

(No. 129.)



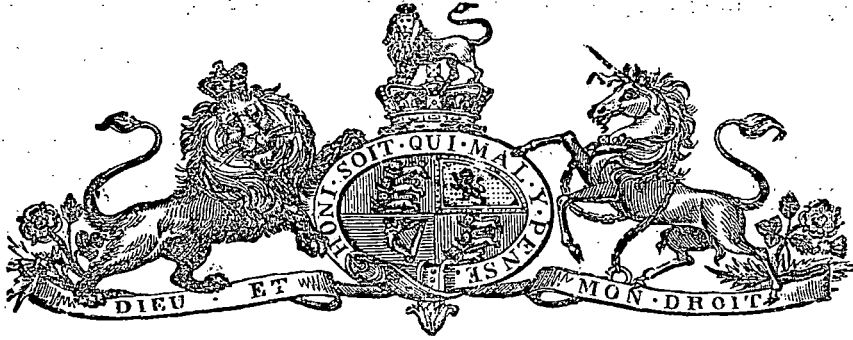
1869.

TASMANIA.

SANDY BAY.

ENCROACHMENTS ON THE LONG BEACH.

Laid on the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, 19th October, 1869; and ordered
by the House to be printed.



(Copy.)

MR. DICKENSON'S ENCROACHMENT ON SANDY BAY BEACH *RE*
SURVEYOR-GENERAL, COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Mr. Dickenson by placing his garden fence below high-water mark is clearly guilty of an encroachment which may be abated. The Crown Solicitor had, therefore, better write to Mr. Dickenson and inform him that unless he remove his fence to high-water mark proceedings will be instituted against him.

(Signed) F. SMITH.
J. W. ROGERS,
11th December, 1855.

Of course we assume that high-water mark is Mr. Dickenson's correct boundary. The Crown Solicitor had better make enquiry on this point before taking any step.

(Signed) F. S.
J. W. R.

WILL Surveyor-General furnish information required in last paragraph and full description of Grant Deed?

(Signed) E. MACDOWELL.
13th December, 1855.

Hobart Town, 4th December, 1865.

SIR,

At the suggestion of many persons who have expressed a strong feeling on the subject of recent encroachments on the Long Beach at Sandy Bay, and for which no person appears able to point out a remedy, I have the honor to address you, in the hope that the Government will consider it of sufficient importance to warrant some measures being taken to arrest this evil, which may probably extend even to the beach at Kangaroo Point and other healthful places of recreation.

I need scarcely inform you how much the Promenade on the Sandy Beach has been appreciated by all classes of the inhabitants of Hobart Town for the last thirty years, or refer to the fact of its having been in former years a race-ground, to exemplify the great interest the public has in its remaining unenclosed.

I believe you will discover amongst the records of your Office that a former Government instructed the Law Officers to proceed against Mr. Dickenson for the first encroachment, but by some means the papers were lost or mislaid. On a reference which I last year made to the Surveyor-General on this subject, I was favoured with a tracing of the road to the Beach as surveyed by himself years ago, which was then considered to be public property.

The final settlement of this question of the rights of the public and private individuals will prevent further encroachments, and remove all chance of a breach of the peace and destruction of property, which I feel confident will result from the present uncertainty.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,
H. NELSON.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

REFERRED to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, with the request that he will report upon the difficulties, if any exist, to securing to the Public free access to the Long Beach at Sandy Bay.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY,
6. 12. 65.

ILLNESS has prevented me attending to this matter before. Mr. Boothman had better instruct Mr. Ballantyne to make a survey of the road down to the Beach, showing its connection with the main line of road and some well-known point. Mr. Murdoch might be written to, that we may have his statement of whether he means to obstruct free passage to the Beach. He has put a gate across the road, but which I believe is always left open: but, nevertheless, it looks like a threat.

J. E. CALDER,
29. 12. 65.

MEMORANDUM.

THE enquiry submitted to me by the Assistant Colonial Secretary, on the 6th ultimo, touching the difficulties that exist to securing to the Public free access to the Long Beach at Sandy Bay, has remained unreplied to longer than I could have wished on account of indisposition. As soon, however, as I could attend to it I caused a letter to be written (A.) to Mr. John Murdoch, who placed the gates across the road, to know under what authority he thus acted in checking free access to this beach by a road which I believe has been in use for a long course of years. To this enquiry he replied, 30. 12. 65; (B.) offering the best justification he could of a procedure which, I think, few will consider to be an excusable one. At the same time I caused a Surveyor to visit the ground and to make an exact survey of this old thoroughfare, showing its connection with the main district road leading from Hobart Town to Brown's River and with the Beach itself. His plan, herewith, shows not only the position of the gates, which it is presumed are meant to obstruct or threaten obstruction to the Beach, but that considerable encroachments have been already made, and are still making, on the Beach by enclosing it with fences and walls, and so filling in the space thus taken from the sea, that it will ere long wholly disappear, as part already has. I submit, with great respect, that the advice of the Law Officers be taken (and as soon as possible) as to the propriety and legality of checking this invasion of the sea bed before much more damage is done. This Beach (until partly destroyed about ten years ago at A. and B. of the plan) was one of the most agreeable and attractive recreative spots about Hobart Town; and it seems now that it is to be entirely effaced that the privacy of the grounds of one or two persons,—who seem unable to comprehend the value of such a beautiful drive to the community,—may not be broken in on, and to add a road or two of area to the same.

I must, however, state that the grant deed of the property to which this road lies secures to the Public only one road, which must be taken to be that running to Brown's River; so that if the one leading down to the Beach be a legal thoroughfare, it is so by usage and not by reservation.

It will be observed that Mr. John Murdoch, in speaking of the legality of the act of closing this old road, says that three of the Trustees of the Queenborough District are interested in this road (its stoppage I presume): hence it will be seen that the community have little to expect from that body in the shape of assistance to throw open the Sand Beach to general use; and that if the encroachment complained of is to be removed, some other means will have eventually to be tried after an appeal to the Road Trust has failed; and the Law Officers will instruct us what other course is open to us in that event. Without presuming to offer my opinions in a matter requiring knowledge which I do not possess, I will nevertheless suggest that the 79th Clause of "The Waste Lands Act, 1863," may assist us through the difficulty, if the Road Trust refuse to aid in removing the encroachments of Murdoch and others.

J. E. CALDER,
10. 1. 66.

I forgot to add that I enclose a copy of report made in January, 1856, (C.) touching the encroachment at A. B.

J. E. C.

(A.)

29th December, 1865.

SIR,

I BEG to enquire by what authority you have placed gates across the roadway leading from the Brown's River Road to the Long Beach at Sandy Bay, such roadway having been a public thoroughfare for very many years past.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) EDW. BOOTHMAN.

JOHN MURDOCH, Esq., Sandy Bay.

(B.)

Old Wharf, Hobart Town, 30th December, 1865.

Sir,

I THIS morning received a letter from Mr. E. Boothman, Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands, dated 29th instant, enquiring "by what authority I had placed gates across the roadway leading from the Brown's River Road to the Long Beach at Sandy Bay, such roadway having been a public thoroughfare for many years past."

I beg to acquaint you that the same roadway is on private property originally granted to a Mr. Sharp, who sold to Mr. F. Lipscombe, and whose assignees sold to me with a reservation of a roadway for the use of the then tenants of the estate, to be enclosed by a gate. The deeds, &c., together with the original grant, are in my possession, and for your satisfaction I am willing to permit yourself or any person appointed and authorised by you to peruse.

The said gate has been erected by me for 21 months, prior to which Mr. F. Lipscombe (about 18 years ago) had gates placed there for about 12 years, until he let the premises, when they became dilapidated and broken down, remaining in that state up to the time of sale to myself.

I beg to say that I cannot understand why Mr. E. Boothman makes such an enquiry, as all roads are under the immediate control and management of the several Trusts appointed for each District throughout the Colony; and also that three of the Trustees of the District of Queenborough being part owners of the above estate, and having a right to the road in question, at once shows that no illegal act has been committed.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MURDOCH.

J. E. CALDER, *Esq.*, Commissioner Crown Lands.

(Copy.)

(C.)

Hobart Town, 4th January, 1856.

I WENT to the residence of Mr. Dickenson at Sandy Bay, as directed, and ascertained that his garden is situated in James Sharpe's grant. I also went to the bottom of the garden adjoining the Beach, and found the fence recently put up by Mr. Dickenson placed below high water mark about 30 links at one end and 70 links at the other.

(Signed) CHAS. RICHARDSON, *Pt. R. S. M.*Captain HAWKINS, *Royal Engineers.**Hobart Town, 4th January, 1866.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honor to enclose a plan of my survey of the Lane leading from the Sandy Bay Road to the Long Beach.

As far as I am able to judge no alteration has been made in the position of the Lane, but gates have been placed fronting the road.

In Murdoch and Dickenson's lots walls have been built and filled in, consequently I am unable to show the water line.

The far lot of Murdoch's has been fenced in, the high water mark is sketched, as shown on the accompanying plan.

At full tide the Beach would be impassable.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. E. BALLANTYNE.

The Surveyor-General.

Hobart Town, 27th March, 1866.

SIR,

I HAD the honor of addressing you, in a letter of the 4th December last, on the subject of encroachments on the Long Beach at Sandy Bay.

The gentlemen who suggested the application to the Government have made many enquiries of me lately as to the result of that reference, I should therefore feel obliged if you would enable me to submit your answer to them.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

H. NELSON.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

REFERRED to the Surveyor-General. The papers referred to were forwarded to him in December last.

FRANK C. TRIBE,
28th March, 1866.

MR. Nelson's letter was forwarded to the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer on the 10th of January last with a Report from the Surveyor-General, together with a letter from the Deputy Commissioner addressed to Mr. John Murdoch, dated 29th December, 1865, Mr. Murdoch's reply of the 30th,—a Report from Charles Richardson of the Sappers and Miners to Captain Hawkins of the 4th January, 1856; and a letter from Mr. Surveyor Ballantyne of the 4th January last, with a plan showing the extent of the encroachments referred to.

E. W. BOOTHMAN,
28th March, 1866.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

REFERRED to the Treasurer, who will take the necessary steps to remove the obstructions complained of.

JAMES WHYTE,
4. 4. 66.

The Hon. the Treasurer.

RECORD of the papers in question cannot be found in the Treasury. The Surveyor-General will send such copies as he may possess.

C. MEREDITH,
6. 4. 66.

I CANNOT give copies of the Correspondence except in an incomplete form, which I will do if such be sufficient.

J. E. CALDER,
7. 4. 66.

THE Papers are now in Treasury.

C. M.
9. 4. 66.

MEMORANDUM.

REFERRING to the Memorandum by the Honorable Colonial Secretary, requesting the Treasurer to take the necessary steps to remove the obstructions complained of by Mr. Nelson, I beg to draw the attention of the Honorable Attorney-General to the letter of the Surveyor-General, under date 10th January, 1866, and to the letter of Mr. Murdoch of the 30th December, 1865, and to ask the manner of proceeding. The complaints appear to be of a twofold nature,—the placing Gates on a certain road, and encroachment on the Beach below high-water mark.

CHAS. MEREDITH,
10. 4. 66.

WILL the Surveyor-General be good enough to inform me whether the boundary in the original Grant is high-water mark or not?

R. BYRON MILLER,
18th April, 1866.

THE property is described in the original Location Order, and also in the new Grant, as bounded by the River Derwent, without reference to high-water mark.

E. W. BOOTHMAN,
18th April, 1866.

The Hon. the Attorney-General.

THERE is clearly an encroachment on the shore, as the right of the crown to the soil between high and low water-mark is indisputable. Whether the placing the gate across the roadway leading to the shore is justifiable or not must depend on evidence not before me; I may say, however, that if the facts stated in Mr. Murdoch's letter are correctly set forth, the public have no right to any use of the road. The Surveyor-General should proceed under 27 Vict. No. 22, Sec. 79.

ROBERT BYRON MILLER,
18th April, 1866.

FORWARDED for the information of the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

C. MEREDITH,
15. 6. 66.

RECEIVED at Survey Office, 19th June, 1866.

Survey Office, 14th July, 1866.

MY DEAR SIR,

I SAW Mr. Nelson, and he promised to have two or three credible witnesses (one of them an old resident of Sandy Bay named Garth) who will be prepared to prove that the encroachments on the Sandy Bay Beach have been made between high and low water mark.

Believe me,
Yours very faithfully,
H. E. SMITH.

J. E. CALDER, *Esq., Surveyor-General,*
Macquarie-street.

Hobart Town, 20th July, 1866.

SIR,

IN conformity with my promise I proceeded on the 17th instant, between 2 and 3 o'clock, in company with the Government Surveyor and Messrs. Bastian and Fitzgerald, to the Long Beach at Sandy Bay, and the result of our examination of the water-marks is embodied in the subscribed Certificate.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
H. NELSON.

WE the undersigned certify that on the 17th July, 1866, in company with the Government Surveyor delegated for that purpose, we inspected certain encroachments on the Long Beach at Sandy Bay, and declare that a wall, which was marked in our presence by the Surveyor, is between high and low water-mark.

C. BASSTIAN.
ROBERT FITZGERALD,
H. NELSON.

The Surveyor-General.

We the undersigned hereby record the expression of our desire to see the recent obstructions of the Long Beach at Sandy Bay lawfully removed, the Public having enjoyed the use of the said Beach as a place of exercise and recreation for the last thirty years.

Robert Walker.
Charles Degraives.
C. M. Maxwell.
D. Lewis.
Neil Lewis.
Thos. Jean.
Josh. Allport.
W. L. Dobson.

Henry J. Peters.
H. Best.
Fredk. A. Downing.
George A. Kemp.
D. Barclay.
Henry Tonkin.
William John Rout.
Charles Colvin.

S. T. Hardinge.
George Turnley.
R. Westbrook.
J. Barnard.
Jno. Aston Watkins.
C. Basstian.

HORATIO NELSON, *Hon. Secretary.*

Hobart Town, 15th June, 1866.

SIR,

I BEG to enclose a paper containing the signatures of a number of old and influential Colonists, at whose instigation I have before had the honor to address you, on the subject of encroachments made by private individuals upon the public walks in the neighbourhood of the City. These encroachments are extending day by day; and I am, therefore, urged to request an answer from the Government on the subject in order that steps may be taken to arrest a deprivation of our rights.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

H. NELSON, *Hon. Secretary.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

FORWARDED to the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer with reference to the correspondence upon the same subject forwarded on the 15th of April last. The Colonial Secretary trusts that the obstructions may, if possible, be removed without delay.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY,
22nd June, 1866.

FORWARDED to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, who has papers, the Attorney-General's opinion, and my instructions already in this matter.

C. MEREDITH,
23. 6. 66.

Hobart Town, 23rd July, 1866.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that on the 17th July, in company with Messrs. Nelson, Fitzgerald, and Basstian, I inspected the encroachments made by Mr. Murdoch and others on the Long Beach, Sandy Bay, and made such marks as will enable me to certify that the present fence (as shown on the accompanying plan) is erected between high and low water-mark.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. E. BALLANTYNE.

J. E. CALDER, *Esq., Surveyor-General.*

Hobart Town, 24th July, 1866.

SIR,

THE accompanying plan shows the encroachment made by Mrs. Mead on the Long Beach, Sandy Bay. The present high water-mark is distinctly seen on the ground, and as shown on the plan, the fence being an encroachment of from 10 to 12 links.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. E. BALLANTYNE.

The Surveyor-General.

To Mr. JOHN DICKENSON.

I, James Erskine Calder, of Hobart Town, in Tasmania, Esquire, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, in accordance with the provisions of "The Waste Lands Act," do hereby require you, within fourteen days from the day of the date hereof, to quit all that piece of Crown land situate between high and low water-mark, adjoining an allotment occupied by you in the Parish of Queenborough, in the County of Buckingham, forming part of the Sandy Bay Beach, now unlawfully occupied by you, and situate within the Parish of Queenborough and County of Buckingham in Tasmania aforesaid; and in case you fail to comply with this Notice, I shall cause you to be forthwith dispossessed and removed from the said land.

Dated this twenty-sixth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six.

J. E. CALDER, *the Commissioner of Crown Lands.*

I, David Carson, a Constable of Tasmania, do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that I served a true copy of this original Notice of Trespass on the within-named John Dickenson, personally, at Hobart Town, Tasmania, on the 30th July, 1866; and I did at the same time show to the said John Dickenson this original Notice of Trespass: all which matters I conscientiously believe to be true. And I make this declaration under the provisions of the Act of this Island, intituled "An Act for the Abolition of extra-Judicial and unnecessary Oaths."

DAVID CARSON.

Taken and sworn before me, }
this 31st July, 1866. } A. B. JONES, J. P.

To Mr. WILLIAM MEAD.

I, James Erskine Calder, of Hobart Town, in Tasmania, Esquire, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, in accordance with the provisions of "The Waste Lands Act," do hereby require you, within fourteen days from the day of the date hereof, to quit all that piece of Crown land situate between high and low water-mark, adjoining an allotment occupied by you in the Parish of Queenborough, in the County of Buckingham, forming part of the Sandy Bay Beach, now unlawfully occupied by you, and situate within the Parish of Queenborough and County of Buckingham in Tasmania aforesaid; and in case you fail to comply with this Notice, I shall cause you to be forthwith dispossessed and removed from the said land.

Dated this twenty-sixth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six.

J. E. CALDER, *the Commissioner of Crown Lands.*

I, David Carson, a Constable of Tasmania, do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that I served a true copy of this original Notice of Trespass on the within-named William Mead, personally, at Sandy Bay, on the 30th July, 1866; and I did at the same time show to the said William Mead this original Notice of Trespass: all which matters I conscientiously believe to be true. And I make this declaration under the provisions of the Act of this Island, intituled "An Act for the Abolition of extra-Judicial and unnecessary Oaths."

DAVID CARSON.

Taken and sworn before me, }
this 31st July, 1866. } A. B. JONES, J. P.

To Mr. JOHN MURDOCH.

I, James Erskine Calder, of Hobart Town, in Tasmania, Esquire, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, in accordance with the provisions of "The Waste Lands Act," do hereby require you, within fourteen days from the day of the date hereof, to quit all that piece of Crown land situate between high and low water-mark, adjoining an allotment occupied by you in the parish of Queenborough, in the County of Buckingham, forming part of the Sandy Bay Beach, now unlawfully occupied by you, and situate within the Parish of Queenborough and County of Buckingham in Tasmania aforesaid; and in case you fail to comply with this Notice, I shall cause you to be forthwith dispossessed and removed from the said land.

Dated this twenty-sixth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six.

J. E. CALDER, *the Commissioner of Crown Lands.*

I, David Carson, a Constable of Tasmania, do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that I served a true copy of this original Notice of Trespass on the within-named John Murdoch, personally, at Sandy Bay, on the 30th July, 1866; and I did at the same time show to the said John Murdoch this original Notice of Trespass: all which matters I conscientiously believe to be true. And I make this declaration under the provisions of the Act of this Island, intituled "An Act for the Abolition of extra-Judicial and unnecessary Oaths."

DAVID CARSON.

Taken and sworn before me, }
this 31st July, 1866. } A. B. JONES, J. P.

THE Surveyor-General presents his compliments to the Inspector of Police, and would thank Mr. Forster to cause one of the enclosed Notices of Trespass on the Sandy Bay Beach to be served upon the persons to whom they are addressed; the others to be returned to this Office with the usual Declaration of Service.

Survey Office, 27th July, 1866.

The Inspector of Police.

NOTICES served, and Declarations of Service on true copies thereof enclosed.

*For Inspector—A. SCOTT.
August 1, 1866.*

The Surveyor-General.

Hobart Town, 2nd August, 1866.

SIR,

I AM in receipt of a notice from you, dated 26th July last, about a piece of Crown land stated to be occupied by me. In reply, I beg to say that I do not occupy any Crown land, neither is there any between my property I now possess at Sandy Bay and the sea. This has been fully explained on a former occasion, showing my title, deduced from a Norfolk Island Grant, without any reservation being bounded by the River Derwent; and when the fence was first put up, much nearer to the sea than it is now, the water never reached to it; nor does it now, only in stormy weather. I may state that the sea has made very great encroachments on the land, as evident proofs exist, and may be seen at the present day at low tides, of stumps and roots of large gum trees having grown luxuriantly far below my existing fence full forty to fifty feet. Mr. F. Lipscombe, a very old resident, and who originally owned the land I now occupy at Sandy Bay, will corroborate the above,—with the addition that he has seen gum trees growing below any of the fences now put up in that neighbourhood, and can certify that during his time the sea has encroached upwards of sixty feet; and within my own knowledge I am aware my neighbour (Jackson) has lost by not putting up a fence some thirty feet of soil, which is now a sand-bed, caused by the heavy surf in severe stormy weather washing it off, and leaving a deposit of sand in its place. From the above facts, I presume you will see that, in making a fresh survey after the lapse of half a century of quietude or possession, would be a most unfair act after the above encroachment made by the sea. Trusting the above explanation will be satisfactory and prevent any further trouble,

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN DICKENSON.

J. E. CALDER, *Esq.*

Stone Buildings, Hobart Town, 9th August, 1866.

SIR,

MR. JOHN MURDOCH has placed in our hands your notice to him, dated the 26th day of July last, with reference to an encroachment alleged to have been committed by him on the Sandy Bay Beach. Our client instructs us to inform you that he declines to comply with the requirements contained in such notice.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

CRISP & GILL.

To J. E. CALDER, Esq., Commissioner of Crown Lands.

MEMORANDUM.

ALL the former correspondence respecting encroachments on the Beach at Sandy Bay is herewith forwarded to the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer, with two letters I have received,—one from Mr. John Dickenson, of the 2nd instant, and the other from Messrs. Crisp and Gill, on behalf of their client, Mr. John Murdoch, dated the 9th instant.

In reference to these communications, I would draw particular attention to the precautions taken by me to satisfy the Government that the encroachments made by Messrs. John Dickenson, John Murdoch, and William Mead were below high water mark. In the two former cases, it will be seen that Messrs. Bastian, Fitzgerald, Nelson, and Ballantyne, after inspecting the encroachments made on the Long Beach at Sandy Bay, certify that a wall marked by Mr. Ballantyne *is between high and low water mark*,—most important evidence, if the matter should come before the Supreme Court; and the survey made by Mr. Surveyor Ballantyne clearly shows the fence in front of Mead's land to be between high and low water mark.

I have now, therefore, the honor to request that the consent of the Governor in Council may be obtained to my issuing warrants to the Sheriff for the removal of the encroachments in terms of the 79th Section of "The Waste Lands Act, 1863."

J. E. CALDER,
Survey Department, 21st August, 1866.

The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.

THE authority of the Governor in Council should be obtained at once.

ROBERT BYRON MILLER,
21st August, 1866.

MINUTE PAPER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 21st August, 1866.

SUBMITTED.

THAT His Excellency the Governor in Council be pleased to authorise my issuing instructions to the Surveyor-General, directing him to forward warrants to the Sheriff for the removal of the encroachments herein mentioned, in terms of the 79th Section of "The Waste Lands Act, 1863."

CHAS. MEREDITH, *Colonial Treasurer.*

THE Governor in Council approves.

E. C. NOWELL,
27th August, 1866.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

FORWARDED to the Surveyor-General, who will act accordingly.

CHAS. MEREDITH,
28th August, 1866.

Hobart Town, 31st December, 1867.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to call your attention to a correspondence, which I believe is now in your hands, relative to certain encroachments on the Beach at Sandy Bay.

The late Ministry, it is understood, after a reference to the Surveyor-General, finally issued instructions to the Sheriff to remove the obstructions below high water-mark, which interfere with the privileges of the public, the nature and particulars of which are set forth in the correspondence above referred to.

I am urged again to bring the matter before the Government in the hope of an early settlement of the question.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. NELSON, *Hon. Secretary.*

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

Colonial Treasury, 10th January, 1867.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 31st ultimo, drawing my attention to the question of certain encroachments on the Long Beach at Sandy Bay.

In reply, I beg to inform you that the matter shall receive my earliest consideration on the close of the approaching Sitting of Parliament; which, I may add, prevents the possibility of my looking into the matter at once.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

THOS. D. CHAPMAN.