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*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
January 4, 1844.*

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint S. W. Vivesh, Esq., to be Sub-Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages for the District of the Swan above Perth, in the room of T. N. Yule, Esq.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
January 11, 1844.*

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the following Fourth Annual Report of the Protector of Natives, C. Symmons, Esq., to be published for general information.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

Perth, Dec. 31, 1843.

SIR,—At the close of the fourth year after entering on the duties of Protector of Aborigines, I have the honor to submit my Annual Report to His Excellency the Governor.

The conduct of the natives under my superintendence has for so long a period been so strictly inoffensive, so almost wholly free from those acts of petty aggression, which might naturally be expected in the unrestrained intercourse of an uncivilized people with Europeans, that were I not borne out by the experience of my widely extended district, I might be suspected of having prearranged my late quarterly reports on one undeviating system of panegyric.

During the period of the last (15) fifteen months, not a native subject to my jurisdiction has been arraigned at the criminal bar; a fact, however mainly attributable to the good conduct of the aborigines, is likewise, I consider, most creditable to the forbearance and kind feeling of their European neighbors, and affords the most satisfactory evidence of the efficient working of our police regulations, and general system of native management.

Independently of frequent visits to the stations in my more immediate vicinity, I have during the past year made two official tours to the Murray, Leschenault, Vasse, and Augusta districts. To Augusta my attention was in the month of April last more particularly directed, rumours of threatened outrage on the family of Mr. Turner, the almost sole remaining resident in that district, having reached me at headquarters, and to which the very recent removal of the military from that outpost, combined with its extremely isolated position, gave some plausibility.

Accompanied, therefore, by the Chief Constable of Police for the southern districts, I proceeded direct to Augusta. On my arrival, I found that this, like all other rumors connected with, or emanating from the natives, had been much exaggerated; that the aborigines in the immediate vicinity were not only decidedly friendly disposed, but were actually in the employ of Mr. Turner as herdsmen and farm laborers; and that the threats of aggression were of such an extremely vague and indefinite nature, that no importance could reasonably be attached to them.

But although the result of my visit gave me no reason to apprehend and premeditated evil intentions on the part of the native population, still it would have been at that time premature to infer that Mr. Turner's position, so isolated, so dependent on his own resources, and feeble means of defence, was not one of considerable difficulty. Nine months have since elapsed, and with

the exception of the robbery of a hut left wholly unguarded, no interruption of the former friendly intercourse has occurred; and by a continuance of that firmness and forbearance for which Mr. Turner and his family have been hitherto distinguished, I see but small cause for apprehending future danger, or even serious annoyance from the aboriginal population.

In each of the other districts, the experience of the past year induces me to believe that, as the intercourse is more frequent so are the good offices between the natives and the settlers becoming daily more essential, and their mutual interests more closely connected and recognised.

His Excellency will feel gratified at thus finding that the withdrawal of the troops from several of the outstations, a measure fraught at the time with uncertainty as to its effects on the native character, has been hitherto unattended by any obnoxious results to the peace of the community.

Our native schools at Perth and Fremantle are making a steady and most satisfactory advance. At the former, a more efficient system of internal management has, under the superintendence of the Committee, been lately adopted. By the present arrangement, the pupils are subjected to a more constant supervision than before: their meals are taken in the presence of the Wesleyan Minister and his family, and a greater order and decorum thereby enforced. Dormitories and other necessary apartments have been erected by subscription, and other arrangements are in process of organization, all tending to the further gradual perfection of this interesting experiment. At a late public examination, the progress evinced in reading, writing, needlework, and the rudiments of scriptural knowledge, was highly encouraging and satisfactory.

In the early part of this year, the rites of baptism and marriage were administered by the Wesleyan Minister to two adult natives, both late pupils of our school, and at present resident in service at the Mission House. Some months subsequent I witnessed the baptism by the Rev. the Colonial Chaplain of a young adult native boy, who has been for some years in the regular employ of an inhabitant of Perth. Sponsors, as for an infant, took upon themselves the usual obligations, although the lad was perfectly cognizant of our Church Catechism, and spoke English with remarkable fluency.

At the commencement of the past year it was judged expedient to withdraw the Government stipend from the native school at Guildford, the progress of the pupils, and its consequent advantages, not being deemed equivalent to the expense; a fact chiefly attributable to the scattered nature of the population, and the unavoidable unfavorable hours of tuition. In lieu of this school, another has been established on the Upper Swan, but is of too recent formation to permit me to speak decidedly of its future prospects of success.

With reference to the native establishment on the Island of Rottnest, it is gratifying to remark that the number of its prisoners is gradually decreasing, and that from the influence of its name, it will probably henceforward serve rather as the preventive than the punisher of crime.

Since my last annual report, two prisoners have died,—the one from dysentery, the other from venereal; the general health of the remainder (at this time seventeen in number) has been uninterruptedly good. With the concurrence of His Excellency, I have made some alterations in the discipline and domestic arrangements, as also

some slight addition to the dietary of the establishment. The matter I have done, not so much on account of any previous insufficiency, as to prevent the possibility of complaints by the prisoners on this score.

On the minds of those natives who have been subsequently released from Rottnest, the discipline of the prison has produced a most salutary effect. In but one instance since the formation of the establishment, has a native, once a prisoner, rendered himself again amenable to the laws, while the exaggerated narrations of the aborigines to each other of the rigour of the gaol regulations, has greatly aided in deterring the bush natives from the commission of acts of aggression.

During the past year I have had my attention directed to several cases of native intoxication. This being a vice from which until of late the aborigines had been remarkably exempt, has doubtless been encouraged in them by the example, and I fear in many instances by the very persuasions of the Europeans.

The taste for fermented liquors is, however, yet in its infancy, and will, I trust, be effectually checked by a legal enactment passed last session, rendering it penal to supply any native with intoxicating drink.

The appointment of Mr. E. Hester as Chief Constable of Police for the southern district, and the steadiness and activity displayed by him on various occasions, appear to have given general satisfaction to the settlers. In a thinly populated district, surrounded by numerous tribes of uncivilized natives, the efficacy of such an appointment must be self-evident, when it is filled by a person so intimately acquainted with the habits and language of the aborigines as Mr. Hester, in constant and direct communication with the local magistracy, and ever on the spot to conciliate the well inclined, and repress the turbulence of the disaffected. In cases of actual outrage, the services of such an individual are truly valuable, as the efforts of the ordinary district constables, when in the pursuit of natives in the bush, have in most instances proved ineffectual.

I have several times within the past year, at the mutual request of the parties, indentured native lads to respectable settlers in the district of Perth, and in almost every instance they have given satisfaction.

As an initiatory experiment, preparatory to a longer period of service, and as tending gradually to wean the native from his dissolute and roving habits, I am inclined, under certain reservations, to think favorably of this system of indenture, but from the experience in a late instance of its injurious effects, and indeed total inefficacy when applied to service of any long duration, I am decidedly opposed to any native being permitted or induced to bind himself for more than six months, and in most cases I should certainly prefer three. To endeavor to retain by legal enactments the services of an unwilling European servant, is ever an irksome, too generally a losing game to the employer; but to hope for success in a similar struggle with a refractory native, is a manifest absurdity.

In the case of the native Ngugandung, who was arrested in the Vasse district for an aggravated assault on a native woman, and on a charge for having broken into a settler's hut at Augusta. In endeavoring to escape from the constable, he threw himself into the River Vasse and was drowned. He had previously been twelve months at Rottnest.

Time, kind treatment, and a just appreciation of the benefits derivable from his intercourse with civilization, can alone transform an Australian savage into a willing and permanent coadjutor of his European brethren.

Trusting that the above brief recapitulation of the fruits, trifling though they may appear, of the system of native management organized and carried out by me since my appointment as Protector, may meet with the approval of His Excellency,

I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

CHARLES SYMMONS,

Protector of Natives.

The Honorable the
Colonial Secretary. }

*Commissariat Office, Perth,
January 4, 1843.*

Sealed tenders in triplicate will be re-

ceived at this office on Wednesday the 17th January, 1844, from such parties as may be desirous of obtaining Bills of Exchange on the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury payable in London at thirty days sight for an amount not exceeding £5,500.

The tenders must state in figures and words at length the Rate of Exchange offered in specie for the Bills, and also the description of coin.

For further particulars application to be made to this office.

W. H. DRAKE,
Dep.-Asst.-Com.-General.

GENERAL ROAD TRUST.

AN adjourned General Meeting of the Road Trust will be holden at the Court-house in Perth on Wednesday, the 24th instant, at one o'clock precisely, for the purpose of electing a Chairman and other officers for the present year.

The Chairman having a plan for bringing about a more equal distribution of the funds that may be available this year to submit to the consideration of the Trustees, a full attendance is particularly requested.

By order of the Chairman,

E. PICKING,

Clerk to the Trustees.

Perth, Jan. 3, 1844.

General Post Office, Perth,
Jan. 6, 1844.

Detained at Guildford Post Office for non-payment of ship postage, since the last list published—

David Croal, No. 24 Arthur-street, Edinburgh.

H. CAMFIELD,
Postmaster-General.

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