derwent in considerable numbers out of the regular season, but during the months of July, August, and September they were so numerous in the shoal parts of the river that from his tent in the camp at Sullivan's Cove he had counted as many as 50 or 60 whales in the river at one time.*

The Lieut.-Governor had his time fully occupied in directing the development of the settlement. Everything had his daily supervision. The planning of the buildings, the clearing of the ground, the marking off of gardens, the allotment of servants to the officers, the regulation of labour, the provisions, the stores, the punishment of offences, and the general discipline and regulation of the people, down to the smallest detail, required the personal sanction of His Honor. In addition to the care of the camp, the new Government farm demanded his constant attention, for the prosperity of the new settlement largely depended on the progress of cultivation. The intervening scrub made it difficult to reach the farm by land, and Henry Hacking, the Governor's coxswain, with his boat's crew, frequently pulled His Honor to Cornelian Bay to inspect the work of Superintendent Clark and his thirty men, who had now some 19 acres in crop, and to pay a visit to the settlers' locations a short distance beyond at Stainforth's Cove. The officers of the settlement, too, had little spare time on their hands, for the Governor was eager to get on with the public buildings, and the workmen could only be kept industrious by close and constant supervision and the strictest discipline. The Chaplain was probably the only really idle man in the camp. His professional duties were not heavy, consisting of one service and a sermon on Sundays, when the weather was fine, for there was no building large enough for the people to assemble in. Occasionally there was a burial or a marriage. During the first six months there were three weddings. On Sunday, the 18th March, Corporal Gangell of the Royal Marines was married to Mrs. Ann Skelthorn, the widow of a settler, at Governor Collins' house. On the 1st July, at the same place, Mr. Superintendent Ingle was married to Miss Rebecca Hobbs, and on the 23rd July, Mr.

* Knopwood in his diary (1st July) speaks of whales being so numerous in the river that his boat had to keep close along the shore, it being dangerous to venture into the mid-channel. The *Alexander* whaler, Captain Rhodes, fished in the Derwent and Storm Bay Passage from August to the end of October in this same year, and went home a full ship. There are persons yet living who can remember the time when bay-whaling, as it was called, had not ceased to be profitable. We have a reminiscence of this old industry in the name of Tryway Point, by which one of the promontories in the Derwent is still sometimes known.

Gunn to Miss Patterson. But the Chaplain had plenty of idle time. His poultry yard occupied a good deal of his attention, and he chronicles his successes with sittings of eggs, and the raids made upon his hens by spotted cats, which he occasionally captured. His chief resource was his gun. During the first fortnight he shot quail in the camp, on one occasion putting up three by Mr. Bowden's marquee and bagging them. Bronzewing pigeons he sometimes shot. On the 13th March he killed his first kangaroo, adding—"the first kangaroo that had been killed by any of the gentlemen in the camp." Many a walk through the adjoining bush he took, gun in hand, and accompanied by his dog "Nettle." Sometimes he went by himself, sometimes with his man Salmon, who was a better sportsman than his master, and shot the largest kangaroo recorded as being killed on the present site of Hobart. Mr. Knopwood has preserved the weight and measurements. It weighed 150 lbs., and measured 3 feet 10 from the tip of the nose to the root of the tail, the tail being 3 feet 4 long, and 16 inches in girth at the root. Sometimes Lieut. Bowen, or some of the officers from Risdon joined the Chaplain in his shooting expeditions, more rarely Surveyor-General Harris, or Mr. Humphreys, the mineralogist. The parson's skill was scarcely equal to his zeal, for though he extended his walks as far as the Government farm and the settler's locations at Stainforth's Cove, and game was fairly plentiful, the diary often contains the entry "no success." It was not altogether the love of sport that spurred the Chaplain to these excursions—he went to shoot something for dinner. Twelve or fifteen months of salt beef and salt pork, without even vegetables, would have made a man less fond of good things than the parson long for a change, and kangaroo was greatly appreciated. Of the first kangaroo he tasted at Port Phillip, he says "and very excellent it was." He is equally emphatic as to the excellence of emu, on which he dined at Risdon. On one occasion he gave a dinner in his tent to all the civil and military officers. Here is the bill of fare:—"Fish, kangaroo soup, roast kid saddle, roast kangaroo saddle, 2 fowls pellewed with rice and bacon, roast pig." Game was plentiful at the camp, and kangaroo sold at 8d. per lb. Sometimes good hauls of fish were made. Soon after his landing, the Lieut.-Governor tells Lord Hobart that on the preceding day he had served out 328 lbs. of fish, thereby saving 164 lbs. of salt beef. At Risdon game was much more abundant than in the neighbourhood of the Camp. Kangaroo, emu, ducks, and black swans were very plentiful. Immense flights of black swans frequented the river above Risdon in the breeding season. The people destroyed them so recklessly that the Governor, fearing lest such a valuable resource for fresh food might be extinguished, issued an Order prohibiting their being molested during the breeding season. This first game law was one of the earliest products of civilisation.

We have little information respecting the numbers of the natives about the neighbourhood of the Camp. During the first week their fires were seen at a little distance, and Mr. Knopwood in his walks saw many of their huts. There is no doubt that they reconnoitred the strangers closely, but they were very shy, and only once did a party of them approach the settlement. Captain Mertho and Mr. Brown, the botanist, had an interview with them on the beach near Macquarie Point, but could not induce them to venture into the Camp. They were probably not very numerous about Sullivan's Cove—at any rate we hear nothing of such large bodies of them as visited Risdon and caused a panic on the 3rd May, when the fatal affray took place. At other places, such as Frederick Henry Bay and the Huon, they were numerous, and quite friendly with the English.

During this first year few attempts were made to explore

the neighbouring country. In a former paper I noticed Mr. James Meehan's exploring trip from Risdon in the early part of 1804, by way of the Coal River to Prosser's Plains, and through the Sorell district. Of Meehan's journey there is no record, except the track of his route given in Flinders' map. The few officers at Sullivan's Cove had too much to do at the Camp to allow of their leaving it for any extended excursions. The first explorations from the Hobart settlement were made by Mr. Robert Brown,* the celebrated botanist, who had come to the Derwent with Collins' settlers, to examine the flora of Tasmania. Lieut. Bowen had ascended the river for some distance above Bridgewater, but on 5th March Mr. Brown, accompanied by Capt. Mertho and Mr. Knopwood, set out in the *Ocean's* boat on a more extended exploration. They were three days absent, and Knopwood says they reached a spot more than 40 miles from the Camp, where was an extensive plain, with very few trees—probably Macquarie Plains. Game—kangaroo, emu, and pigeons—was abundant. They saw many traces of the blacks, who, however, carefully avoided them. Towards the end of the month Brown and Humphreys, with a party provisioned for ten days, made a further attempt to reach the sources of the Derwent, but had to return disappointed. A few days later the indefatigable botanist set off alone through the bush, intending to go to the Huon. He was unable to get further than the North West Bay River; but on the 1st May he and Humphreys started again, and this time they succeeded in reaching the Huon, returning to the Camp after an absence of sixteen days. Lieut. Bowen had already been a short distance up this river, and had given but a poor account of the country. In June, William Collins, the Harbour Master, went in the white cutter to Betsy's Island, to land two refractory convicts there, and to look out for the anxiously expected ship *Ocean*, with the rest of the people from Port Phillip. From Betsy's Island Collins proceeded up the Huon River. He was away a fortnight, and on his return reported that it was a very favourable site for a settlement, with an abundance of fresh water, good land, and fine trees. He saw many of the natives, who were friendly and took him to their camp, where there were about twenty families. Knopwood says that on this trip Collins saw three of the native "catamarans, or small boats made of bark, that would hold about six of them."

The only other exploration recorded is Surveyor-General Harris' survey of the Hobart Rivulet. Harris was accompanied by Mr. Humphreys, the mineralogist, and three men. They followed the rivulet to its source, and thence went to the top of the mountain. The old plan which I have mentioned was probably the result of this survey.

It will be remembered that when the Lieut.-Governor removed his people to Sullivan's Cove, he did not interfere with Lieut. Bowen at Risdon, but left that officer in charge at the site chosen by him in the previous September. It was not until after Lieut. Moore's fatal affray with the blacks (3rd May) that Collins took over the command of the unlucky first settlement, and removed the people to Sullivan's Cove preparatory to their being sent back to Port Jackson. The Risdon colony had been named "Hobart," under instructions from Governor King, and, on the abandonment of that place, Collins appropriated the name, and called his new settlement at Sullivan's Cove "Hobart Town." This name it retained until 1881, when the Legislature dropped the superfluous "Town," and reverted to the simple original designation "Hobart." The name "Hobart Town" first appears

* Robert Brown was a botanist of European reputation, and his "*Prodrromus Floræ Novæ-Hollandiæ et Insulæ Van Diemen*" (London, 1810), is still a standard work. He arrived at the Derwent in the *Lady Nelson* early in February, 1804, and returned to Port Jackson in the *Ocean*, 9th August in the same year.

in a General Order of 15th June, 1804. Hobart Town was henceforth the official designation of the colony; but the memory of the first encampment lingered long with the early settlers, and at that time, and for long years afterwards, even as late as the year 1825, the new town at Sullivan's Cove was familiarly known as "The Camp."

The Lieut.-Governor had now been settled at the Derwent for four months, and as yet had only half his establishment with him. The *Lady Nelson*, after landing the settlers and the stores, had sailed for Port Jackson early in March, and before the end of the month the *Ocean* also had left for Port Phillip to bring Lieut. Sladden and the remainder of the people. The *Ocean* might have been reasonably expected to be back in a month at furthest; but week after week went by, April and May had passed, June was well advanced, and yet there was no sign of the missing vessel. The Governor grew very anxious, and almost made up his mind to give her up for lost. The Harbour Master was sent at intervals to Betsy's Island to look out for her, but returned without news. At last, on the 22nd June, the Governor's fears were set at rest by her appearance in the river. Lieut. Johnson landed, and reported that they had been 33 days on the voyage, during which they had had violent gales, the ship having been under bare poles for days at a time, the captain hour by hour expecting her to founder. It took her three days to come up the river, making her total passage 36 days. The misery and semi-starvation of those wretched five weeks, during which they were cooped up and tossed about in that little vessel of 480 tons, were not soon forgotten by her 160 passengers. The live stock brought in the *Ocean* also suffered severely during the long rough passage, and Collins ruefully enumerates the losses, which he could ill afford, seeing that the whole of the live stock at the settlement at the end of July consisted of only 20 head of cattle, 60 sheep, and some pigs, goats, and poultry.

The reinforcement of people he had received now brought up the strength of the Governor's establishment to 433 persons—viz., 358 men, 39 women, and 36 children.* The new arrivals were temporarily distributed amongst the huts already built, and the considerate Governor allowed them a few days' exemption from work to enable them to build themselves houses. He was so pleased with Lieut. Sladden's report of his little detachment of marines that he issued a Garrison Order commending them, and expressing his gratification at their soldierlike demeanour. His civil staff was now complete. Mr. Leonard Fosbrook, the Deputy Commissary-General, who had been left at Port Phillip in charge of the stores and live stock, was quartered in a marquee on Hunter's Island. Three magistrates were appointed under a Commission from the Governor-General King. This first Tasmanian Commission of the Peace consisted of the Rev. Robert Knopwood, Lieut. Sladden, and Surveyor-General Harris. The night watch was also reorganised, and placed under the direction of Mr. Wm. Thos. Stocker, who in after years became a respected citizen of Hobart as the proprietor of the best inn in the town, the *Derwent Hotel*, situated in Elizabeth-street, on the spot now occupied by Mr. Henry Cook's tailors' shop. Collins was not altogether satisfied with this night watch, for he had to complain of frequent robberies, which he characterised as a disgrace to the settlement, and which he was of opinion could not have been perpetrated if the watch had been properly vigilant. Such irregularities were, no doubt, inevitable

* The return is printed in the Appendix. It bears date July, 1804, and is, presumably, therecord of the muster taken about three weeks after the *Ocean's* arrival, and referred to in General Order, 17th July. It does not include Lieut. Bowen's Risdon people, who were separately victualled. A comparison of figures leads to the belief that it does include the few prisoners selected from the Risdon establishment, and whom Collins retained at the Derwent.

with the class of people the Governor had to control; but, for all that, the community, taking all things into consideration, seems to have been fairly orderly and well behaved, and to have been free from the flagrant abuses and general demoralisation which disgraced the early years of the Port Jackson settlement, and which afterwards sprung up in this colony under less capable governors than Collins.

That Collins must have had first-rate qualities as a ruler is evidenced by the fact of the rapid progress made by the colony during the first six months of its existence—from February to the beginning of August—the time covered by the present paper. When, on the 9th August, 1804, the *Ocean* sailed for Port Jackson with Lieut. Bowen and the rest of the Risdon people, whom the Governor was so glad to be rid of, the new settlement at Sullivan's Cove was already organised, and with every prospect of permanent success.

After the lapse of well nigh a century, we, the inhabitants of the fair city which has arisen on the site of the Camp of 1804, would show ourselves strangely unmindful of what we owe to the past if we did not hold in honour the name of David Collins, and if we failed to keep in grateful remembrance the sagacity and energy which he, our first Lieut.-Governor, displayed in the founding of Hobart, 85 years ago.

APPENDIX.

RETURN of Inhabitants at the Derwent River, Van Diemen's Land, July, 1804.

	Men.	Women.	Children.
Civil Department	18	5	9
Military Department	48	9	3
Prisoners	279	2	...
Prisoners' wives and children...	...	16	8
Settlers	13	7	16
	358	39	36
TOTAL	433		

NOTE.—This return does not include the people belonging to Lieut. Bowen's Risdon Settlement, who were sent back to Port Jackson by the *Ocean*, 9th August, 1804.

FREE SETTLERS.

The names of the free settlers were sent with a letter of April 5th, 1803, from Mr. Sullivan to Lieut.-Governor Collins.—Labilliere's "Early History of Victoria," i., 148.

"LIST of Persons who have obtained Lord Hobart's permission to proceed to Port Phillip.

Names.	Occupations.	Remarks.
Mr. Collins	Seaman	
Edw. Newman.....	Ship carpr.	
Mr. Hartley	Seaman	
Edwd. F. Hamilton.		
John J. Gravie.		
Mr. Pownall.		
A female servant.		
Thos. Collingwood	Carpenter	
Duke Charman.		
John Skilthorne ...	Cutler	
Anty. Fletcher	Mason	
T. R. Preston	Pocket-book maker."	

[This list is incomplete.]

RETURN of the Officers, Superintendents, and Overseers belonging to the Civil Establishment at Hobart Town, River Derwent, Van Diemen's Land. [July, 1804.]

Names.	Appointments.	Where disposed.	Date of Appointment.
David Collins, Esq.	Lt.-Governor	At Hobart Town	
Rev. Robt. Knopwood	Chaplain	Ditto	
Benjn. Barbauld ¹	Depty. Judge Advocate	In England on leave	
Wm. l'Anson	Surgeon	At Hobart Town	
Mattw. Bowden	1st Asst. Surgeon	Ditto	
Wm. Hopley	2nd Asst. Surgeon	Ditto	
Leond. Fosbrook	Depty. Commis-sary	Ditto	
Geo. Prid. Harris	Depty. Surveyor	Ditto	
A. W. H. Humphreys ²	Mineralogist	Ditto	
Wm. Collins ³	Harbour Master	Ditto	2 April, 1804
Thos. Clarke	Superintendent	At Farm Bay	
Wm. Patterson	Ditto	At Hobart Town	
Wm. Nicholls ⁴	Ditto	Ditto	21 Jany. 1804
John Jubal Sutton ⁵	Ditto	Ditto	27 Feby. "
Richd. Clark ⁶	Ditto	Ditto	1 June "
John Ingle ⁷	Overseer	Ditto	
Wm. Parish ⁷	Ditto	Ditto	

¹ Mr. Barbauld never came out to the Colony. ² Afterwards Police Magistrate at Hobart. ³ Came out as a free settler. ⁴ Came out as a free settler; appointed Superintendent of Carpenters at Port Phillip. ⁵ Came out as Corporal of Marines. ⁶ Came with Lt. Bowen to Risdon in Sept., 1803, as a free settler; appointed Superintendent of Masons. ⁷ Appointed at Port Phillip; seem to have been free settlers.

QUARTERLY employment of the Prisoners in His Majesty's Settlement, Derwent River, Van Diemen's Land, July, 1804.

Agriculture and Stock.	
Overseers	2
Agriculture on the public account	28
Care of Government Stock	5
	— 35
Buildings.	
Stone Cutters and Masons	3
Sawyers and Timber Measurer.....	11

Carpenters and Labourers	11
Blacksmiths, Armourer, Tinnan, and File Cutter...	8
Lath and Pale Splitters	2
Bricklayers, Plasterers, and Labourers	10
Lime and Charcoal Burners	5
Timber Carriage	26
	— 76

Boat Builders, &c.	
Shipwrights and Caulkers.....	3
Labourers	1
	— 4

Various Employments.	
Clerks	2
Overseers	7
Taking care of Government Huts	4
Public Stores and Cooper at ditto	5
Boats' Crews	21
Government Gardens	7
Town Gang	38
Night Watch	7
Attending Hospital	6
Bellringer and Barbers	3
Tailors and Shoemakers.....	6
Printer	1
Thatchers and Toolhelver	5
Cook, Baker, and Drummers to the R. M. Detachment	4
Jail Gang	1
Tanner and Gluemaker	1
	— 118

Servants.	
To Commissioned Officers, Civil and Military	21
To Superintendents and Overseers	8
To Non-commissioned Officers of the Royal Marines	2
To Settlers	1
	— 32

Sick and Convalescent	14
TOTAL	279

RETURN of Live Stock in His Majesty's Settlement, Derwent River, Van Diemen's Land, 4th August, 1804.

To whom belonging.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Goats.	Pigs.	Fowls, Geese, Ducks, and Turkeys.
Government	21	39	...	15	...
Lieut.-Governor Collins	1	...	20	37
Military Officers	2	5	22
Civil Officers	12	13	7	36
Settlers and others	9	3	9	83
	0	21	61	18	56	178

