



FRONTIER CONFLICT AND THE

NATIVE MOUNTED POLICE IN QUEENSLAND

Attack on Aboriginal people - Darkey and Young Sna...



Attack on Aboriginal people - Darkey and Young Snatchem at Maryborough (3 February 1860)

Location

Label

Attack on Aboriginal people - Darkey and Young Snatchem at Maryborough (3 February 1860)

Coordinate

(152.7027, -25.544283) GDA94

Location type

Town

Pastoral district and/or region

Wide Bay; Mary River

Location description

Maryborough

Location notes/issues

Arbitrary location in central Maryborough

Event details

Day and month of event

3 February

Year of event

1860

Nature of event

Attack on Aboriginal people

Minimum number of people killed

2

Names of people killed and details

Darkey and Young Snatchem

Minimum number of people wounded

1

Names of people wounded and details

Yankine

Perpetrators

NMP

Named Perpetrator 1

John O'Connell Bligh

Cause/reason

Arrest of one man

Description of event

Lt Bligh had a warrant to arrest one man, yet ended up shooting many others. There are two sides to this story: one that supports Bligh and his actions, and the other that doesn't.

'MARYBOROUGH (FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

On Friday morning last, this place was roused by shouts of "stop him," yells, and the stamping of horses. It turned out to be Lieutenant Bligh, with a troop of Native Police, chasing a tribe of long known depredators. He had been after them for some time, and after much watching, tracking, and hardship, came on their final track on Thursday last, about the Six Miles Waterholes. He tracked them to Mr. Cleary's, and from thence into the town. This was early on Friday morning. ... Lieut. Bligh tried all he could to induce them to surrender, but without effect, and the consequence was one long known "darkie" was shot by a native trooper in full pursuit, just as he was entering the scrub. ... Report of the proceedings of a meeting held at the Court-house, Maryborough, for the purpose of expressing to Lieutenant John O'Connell Bligh the thanks of the inhabitants for his conduct on Friday last, February. 3rd, 1860. The Court-house was completely crowded, and many remained outside. The number present was about 400. ... Mr. SUDLOW said the first resolution had just been placed in his hand, and although not prepared, he felt much pleasure in moving it, for none were better aware of the universal cry of late against the Native Police for not acting, and giving the protection from the blacks they so much wanted, remembering as all must the very numerous outrages that had lately been committed by them. So repeated had these outrages become that it was extremely dangerous for married men, especially with families, to leave their homes at all; to such lengths had it reached that only the night before Lieut. Bligh pursued and so justly punished these depredators, he (Mr. S.) with other gentlemen, whom he was glad to see present, had determined to find some means of forcing these gentlemen to do their duty, (cheers), and, therefore, now that they had done their duty, they were not to be blamed but to have every encouragement, and he was glad to see the people of Maryborough were determined so to do; the very numerous in fact, the

largest, assemblage that had ever met in Maryborough for any purpose proved it. (Cheers.).' (Moreton Bay Courier 21 February 1860, p4)

'LIEUTENANT BLIGH'S SWORD.

SIR, — Through the medium of the press of New South Wales and Queensland, the public have been duly informed that "the inhabitants of Maryborough" have purchased the highest reward of courage, the emblem of bravery — a sword — to present to John O'Connell Bligh, Esq., for certain meritorious actions said to be performed by him on the 3rd February, 1860. On the morning of the 3rd February, there commenced a change, apparently, in the tactics or habits of the officers, for Mr. Bligh, with a party of the police, rode into town early, and lest, apparently, the change should not be noticed, fired several shots at a few blacks encamped near Cleary's; then came into East Maryborough, charged a camp near Mr. Melville's, drove the poor creatures from it — some through the town, some into the river — and commenced butchering them forthwith. "Darkey," who had been constantly employed in the town — who could have been apprehended at any moment, had there been any desire, or occasion, was shot down opposite Mr. Palmer's, where his body was left, and subsequently roasted. "Young Snatchem," an excellent and industrious black, was driven into the river, near the public wharf, — scores of men, women, and children stood by, and Lieut. John O'Connell Bligh stationed himself in the bow of a boat, which was in readiness, and forty or fifty shots were actually fired, five or six by Mr. Bligh himself. The boat overtook him (the black) in an exhausted state, and the "gallant hero" — the deserver of a sword — lowered his carbine, and shot the defenceless, tired, unresisting wretch, in the back, "Yankine," who was then wounded, has since recovered. Against him, there never was a single charge. Another poor fellow, blind in one eye, an old grey headed man, was taken prisoner, triumphantly marched in handcuffs through the town, led out some miles by these bloodthirsty brutes, and has never SINCE been seen. The blacks immediately brought in word that he had been shot near the Six-Mile Creek, and as the old creature was well known here, and a frequent visitor at certain houses, it is beyond doubt that he too had been, if possible, more barbarously murdered than the others.' (Moreton Bay Courier 25 April 1861, p2)

Testimony of Richard Sheridan to the 1861 Select Committee into the Qld Native Police, 16 May (p23–24):

"60. There was a case occurred at Maryborough some time ago, when you were there, in which charges were brought against the Native Police officer? If you allude to the particular case—

61. I allude to the particular case in which Lieutenant Bligh was concerned? I was present.

62. And what did you see on the occasion? I saw the Native Police, with their officer, whom at that time I did not know to be Lieutenant Bligh at the moment. I saw them pursuing blacks in the town of Maryborough.

63. Will you state the circumstances as you saw them? Well, I think it was between seven and eight in the morning, on 2nd of February, 1860, I heard a tremendous noise; I was at breakfast at the time, and looked out and saw the Native Police in pursuit of blacks; some of the blacks at the time were swimming in the river, some running along the land, one of whom ran through my own verandah, pursued by a single trooper of Native Police. I made enquiry of the persons present as to the cause of the disturbance, and they said that a warrant was out against one of the blacks. I took no more notice of the matter, but, about two minutes after, I heard some shots as the blacks turned round the corner of the house ; almost simultaneously with this, immediately in front of my house, where I was residing, there were a number of blacks in the water, and there was a boat pursuing them ; some were captured and taken into the boat, and others swam under the public wharf, and held on to the wharf for some time. considerable number of white people were congregated about the place, and the Native Police officer, with, I think, some of the Native Police, and some white persons also, were in a boat. Two of the black men, who were either under the wharf or in a boat,—I won't be certain, because the crowd was so great,—dived from under the wharf or swam off the boat, and a moment after several shots were fired from the boat and the bank at them,—in all, one might presume some forty or fifty shots.

64. By the Native Police? Yes: I saw the Native Police officer, myself, fire four or five shots, and I eventually saw the black man at whom he fired sink,—raise up his hand, and sink ; that was the last that was ever seen of him.

65. Was that the only one you saw shot? The only one I saw shot; I saw one wounded.

66. That is all you know, I suppose. Is there anything further? I saw no more shot.

67. Are you aware that some of the blacks had been troublesome, committing depredations, and that a warrant was out against them? I am aware, as far as all the information that I could acquire goes, that there were two blacks there that day, Darkie and Young Snatchem. I am aware that these two blacks were there, because I had seen one of them myself in the town, previously to this, working in a store near...

...70. You are aware that sometime after this occurrence the inhabitants of Maryborough—or a portion of them—presented Lieutenant Bligh with a sword for his exertions in keeping peace there? I am aware that a meeting was got up two days after ; there was an inquiry on the man found dead in the town, and the inquiry had been postponed, and in the meantime a meeting was got up.

71. What was the result of the inquiry that was made? The result was, that the depositions taken were forwarded to the Attorney-General.

72. Did you sit on the Bench on that occasion? I did.

73. Was this meeting got up for the purpose of raising subscriptions for the object of presenting a sword to Lieutenant Bligh? I was so informed.

74. You are aware that this affair—not so much the shooting at the blacks as the presentation of a sword to Lieutenant Bligh—raised much discussion; a number of letters appeared in the Maryborough Chronicle, signed by different names—" The Sword of Damocles," &c. It has been broadly asserted that you are the author of these letters? I am not.

75. Not of any of them? I have never published one in connection with the Native Police, with one exception, and that was not in any way commenting disparagingly on the Force."

Associated NMP officers

Bligh, John O’Connell

Other associated individuals

Darkey (1) Sheridan, Richard Bingham Young Snatchem

Reference

Contemporary reference (earliest source for event)

Moreton Bay Courier, 2 & 25 April 1861

Date of first reporting of event (earliest known date)

1861

Other sources (e.g. modern/secondary references) for the event

Freeman's Journal, 29 February 1860, p2
Bottoms, T. 2013 Conspiracy of Silence: Queensland’s Frontier Killing Times. Sydney: Allen and Unwin. Pp 52.

Documents

14 entries

Title	Text	File	Tools
Courier, 22 August 1861, p2	NATIVE POLICE REPORT. [CONTRIBUTED.] NEXT for the exoneration of Lieutenant BLIGH,		

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	in respect to the Maryborough slaughter. This affair was transacted publicly in the middle of the town, in the presence of a great number of white people; but after receiving the very grave evidence of Mr. SHERIDAN, the committee appear to have been satisfied to wait for the explanations of the officer himself, fifty-three days after. In this they acted with great caution, for the evidence of these two is contradictory. First, we will give Mr. SHERIDAN'S, in answer to the chairman : " 60. There was a case occurred at Maryborough some time ago, when you were there, in which charges were brought against the native police officer?—If you allude to the particular case. " 61. I allude to the particular case in which Lieutenant Bligh was concerned?—I was present. " 62. And what did you see on the occasion?—I saw the native police, with their officer, whom at that time I did not know to be Lieutenant Bligh at the moment. I saw them pursuing blacks in the town of Maryborough. "63. Will you state the circumstances as you saw them?—Well, I think it was between seven and eight in the morning, on the 2nd of February, 1860, I heard a tremendous noise. I was at breakfast at the time, and looked-out and saw the native police in pursuit of blacks. Some of the blacks at the time were swimming in the river, some running along the land, one of whom ran through my verandah, pursued by a single trooper of native police. I made enquiry of the persons present as to the cause of the disturbance, and they said that a warrant was out against one of the blacks. I took no more notice of the matter; but, about two minutes after, I heard some shots as the blacks turned round the corner of the house ; almost simultaneously with this, immediately in front of my house, where I was residing, there were a number of blacks in the water, and there was a boat pursuing them ; some		

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	were captured and taken into the boat, and others swam under the public wharf, and held on to the wharf for some time. A considerable number of white people were congregated about the place, and the native police officer, with, I think, some of the native police, and some white persons also, were in a boat. Two of the black men, who were either under the wharf or in a boat ; I won't be certain, because the crowd was so great ; dived from under the wharf, or swam off the boat, and a moment after several shots were fired from the boat and the bank at them ; in all, one might presume, some forty or fifty shots. " 64. By the Native Police ?—Yes, I saw the native police officer, myself, fire four or five shots, and I eventually saw the black man at, whom he fired sink—raise up his hand, and sink, that was the last that was ever seen of him. " 65. Was that the only one you saw shot ?—The only one I saw shot ; I saw one wounded. " 66. That is all you know, I suppose. Is there anything further ? I saw no more shot. " 67. Are you aware that some of the blacks had been troublesome, committing depredations, and that a warrant was out against them ?—I am aware, as far as all the information I could acquire goes, that there were two blacks there that day, Darkie and Young Snatchem. I am aware that these two blacks were there, because I had seen one of them, myself in the town, previously to this, working at a store near. " 68. Are you not aware that when the blacks commit depredations, they generally come into towns to keep out of the way ?— I am aware, from what subsequently took place, that there was a warrant out against Darkie, as an escaped prisoner. "69. Not against the other?—I made minute enquiries, and as far as I could find out, there was no charge against him. " 70. You are aware that some time after this		

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	occurrence the inhabitants of Maryborough—or a portion of them—presented Lieutenant Bligh with a sword for his exertions in keeping peace there?—I am aware that a meeting was got up two days after ; there was an enquiry on the man found dead in the town, and the enquiry had been postponed, and in the meantime a meeting was got up. "71. What was the result of the inquiry that was made ?—The result was, that the depositions were forwarded to the Attorney General. " 72. Did you sit on the bench on that occasion ?—I did. "73. Was this meeting got up for the purpose of raising subscriptions for the object of presenting a sword to Lieutenant Bligh ?—I was so informed. " 74. You are aware that this affair—not so much the shooting at the blacks as the presentation of a sword to Lieutenant Bligh — raised much discussion ; a number of letters appeared in the Maryborough Chronicle, signed by different names—" The Sword of Damocles," &c. It has been broadly asserted that you are the author of these letters?—I am not. " 182. By Mr. FITZSIMMONS : What do you suppose was the number of blacks, at the time the lieutenant of native police fired on them ? —I dare say there were half a dozen that appeared to me to be pursued. " 183. Did many of those get on land across the river, or where did they go to ?— They plunged into the river as I think I said ; or some ran away without going into it. I know of only four blacks that were accounted for; one was shot in the town, another was shot in the river, another was wounded in the river, and another taken prisoner and paraded through the town. I have never seen him since. " 184. What was the number of the native police?—I think twelve or fourteen. I think there were about a dozen, there may have		

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	been more or less. "185. Was the lieutenant of the native police force on land, or in the boat?—In the boat, and he fired five or six shots during the time. To the best of my knowledge I saw him fire five or six shots during the time. To the best of my knowledge I saw him fire four shots. "186. You stated, in your evidence, that there was a warrant for one of those blacks, of many years standing?—It came out in the evidence—it was asserted at the police office. "187. What was the crime of which he was guilty?—The original crime was stealing tobacco from Mr. Palmer. He ran away, was pursued and captured, tried and sentenced to six months' imprisonment in Sydney gaol ; he was placed on board the steamer Waratah to be taken to Sydney; she sailed to the bar, but returned, as I am informed, by stress of weather. The black is represented as having been suffering from a loathsome disease, and the sailors would not have him on board—they broke his chains and let him go. During the time he was about town, there was no further notice taken of him, till the day that he was shot; he was an escaped prisoner. "188. Have you good grounds for believing the story of the sailors ?—It is generally believed. "191. You were a magistrate in court when the enquiry was made about the blacks shot at Maryborough?— I was. "192. What was the reason given for pursuing and shooting them ?—That it was on this warrant. " 193. Were they not guilty of some other crimes?—It only came out that they were on hearsay; there was a report circulated which gained ground that, some six weeks before, some drays had been stopped at a place called Six-mile Creek, in the neighbor hood of Maryborough ; I believe that this was the case, because I heard dissatisfaction expressed at no action being taken in the matter. I believe there was a dray robbery, but not that it was		

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	the cause of the blacks being shot. "194. At the time of the investigation was there no cause assigned in the court— did not you, as a magistrate, ask for some? —The cause assigned was the apprehension of an escaped prisoner. I believe the law is, that if an escaped prisoner can not be otherwise apprehended, he may be shot. " 195. Did you not know at the time the investigation was made that he was an escaped prisoner?—Only from report. The above extracts contain the whole of the evidence as against Lieutenant BLIGH. The committee were content with this, and would have been content with the tenth of it, as will presently be seen. We now give the whole of the evidence as in favor, of Lieutenant BLIGH, which is comprised in certain portions of his own evidence. That is, this is the whole, unless our readers felt that Mr. GORE succeeded in showing that Wide Bay was a very quiet district, and that that may be held to excuse the police for acting with severity or violence against the blacks (!) Mr. WATTS is the examiner here : "22. Now, Mr. Bligh, there have been certain charges brought against the native police force, in reference to an occurrence at Maryborough. I observe in some of the evidence that a charge has been made against you for shooting some blacks on the 2nd February, 1860. Will you give the committee some information on the subject? During the twelve months previous to that there had been continual complaints from the inhabitants of outrages committed by the blacks. " 23. Of what nature were those outrages ? — They were chiefly assaults committed upon women. " 24. Were any rapes committed ?—No rapes were committed, but there were several attempts at rape; drays were robbed, and various other offences committed which I cannot enumerate, of which complaints were		

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	made continually. I have, generally speaking, refused to act in the townships, because I knew that if I could not apprehend a blackfellow, there was no other course but to shoot him or let him escape. On this occasion I had followed the blacks for about six miles from the place where they had committed a robbery. I followed their tracks and came upon them as they were entering the township. On seeing me they ran away, and two of them got under the public wharf, where they remained for about an hour. I got one of my men who spoke their language to act as an interpreter, and told them that if they came out no harm should be done to them. At last I sent two of my men under the wharf to get them out, and the men took their clothes off. " 25. Had you warrants for them ?—Yes, for those two. " 26. Then you know those two blacks ? —Yes. When the troopers had taken off their clothes and were getting under the wharf, the blacks struck out towards the other side of the river, and I got into a boat, and followed them. I fired at one blackfellow whom I knew—one who bore the worst character and for whom I had a warrant—and I believe he was shot, but I do not know it ; I suppose he died from the effect of the gunshot wound. " 27. You did not take him ?—No, I never saw him afterwards. I never saw him in any position in which I could apprehend him, except when he was under the wharf. "28. What was the nature of the warrant?—I think it was for robbing some store ; I do not remember. " 29. Was that blackfellow ever apprehended before?—No, not that I am aware of. "30. Were either of them?—The one about whom there was a magisterial enquiry, was an escaped prisoner. "31. What was he apprehended for before ?—I do not remember, it was a long time ago. " 32. And was the warrant you had in your		

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	possession a warrant for any offence committed against the law since that period ? —Yes, for a second offence after his escape. "33. Had you two warrants in your possession ? —No, only one. "34. Was he shot?—I believe he was shot by one of my troopers. I should mention that both of them were bad characters, and were supposed to have committed many outrages for which no warrants were out against them. "143 By Mr. MACKENZIE : Who do you suppose was the author of the 'Sword of Damocles?'— Either Mr. Sheridan or Mr. Melville." Surely the gods visit with madness whom they design to destroy. Question 32, just given, is perhaps the most unwarrantable leading question ever put by an examiner to a witness. Yet if it had not been asked, it might perhaps have been difficult for us to prove to the Committee how wretchedly incapable they were of exonerating Lieutenant Bligh. If the committee had learnt thorough caution, by the fearful disclosures of Lieutenaut Wheeler, they would never have ventured one more question about warrants. There are such discrepancies between Lieutenant BLIGH'S account of this affair, and Mr. SHERIDAN'S, as would have justified a little more trouble and expense in order to determine which of them was utterly untrustworthy. But in one particular they agree;—namely, that there was a warrant out against the black on whom a magisterial inquiry, as an escaped prisoner. But Mr. SHERIDAN states that the only reason given at the inquiry for shooting this black was that this warrant was out against him, that this warrant was of many years' standing, that the man had been during the interval quietly working about the town, and no notice taken of him. This seemed a poor exoneration, hence that amazing question 32 (!) But is the answer to this question 32 correct ? Mr. SHERIDAN states that the depositions taken in that inquiry were forwarded to the Attorney-General, but we		

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	presume that the same caution which hindered the committee from demanding information as to Mr. HARDIE'S letter from the COLONIAL SECRETARY, with-held them from clearing up this point also. If we wish to know the comparative truthfulness of Mr. SHERIDAN's and Mr. HUGH'S stories, we must be guided by the consistency of each story with itself. Lieutenant BLIGH states with unmistakeable precision that he had only one warrant in his possession, that the blackfellow at whom he fired in the water, and whom he never saw afterwards, was the one against whom he had a warrant. He also states with equal precision that he had warrants against the two who got under the wharf, one of whom was this man at whom he fired. But the one at whom he fired was never apprehended before, the other, about whom there was an enquiry, was an escaped prisoner. And yet, when asked this amazing question as to whether the warrant he had in his possession was for an offence committed by this one since his escape, he coolly replies "yes, for a second offence, after his escape." The committee, however, were perfectly satisfied. They threw overboard Mr. Sheridan's account of the matter without scruple, and without attempting to obtain any more evidence, or to clear up the contradictions they declared that Lieutenant Bligh was "perfectly justified in his attack on the blacks at Maryborough." And thus Lieutenant BLIGH, for whom even the presentation sword was not enough of honor, is promoted to the post of Commandant. Yes, this man, who "generally declined to act in the townships, because he knew that, if he could not apprehend a blackfellow " he must shoot him ; who could not see that in a case where he would be acting legally to shoot a black, it was his duty to do it, whether in a township or elsewhere, and that in every other case, he would be as guilty		

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	if he did it in a scrub ; this is the man selected to command the "semi-military force !" And a fit instrument for the purposes to which it is intended.		
Courier, 25 July 1861, p2	LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. WEDNESDAY, JULY 24. The SPEAKER took the chair at ten minutes past three. ... NATIVE POLICE COMMITTEE. The COLONIAL TREASURER, in moving the adoption of the report from the select committee appointed to enquire into the organization of the native police, and treatment of the aborigines, said that the committee had entered upon their investigations with a deep conviction of the vast importance of the subject, and a glance at the evidence would convince any one that, at any rate, want of industry could not be imputed to them. He was aware that the report would not meet the views of one or two hon. members in that house, and also of certain parties out of doors. He would endeavor to show that proper witnesses had been examined, that the evidence had been elicited in an impartial manner, and that the report had been framed in accordance with that evidence. The preamble of the report expressed regret that more than one witness capable of affording valuable information had been summoned, and had refused attendance. The house was aware that one witness had refused to attend. Three or four other witnesses had also refused to attend, he inferred, upon the same grounds. One of these was a Mr. Giles, whose testimony might have boon of much value, but who alleged that important business prevented him from attending. Mr. Kent, the Police Magistrate, stated, however, that the gentleman alluded to had been, he believed, advised not to come. Another witness, Mrs. Lester, who was present		

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	whom the house at Coochin-Coochin was surrounded by blacks, had also neglected to attend before the committee. In addition to the evidence would be found some reports from the missionaries, and a letter from Mr. Duncan, as well as one from Dr. Challinor, with reference to the treatment of the aborigines. All the procurable evidence bearing upon the matter had been collected. He found that this was the fourth report emanating from select committees which had been prepared upon this subject. The former enquiries had their origin, not in alleged murders committed by the police, but in the outrages committed by the blacks, and the necessity of putting the police upon a more efficient footing. All the committees appear to have come to one conclusion; and after the report before the house had been drawn up he had the opportunity of reading the report of the committee which sat some years back in that Sydney, and he was struck with the similarity of that report to the one before the house. The committee in Sydney was not packed, as the one here was said to be, but was composed of all political parties, and the witnesses examined before that committee, were, with two exceptions, different from the witnesses examined before the present committee. The honorable member here proceeded to quote the first paragraphs of the report, setting forth the questions brought under the notice of the committee. The report then went on to state—The whole weight of the evidence, with one or two exceptions, tends to prove:— "1. That any change in the organisation of this force by the substitution of white troopers for native, would destroy its efficiency 2. That since its establishment and reconstruction		

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	under its present commandant, the destruction of property and loss of life on either side has considerably diminished. 3. That any attempt to disband the force suddenly, would, as on a previous occasion, lead to disastrous results." With regard to the question of efficiency touched upon in the first paragraph, the report of the committee which sat in Sydney had come to the same conclusion. That committee also experienced a similar difficulty to the present committee, in procuring the attendance of witnesses. The honorable gentleman here quoted in support of his statement a portion of the report of a Select Committee appointed in Sydney in 1856. The report set forth that previous to the creation of the force murders were very frequent, and that since the introduction of the force such outrages were much fewer. The whole result of the investigation on that occasion was that the conclusion was arrived at that the native police force under proper management was admirably adapted to afford efficient protection to the lives and property of persons in the interior. The report of another committee in 1838 showed that a similar conclusion was arrived at, as did also the report of a committee of that house which sat last year. The present report recommended to dismissal of certain officers. Just previous to separation the force was in a high state of efficiency, but since separation three or four officers had been appointed, none of whom had proved very efficient. The whole of the witnesses examined agreed upon the inexpediency of disbanding the force, with the exception of Messrs. O'Connell, Brown, Sheridan, and F. Walker. Mr. Mortimer was examined at great length, and his evidence was rather in favour of the continuance of the native police than otherwise. (The hon. member here proceeded		

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	to quote the portion of the report containing suggestions for the improvement of the internal organization of the existing native police.) The committee had investigated as fully as practicable the charges brought against certain of the officers of the force, and there was no doubt that on one or two occasions a great deal of unnecessary slaughter had been perpetrated. This appears to have been owing to the indiscretion of the officer in command, in the case which occurred upon the run of Messrs. Mortimer. A young officer unacquainted with the troopers had been sent with the men by the officer in command. The committee, it will be seen, have recommended the dismissal of Lieut. Murray, the officer in question, who had given the detachment upon that occasion to the charge of his junior. The principal question which the committee had to consider was how the blacks, who committed depredations, could be dealt with. There was only one law which they could understand. The officers had been occasionally guilty of indiscretions, but since the establishment of the Native Police Force depredations upon life and property in the unsettled portions of the colony had to a great extent decreased. He would now proceed to comment upon some of the evidence. The first witness examined was Mr. Frazer. The committee were told that he could give important evidence with regard to the occurrence upon the Messrs. Mortimers' run, but when he was brought up it was found he could not or would not give any material evidence with reference to that transaction. The next witness called was Dr. Challinor, who was examined with reference to the shooting of the blacks at Fassifern. The doctor had held a magisterial enquiry upon the dead bodies of		

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	the blacks supposed to have been shot on that occasion, and had likewise published a letter in the papers, addressed to the Attorney-General, impugning the evidence of some of the witnesses examined then. He said in that letter that he had received information from two independent sources impugning that testimony. He (the Colonial Treasurer) had wished to ask Dr. Challinor certain questions which the committee refused to allow him to ask. Other questions which had been put to this witness he declined to answer. On page 8 the following questions put to Dr. Challinor by himself (the Colonial Treasurer) would be found:— "19. What was your reason for coming also to the assumption that some of the witnesses as to the death of these blacks did not give their evidence correctly on oath?—I may be allowed to state that that question enters into my conduct as coroner, and I dispute the right of the committee to enquire into my conduct as coroner. I am quite prepared to defend it before a committee prepared to do so; but I don't think it falls within the power of this committee to make these enquiries; I therefore decline to answer the question. "20. You have stated in your letter to the Attorney-General that "the shooting of the said blacks is now distinctly and unequivocally traced to Lieutenant Wheeler and the detachment of the native police under his command, on the 24th day of December last"— (vide Appendix. Letter of Dr. Challinor to the Hon. the Attorney-General, January 29th, 1861)—I now ask you, how have you come to that conclusion?—From the depositions—the sworn depositions. "22. I want to know how you came to the assumption that the whites on that occasion gave false testimony—you speak (vide		

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	Appendix) of your 'information being derived from two perfectly independent sources,' but that has nothing to do with the sworn evidence?—I think I have stated that I came to the conclusion from the sworn de positions which I forwarded to the Attorney-General; but, beyond that, I don't think that this committee has any power to ask me any questions on this subject." It appeared upon further examination that these two "independent witnesses " alluded to, were two blackfellows, upon the strength of whose statements the evidence of Mr. and Mrs. Hardie had been impugned. Dr. Challinor also, in his evidence, attributed the depredations committed by the blacks to their having been deprived of their hunting ground. Nearly all the evidence of Dr. Challinor, however, it would be seen, was hearsay evidence. The next witness called was Mr. Jacob Lowe, a squatter of long standing in the Western districts, where the blacks were so troublesome before the native police force was organised, that numbers of the squatters were compelled to abandon their stations. One of these runs thus abandoned, Mr. Lowe had taken up. His opinion, it would be seen, was that the depredations and losses inflicted by the blacks were incalculably more numerous before the organisation of the native police force. (The hon. gentleman here quoted at length from Mr. Lowe's evidence.) It would be seen that this gentleman was of opinion that the blacks were not driven by hunger to commit their depredations, but that these depredations were wanton outrages on property. He also expresses his belief that it would be very bad policy to disband the native police. The next witness called was Dr. Challinor, who		

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	was again examined. He expressed his opinion that if the "blacks destroyed stock wantonly they should be punished. It appeared that just before the alleged shooting of blacks at Fassifern they had been very troublesome about that quarter. The testimony of both Mr. Compigne and Mr. Cardon Collins proved this fact, the former gentleman having lost 1500 sheep during the year by their depredations. They also had speared a great number of cattle. Lieutenant Wheeler was sent for, and succeeded in tracking the blacks to the scrub, into which they plunged, throwing spears and waddies. The police were ordered to fire into the scrub, and some gins were killed. The police then proceeded to Fassifern, Mr. Hardie having sent for Lieutenant Wheeler, because the blacks had been destroying his cattle. At Fassifern one or two more of the blacks were killed, but how did not appear from the evidence. (The hon. gentlemen then proceeded to quote that portion of Dr. Challinor's evidence, in which he expressed an opinion that the evidence of a black fellow ought to be received in a court of justice, and taken by the jury for what it was worth). In a subsequent letter, the Dr. asked why the evidence of a black fellow should not be received as well as that of a Chinaman, but he (the Colonial Treasurer) would remind him that the Chinamen had some notion of religion and religious obligations, whilst the black fellow had none. They now got the Dr. into a scrub (laughter). On page 15, his answer in reply to questions of the hon. member (Mr. Fitzsimmons) would be seen:— "64. Are you not aware that the blacks, when pursued, always take refuge in the scrub?—I have no doubt, the scrub is one of their fastnesses.		

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	"65. Do you think that in those closely interwoven scrubs European police would be effective? —I know that British soldiers have had the same difficulties to contend with, and have overcome them, and I cannot see why white troopers should not. "66. Have you ever seen British soldiers in scrub —how do you come to that conclusion? —I know that British troops, when engaged with their barbarous enemies, have overcome difficulties of a similar description. Perhaps they would not be able to effect a capture so instantly. "67. Would European police be able to follow the aboriginal blacks through those closely interwoven scrubs?—I do not think they would follow them so effectively. "68. By the Chairman: In speaking of the British soldiers and their success in this kind of warfare, you must be aware of the great difficulties experienced in the Caffir war, and also in New Zealand, from the disadvantage they were placed at in fighting the natives on their own ground?— Yes; but the difficulties were chiefly overcome. "69. At an enormous cost old life and treasure? —I believe the cost of life was much greater on the part of the natives, though the cost of treasure was heavier on the British government. With regard to the scrub, the trackers attached to the white police force might be armed, and they would be able to net to a certain extent as native police, though they would be fewer in number." He (the Colonial Treasurer) quite denied the last-quoted assertion of the witness. In the contests referred to the loss of life on the side of the British had been immense. He contended, moreover, that black trackers with		

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	white troopers would not get over the difficulties of the case, as the white troopers would, as at present, be compelled to remain outside the scrub, and the trackers who went into the scrub would have the same opportunity of perpetrating slaughter as the police have now. Mr. Hardie and Lieutenant Wheeler were the next witnesses examined. The latter witness certainly proved that he had acted with indiscretion. Messrs. Compigne and Collins, however, both bore testimony to his efficiency as an officer, and stated that since Lieutenant Wheeler had been stationed in the district depredations had been much fewer than before. He had also been very successful in entirely suppressing the depredations of the blacks in the neighbourhood of Sandgate and the Bald Hills, which when he first arrived here were very numerous. The committee, however, must not be thought for one moment desirous of defending the conduct of Lieutenant Wheeler in the Fassifern slaughter. That officer confessed in his evidence that he could not recognise the blacks killed as the actual perpetrators of any of the depredations complained of. He had taken the word of some shepherd who said he was certain that the blacks fired at belonged to the tribe which had committed the depredations. The committee would not for one moment defend what he did on that occasion, and he appeared to have acted very indiscreetly. The next witness to whose evidence he (the Colonial Treasurer) would refer was Captain Coley, and old resident of great experience. He gave the committee the startling fact that the whole of the Brisbane tribe had disappeared. These could not have fallen victims to the bullets of the troopers. Disease and the rum bottle had proved more effectual means of obliterating them from existence. If the same amount of energy brought to bear against the native police were employed in putting down the practice of supplying these unfortunate		

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	creatures with the vilest grog, the exertions of some of our philanthropists would be more to the purpose. This practice of giving them grog was just as much murder as any thing done by the native police. He could bear witness that the Sydney tribe had disappeared in just the same way. The drink caused the blacks to fight amongst themselves, and the combats fought under such circumstances were far from being as bloodless as the combats fought by blacks when sober. He had just heard that at present there was a large gathering of the blacks at Ipswich, who were fighting every night. If some hon. members so loud in their denunciation of cruelty to the blacks would look at home, it would be more to the purpose. This same witness gave it as his opinion that the while troopers and black trackers would not work well together, and that the force as constituted at present was a most efficient one. Captain Coley had alluded to some correspondence with the Sydney government, and from his own evidence, it appeared that Dr. Challinor also had been in communication with Messrs. Parkes and Jones. (He (the Colonial Treasurer) had been for a considerable time anxious to know the author of the correspondence referred to, and was therefore much obliged for the information furnished by Dr. Challinor. He (the Colonial Treasurer) had also communicated with the Sydney government, for the simple reason that he knew the statements contained in the correspondence to which he alluded to be utterly false. He did not blame the hon. member for West Moreton, as no doubt that gentleman had acted on that occasion as he had on a recent one, from hearsay evidence. In the case of the Messrs. Mortimer, to which he (the Colonial Treasurer) had previously made allusion, those gentlemen wrote to the newspapers, complaining that the bodies of certain blackfellows shot on their runs had not		

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	been buried. The government at once sent to them to know why the complaint had not first been laid before the proper authorities. The evidence of the commandant of the force (Captain Morrisett), and that of Lieutenant Parkison, was taken by the committee, and the facts of the case, as he had before stated them to the house, elicited. Seeing that the whole blame of this transaction rested upon Lieutenant Murray, and that officer was proved guilty of constant intemperence, the committee had recommended his removal from the force. The next charge for investigation was that against Lieut Bligh, for shooting a blackfellow in the water. It appeared however that that officer had a warrant out against this blackfellow who would have succeeded in escaping had he not been fired at. A few persons took umbrage at Lieutenant Bligh's, conduct, but the majority of the people in the district were so well satisfied with him that they subscribed a testimonial to him. Another charge against the native police, in which the hon. member for West Moreton had much interested himself had been made by Mr. Frederick Walker. As this gentleman was formerly commandant of the native police his charges should be received with caution. He had been discharged from his post as commandant, but after the Horner Bank massacre, had been employed by some squatters to organise a sort of guerrilla force at their expense to wage warfare against the blacks. In establishing this corps he took away some of the native police, and upon being remonstrated with by the commandant assumed a very belligerent attitude. His conduct was reported to the Sydney government, and he was ordered to disband his troop. He had never since missed an opportunity of catching the native police tripping, and had threatened that he will do away with them altogether yet.		

Courier, 29 August 1861, p2 Title	Text	File	Tools
	NATIVE POLICE REPORT. [CONTRIBUTED.] THAT our readers may not lose the thread of our argument, we will pause in this place, and gather into one view the points of the march. In the first place, we have shown that Dr. CHALLINOR did not stand alone in inferring from the evidence given before him as a magistrate, that Lieutenant WHEELER had wantonly massacred some blacks at Fassifern ; and although the Attorney-General did not officially take action upon that evidence, the further evidence which has been obtained, and is now before the public, has established beyond a doubt that our inference was a logical one. We have also shown that the finding of the coroner, as respected Mr. HARDIE, has been justified in the clearest manner by Mr. HARDIE'S evidence before the committee, and that of Mr. WHEELER, even if it had not been clearly justified by the evidence taken before the magistrate, which we still think it was. We have pointed out that the government, satisfied with certain reports from certain officers, the accuracy of some of which they have now strong reasons for doubting, were apparently inclined to let all these affairs sleep ; but finally consented to a parliamentary investigation, acting under strong pressure from without. That having good reason to apprehend that Dr. CHALLINOR would move the appointment of a committee of inquiry, and finding that it was impossible to exclude him from the assembly, anticipated his motion, and themselves moved for a committee; that in the committee they proposed, his name was not intended, nor the name of any one person in whom the public had or could have any confidence. That in consequence, of this, the public predicted that little good would result from the labors of that committee. That so far as the report of the committee went, it was exactly what had been predicted by the public—a farce—an utter farce—and something worse even than that.		

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	That in considering this report, a large proportion of the members of the Assembly took an opportunity of uttering such horrid and sickening rubbish, that the eyes of Queensland were opened at last fully to the character of her representatives. That the Attorney-General having declined to act upon the evidence taken by the Ipswich coroner, and yet being aware that the ground upon which he declined would not stand good after the Lieutenant had ad-mitted the fact, sought to excuse his conduct by pleading a general order of the Commandant, which in no way bore upon the case, and by assuming that the police force to which Lieutenant WHEELER belonged was a "semi-military" one—a sort of force not recognised by British law, nor in any degree reconcilable with the British constitution. That the rest of these wise-acres plunged from one abyss of ignorance into another, the Colonial Treasurer, the chairman of the committee, supplying us with some strange ideas of that committee's com potency to deal with the matter of investigation ; Mr. MACALISTER, for some reason or other, turning tail upon the cause he had previously espoused ; Mr. GORE and Mr. WATTS placing on record the inimitable theoretical absurdities that the blacks were not British subjects,—not entitled to the protection of British law, and that they must be treated as inhabitants of a country under martial law. To show that the Assembly were not justified in adopting the report of the committee, we have gone further into the evidence upon which that report was based. We have shown that by the selection of witnesses, and the method adopted of questioning them, the committee heaped up a quantity of evidence in support of the superior efficiency of a native force ; and we have seen what sort of efficiency they sought to prove. We have further proved that they were a black committee, by showing that they accorded a		

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	very different treatment to the witnesses who did not approve of a black force ; that these were alternately bothered and bullied. That when they came to the enquiry into the conduct of Lieutenant WHEELER in shooting blacks at Fassifern, into the conduct of Mr. HARDIE giving his evidence before a magistrate, into the conduct of Lieutenant BLIGH in respect to the massacre at Maryborough, they showed in every instance a desire to exonerate these men from the grave charges which had been brought against them ; that they utterly failed in the attempt; that their very caution betrayed them ; and that in each of these cases, they left the matter worse than they found it.		
Courier, 29 July 1861, p2	The report of the native police committee occupied the time of the Assembly on Wednesday and Thursday, and after a long discussion was passed without a division, Dr. Challinor being the only dissident. The questions inquired into were—the present position and organisation of the force ; the charges made against the officers when dealing with the natives; and the prospect of civilising the aborigines, The conclusions arrived at were, that any change in the organisation of the force would destroy its efficiency; that since the reconstruction of the force under Mr. Morrisett, the destruction of property and loss of life had considerably diminished; that the sudden disbandment of the force would lead to disastrous results ; that the efficiency of the force depended mainly on the character of the officers ; that officers should serve a probationary period as cadets before receiving their commissions; that the native police stations should be removed from the vicinity of towns ; that troopers should be recruited from other districts than those in which they serve ; that monthly returns of proceedings should be forwarded to the commandant, who would furnish an abstract		

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	of them to the Colonial Secretary ; that a more efficient system of keeping the accounts and furnishing supplies was necessary ; that Lieutenant Wheeler having acted with indiscretion in the Fassifern affair, he should be reprimanded and removed to another district; that in the affray at the Messrs. Mortimers', Lieutenant Murray had improperly handed over the charge to Lieutenant Morrisett, for which, and his general unfitness for the duties, Lieutenant Murray's dismissal was recommended ; that Lieutenant Bligh was justified in his attack upon the natives at Maryborough ; that the circumstances attendant upon the murder of Fanny Briggs at Rockhampton did not militate against the force ; that all attempts to christianise the natives had hitherto proved abortive ; and that a missionary cotton company be established to educate the children while employing the parents in the necessary work of the plantation.		
Freeman's Journal, 29 February 1860, p2	Murdering Aborigines. — The Maryborough correspondent of the Moreton Bay Courier writes: — A "murderous fire," to use a military phrase, was opened in this town on Friday morning last by the brave Lieut. Bligh and his sable troopers on a party of defenceless blacks, resulting in two killed, number of wounded not known. Prevention is universally admitted to be better than cure, but the Native Police officers, with Mr. Morisett at their head, do not seem to know the meaning of the word "prevention." For the last two months and upwards a great many outrages have been committed by the blacks between this and the Twelve Mile Creek. Were the police corps placed in a more convenient position, there would be no such thing as an outrage or attack by the sable marauders of the bush from one year's end to the other, and no such bloody scenes as that of Friday morning ever witnessed.		

Moreton Bay Courier, 1 March 1860, p3 Title	Text	File	Tools
	MARYBOROUGH. (FROM A CORRESPONDENT.) A PUBLIC meeting of the inhabitants was held at the Court-house on Monday evening last, to consider the propriety of rewarding Mr. Bligh in some suitable shape for the great — the never-to-be-forgotten service he rendered to them in shooting two blackfellows, and wounding two or three more, on the occasion to which I referred in my last communication. The meeting was called by " Bantam Cock " and Messrs Sudlow and Naughton, who submitted a resolution to the effect that a subscription list be opened with "the view of presenting Mr. Bligh with a gold-mounted carbine of the costliest description, expense no object, providing only it were in some small measure worthy of, or commensurate with, the distinguished services that have been rendered." An address also to Mr. Bligh was submitted to, and approved by, the meeting, expressive of its high sense of his " gallant conduct " on the trying and perilous occasion!! The meeting, however, pricked up its ears at the following resolution, moved by Mr. Melville and seconded by Mr. Blair — "That with a view to prevent further outrages by the blacks, the commandant of the native police force be requested to station a picket of, say one sergeant and four or six men, somewhere on the Gayndah-road, between Maryborough and the Twelve-mile Creek." This was the resolution of the evening. Coming home as it did to the persons and pockets of the meeting, it was as a matter of course unanimously approved of. " Bantam " beheld the forest of hands held up in approval with perfect consternation, and in a storm of rage called on the meeting—" Keep down your hands !" In seconding one of the resolutions, "Ban-tam " was, as usual, very eloquent ; he would have it that he was himself a perfect paragon of excellence, would be anything to serve them ; in fact, " Bantam " would die for Maryborough if that could secure her elevation in the social,		

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	moral, and intellectual scale. In his zeal, however, in pressing home to his audience the "gallant conduct" of Mr. Bligh, he went rather far, as I dare say he is likely ere long to find to his cost. It must be borne in mind "Bantam" brooks no opposition, and when, consequently, it confronts him, his low, vulgar, and withal uneducated mind can do nothing more than vent itself in outpourings of personal scurrility and abuse. In speaking on the "gallant conduct" of Mr. Bligh "Bantam" told the meeting there were two or three croakers in the town, one of whom was Mr. Henry Palmer, who, though croaking about a black or two being killed by the N. P. F., could yet, on finding them stealing his own flour, kill them himself wholesale with arsenic, and related an instance that happened four or five years ago, to prove the truthfulness of the assertion he had just made, but as we are likely to hear more of this in a court of law, we shall not notice it further here. The darkies, as if in solemn mockery and derision at Bantam and Messrs. Sudlow and Naughten's resolutions and addresses, are already again at their old trade. Why is it Mr. Bligh's champions allow themselves to be thus bamboozled, and why does the gallant Mr. Bligh allow them (the darkies) to be more than a match for him in generalship? In course of another month Bantam will call another meeting, having for its object the presentation of another gold mounted carbine to the brave Lieutenant for his gallant services. Seriously, the whole affair is a mockery, and an insult to the common sense of the good people of this town. If "Bantam" and his friends wish so to honor the "gallant" Lieut., by all means let them do it, but it is rather too much insulting the people by asking them to join in the farce. The Queen's representative being absent, there is little to notice politically, further than that my son-in-law, and Mr. Official Scab have been very busy in telling two or three of Mr.		

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	Elliot's friends that the paper they signed the other day was not a memorial against my father-in-law's appointment as Returning Officer, but a petition to the Governor praying for his dismissal. One or two consequently signed a paper of a purport favourable to the high character of my father-in-law. How weak and contemptible must be the cause of any man when he has recourse to misrepresentation and false-hood to prop it up. I do not believe there is one in Maryborough who, for his family's sake, though not for his own, would wish the dismissal of my father-in-law, although there are not a few who are persuaded the welfare of this community would be greatly promoted by his removal. L.F. February 10th.		
Moreton Bay Courier, 12 April 1860, p2	To the Editor of the Moreton Bay Courier. Sir,-I sent, or rather left, the accompanying extract with the editor for publication in the Times entire. You will see how he has befooled me. My few preliminary remarks you will observe have no reference to that portion of the extract he has inserted, but only on that portion of it which he has suppressed. Is this editorial honesty; or is it editorial prostitution? Messrs. Bantam Cock, Sudlow, and Co., instead of befooling me, however, have, I fear, befooled themselves. They must judge this community by their own low standard when they are so silly as for one moment to imagine such conduct will win either its confidence or respect. Will you kindly publish the extract entire, and my remarks thereon as published in the Times, in your deservedly popular journal, and oblige, Your obedient servant, A MARYBOROUGH MAN. Maryborough, 4th April, 1860. "Sir,—I solicit a place in the Times for the		

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	following severe and withering extract by the Brisbane correspondent of the Empire, published in that paper of the 3rd instant. I beg this favour in justice to that portion of this community, which has just as little sympathy with the ill-judged movement of the distinguished hero's friends as the Brisbane correspondent can possibly have, and which has protested, and continues to protest, but to no purpose, against the mismanagement of the Native Police Force. It seems a perfect anomaly that this force, though its headquarters may be said to be close by, should not see it to be its duty to protect the Gayndah and Gigoomgan roads, on which there is daily such an extensive traffic. It has been said again and again that, if this were done, the daring deeds of the "gallant" Lieutenant John O'Connell Bligh on "trying and perilous occasions," such as that in the town of Maryborough a few weeks ago, would be entirely obviated. "The extract referred to says: "The "Sydney Man" wonders how the people of Maryborough could think of Mr. Gilbert Elliott, late City Commissioner, as a fit and proper person to represent them in our new Parliament. But I wonder that the "Sydney man" wonders at anything the people of Maryborough do; for it would not in the least surprise me to hear of their soliciting Jack Ketch to represent them, and I am not sure that he would not be the fittest person they could find. The climate of Wide Bay seems to exert a peculiar influence on the human constitution, softening the brain and ossifying the heart to so alarming an extent, that after long residence in that locality, it becomes a question for consideration whether the British residents have not lost all the characteristics of Britons, and do not deserve to be treated as degenerate or aliens. I never in my life read anything, or heard of anything, which tended more to lower my reverence for humanity than		

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	the account of the "monster meeting at Maryborough" a few days ago. There could not have been a single Englishman amongst the four hundred persons said to have been assembled there; there could not have been a single man. A blackfellow, said to have been a notorious rascal, was shot — shot in the back, not after a brave resistance, but in the act of proving his cowardice by running away to take shelter in a scrub ; and for this noble exploit, the hero who commanded the expedition against the unarmed runaway wretch is considered worthy of a testimonial by the people of Maryborough, and is beslimed with their fulsome adulations. If an honest Jack Tar had, at the peril of his life, leaped into the Mary River and rescued a fellow being from a watery grave, there would not have been such an exhibition of enthusiasm at Maryborough, as the killing of the savage evoked. He might have been presented with some old dry clothes on the understanding that he was to return them when his own were fit to put on again. Public admiration might have gone to the extravagance of a donation of thirty shillings and a clasp knife; but no farther than that. That kind of courage which prompts a brave man to risk his own life in saving another, the people of Maryborough can neither understand nor appreciate; but that other sort of valour, of which the shooting of a fugitive is an apt illustration, the people of Maryborough can estimate to a hair's breadth, as it is the only sort current in their locality. Their admiration of the heroism displayed by their policemen knows no bounds; they have actually opened a subscription list, and agreed to put their hands in their pockets. Mark the proviso in the agreement, however, which obviates the necessity of dipping deep into their pockets; and mark the paltry excuse for the proviso. No man is allowed to subscribe more than five shillings, in order that the testimonial be as general as possible. In making it general each		

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	man took particular care of himself. For the paltry sum of five shillings, each of the four hundred may have the public satisfaction of signing his name, if he can write, or making his mark if he cannot, to a document which will record his own meanness, and be an insult to humanity. If Mr. Bligh has any respect for himself he will fling this five shilling affair in the faces of the subscribers, and light his pipe with the list. For if he is a brave man he will not consider that the shooting of an enemy in full retreat, by one of his attendants, is an exploit which he would like to boast of, or for which he would desire to be presented with a testimonial. He will rather desire that the whole matter be buried in oblivion ; and while he feels that he had done his duty, like an honorable man, he will regret the stern necessity which compelled him to order a fellow man to be shot down like a dog. I cannot help considering this gathering at Maryborough, the speeches delivered on the occasion, the object, subject, and end of the meeting, as conclusive evidence of the fact that the four hundred of Maryborough are the meanest men, individually and collectively, in all Australia." "When this writer expresses his wonder at the "Sydney Man" wondering why the people of Maryborough could think of Mr. Elliott as a fit and proper person to represent them in the first Parliament of Queensland, may I be allowed to express my wonder at the "Sydney Man's" presumption in expressing himself on a subject of which necessarily he must know absolutely nothing. Let him now know, however, that the electioneering contest the people of Maryborough are about to wage is one against as corrupt and dishonest a species of officialism as is "in all Australia." An officialism that crushes and oppresses with a weight exceeding even that of a Napoleonic despotism;-- an officialism encouraged, and backed up by one or two hirelings who, not		

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	being " in worldly goods over well endowed," look forward, hopefully, to filching a respectable cheque or two from the pockets of the simple and gullible Robert of Proston. "From the noble stand made by Mr. Elliott in the New South Wales Legislature against the iniquitous conditions of Separation, we must expect that in the estimation of the Brisbanites, and, as a matter of course, their Sydney penny-a-liners, Mr. Elliott will be a particularly unfit and improper person to represent the people of Maryborough. Let me beg of then; however, to keep their minds easy, Mr. Elliott's return is sure. "I am, Sir, yours obediently, "A MARYBOROUGH MAN. "Maryborough, March 26th."		
Moreton Bay Courier, 21 February 1860, p4	MARYBOROUGH. (FROM A CORRESPONDENT.) On Friday morning last, this place was roused by shouts of "stop him," yells, and the stamping of horses. It turned out to be Lieutenant Bligh, with a troop of Native Police, chasing a tribe of long known depredators. He had been after them for some time, and after much watching, tracking, and hardship, came on their final track on Thursday last, about the Six Miles Water-holes. He tracked them to Mr. Cleary's, and from thence into the town. This was early on Friday morning. They (the blacks) scampered all ways, and made for the places they thought the best protection would be given by the inhabitants. In this, however, they were "Blighted;" for nothing but their capture or death would satisfy. They called lustily to one or two for assistance, but that assistance was impossible. Lieut. Bligh tried all he could to induce them to surrender, but without effect, and the consequence was one long known "darkie" was shot by a native trooper in full pursuit, just as he was entering the scrub. This Darkie had been committed for felony, and had made his escape in irons from the steamer, for which the constable in charge got		

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	six months, I believe, at the Brisbane Assizes. Of course this could not pass off without various opinions, and a few, but very few, cries of "shame," and "oh, the poor blacks." These few, however, considering the quarter from whence they came, were sufficient to bring out the inhabitants to express their opinions, for which purpose a meeting was called, and held at the court-house on Monday evening, and from a report of it you will learn more fully our feelings here. Report of the proceedings of a meeting held at the Court-house, Maryborough, for the purpose of expressing to Lieutenant John O'Connell Bligh the thanks of the inhabitants for his conduct on Friday last, Feb. 3rd, 1860. The Court-house was completely crowded, and many remained outside. The number present was about 400. Mr. NAUGHTEN proposed that E. B. Uhr, Esq., J.P., should take the chair, which was seconded by Mr. Faulkener and carried. Mr. Uhr said, if the meeting was unanimous in appointing him to the chair he should be happy to take it, but many might think, from his having taken evidence in the enquiry touching the death of "Darkie," that he was not quite with them on this occasion. Such, however, he could assure them was not the case, and he was most happy to see that Maryborough, as it always was, seemed to be unanimous on this occasion. A larger meeting he had never seen in Maryborough, and with their permission he would take the chair. (Cheers.) After taking the chair, he briefly informed the meeting of its purport, and called for the first resolution. Mr. SUDLOW said the first resolution had just been placed in his hand, and although not prepared, he felt much pleasure in moving it, for none were better aware of the universal cry of late against the Native Police for not acting, and giving the protection from the blacks they so much wanted, remembering as all must the		

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	very numerous outrages that had lately been committed by them. So repeated had these outrages become that it was extremely dangerous for married men, especially with families, to leave their homes at all ; to such lengths had it reached that only the night before Lieut. Bligh pursued and so justly punished these depredators, he (Mr. S.) with other gentlemen, whom he was glad to see present, had determined to find some means of forcing these gentlemen to do their duty, (cheers), and, therefore, now that they had done their duty, they were not to be blamed but to have every encouragement, and he was glad to see the people of Maryborough were determined so to do ; the very numerous in fact, the largest, assemblage that had ever met in Maryborough for any purpose proved it. (Cheers.) It was their duty to support the police on this occasion, for it had reached his ears that certain informations were to be framed against the police by some parties, and it therefore behoved the meeting to let the government know they highly approved of the conduct of the police on this occasion, and considered their conduct most praiseworthy. (Cheers.) It would be a hard thing indeed if they (the police) were to be threatened, abused, and scandalized for not doing their duty, and then, when they did their duty, and that most nobly, they were also to be subject to similar abuse. He trusted the people of Mary-borough would show they agreed with him. (Cheers.) He would now read the resolution and leave it to them :— "That this meeting, considering the present state of affairs, consider the conduct of Lieutenant John O'Connel Bligh, lieutenant of the native police, is deserving of all praise, not only for his gallant conduct in pursuing the well-known tribe of depredators, but for the manner in which he punished them, and therefore propose, that a committee, composed of Messrs. Howard, Naughten, Faulkner,		

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	Southerden, and any other that may be appointed, shall collect subscriptions, limited to 5s., for the purpose of presenting Lieutenant John O'Connell Bligh with a suitable and useful present." (Loud and continued cheers.) The Chairman said from the very enthusiastic manner the resolution had been received, he might say it had been seconded by the whole meeting, but requested some gentleman to do so. Mr. Nixon seconded the resolution, which was carried with but one dissenting voice, who tried to move an amendment, but could not obtain a hearing. Mr. NAUGHTEN then said he had much pleasure in moving the second resolution for many reasons. He knew the very many disadvantages the police labored under, in one instance, being blamed for not doing their duty, and when they did so being equally blamed. The number of solicitations that had been almost daily made to Lieutenant Bligh had shown that a strong and determined stand was requisite to put down the outrages. (Cheers.) One robbery after another, in many instances with great violence, on defenceless women, on drays, on sawyers, at all times and in all places, in the town and out of the town, no place seemed secure from them. Life and property had no protection ; their only help was the native police, and had they not being deterred from doing their duty from the fear of being put down by some persons who profess to be black protectors ? (Hear, hear, and cheers.) What were these blacks? Were they of any use? Had any one yet been able to make anything out of them? They were set against civilisation, and but for the whites Australia would now have been a howling wilderness. They were the most degraded race on the face of the globe, and were we to submit to such robbery, murder, and much worse in several instances?		

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	Mr. Naughten here detailed many instances of late outrages, and asked if such outrages were to be put up with by a free people? Were they to have no protection? And when they found they had men of the stamp of Lieutenant Bligh, was it not their duty to support him and to encourage him to pursue the same manly course? (Cheers.) The attendance that evening convinced him that such was the determination of this place, and he need only read the resolution: "That this meeting, fully concurring with the resolution just past, consider that some present acknowledgment is due, not only to Lieutenant Bligh, but to the men of the Native Police, and therefore propose that this address be signed and presented to the said Lieutenant Bligh, and that the committee before appointed shall procure signatures to the same, and present it to the said Lieutenant John O'Connell Bligh." Mr. HOWARD begged to second the resolution. The Chairman was about to put it to the meeting, when Mr. Howard said, with the Chairman's permission, he should like to explain to the meeting why he did so. Mr. Howard was about to commence, when Mr. Melville said he had a resolution he wished to put. The Chairman informed him there was one resolution now before the meeting and that must first be decided, but as an amendment he could put it to the meeting. The meeting, however, were determined first to hear Mr. Howard, who said he did not like on an occasion like the present, to second a resolution without letting them know why he did so. He believed from the very numerous attendance he saw at this meeting that they concurred in the purpose of the meeting, and he had little fear, therefore, of being misunderstood. It had been remarked that the object of this meeting was to thank Lieuteuant Bligh for merely doing his duty, but it was for		

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	no such purpose. It was for doing that duty under most peculiar circumstances, for doing it when there were several in the town whom he should designate croakers, that were watching and spying to try to find some speck on which they could form a complaint, and who were ever ready with lengthened faces to cry pity for the poor blacks. (Cheers.) Some of those gentlemen should have been in Maryborough as long as he had, should have heard, seen, and felt the merciless outrages the wretches, called by the croakers "the poor blacks," had committed, and he had little hesitation in saying their tone would be changed. He had heard continued murmuring against the native police, and especially against Mr. Bligh for not doing the very thing they had now met to support him in having done. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Those murmurs of late had become more deep and thundering, and like the volcano showed sure symptoms of a speedy eruption; they had stood the robberies of the blacks long enough. They had applied time after time to the police for protection, which protection till now had never been given, and so determined had all become, that if the police had much longer neglected them, they would have taken the law into their own hand a la California. Lieutenant Bligh had made such a course unnecessary by his late step, which he hoped he would continue in, in spite of all the croakers could say or do, and he was sure the people of Maryborough would support him. Of one of these croakers he remembered some five years ago a little circumstance. (The chairman here interrupted the speaker, warning him against personalities.) Mr. Howard continued — he had mentioned no names, and with the sanction of that meeting he was determined to give the lash where it was due. (Cheers.) As he was saying, some five years ago a number of blacks, if he remembered right five, by some means were poisoned, and it was proved that the poison		

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	was got from the store of one of these croakers. The circumstances were pretty nearly as follows: The store of this croaker was robbed for three or four successive nights, and by some unaccountable means on the fourth night they took arsenic as well as flour. It was not for him to say how the arsenic got into the flour, but this much he would say, that it looked very suspicious and now this gentleman was a croaker, and cried pity for the poor blacks — he went about with a bible under his arm, and a new white hat on his head, forgetting that that hat covered his heart. He (Mr. Howard) wondered whether he had ever put the question to himself — was he at all the occasion of the death of these poor blacks? Now, he (Mr. H.) would ask them all, if such a man should now be a croaker? Was this the man that should cry, "Oh, the poor blacks!" What man amongst them was there who could say but that the blacks had got anything but what they deserved? What man was there who did not feel it. (Mr. Allport, storekeeper, at Degilbo, "Scissors!") And many of those present were sufferers from them. He nearly lost his wife through them. In the middle of the night a great black-fellow walked into his bedroom, his wife had but just been confined, and was so frightened that she nearly lost her life, and since was frightened if a mouse ran over her. He asked them all what man amongst them cared for his home, his family, or his country. (Mr. Allport here again interrupted with some remarks upon patriotism). Mr. Allport seemed to have come here fortified with his name-sake "all-port," and like the baboon — of which species when he looked at him he thought he was the best representative he had seen for some time — put his fingers into things he knew nothing about. To continue — what man was there who cared for his family and country, who would quietly submit to such outrages, even from the poor blacks? Now was the time for		

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	the people of Maryborough to make a bold stand, and say they would not have it, that they would no longer submit to such indignities. He would draw their attention to one thing more before sitting down. In what position would Mr. Bligh have been, had he not acted as he did? The news would have gone through the tribe like wild-fire, "Oh you have only to fly to the town of Maryborough, and you are safe ; the native police dare not touch you there," and that was the belief of the blacks until Friday last. They flew to the town, and cried to their gods; he heard one cry — "Mr. Uhr, Mr. Uhr," and another "Mr. Travis, Mr. Travis," but their gods were powerless, they could not save them, nor should they have the power. Lieut. Bligh ought to be supported, and he was sure he would be. They must not let him appear ridiculous in the eyes of the blacks. He (Mr. H.) would now leave the resolution in their hands. The resolution was then put and carried. Mr. Melville then, in a lengthened speech, foreign to the purpose for which the meeting was called, moved — "That this meeting proposes that the commanding officer of the Native Police shall be requested to station a sergeant, and say 3 or 4 troopers between the Six and Twelve Miles Creeks." Mr. Nixon seconded the resolution, which was carried. Mr. Purser then proposed — "That this meeting shall stand adjourned until Thursday next six weeks, by which time the committee shall have purchased the present, which shall then be presented." Seconded by Mr. Faulkner and carried. Mr. Howard moved "That Mr. Uhr should leave the chair and Mr. Naughton take the same," which was seconded by Mr. Husband and carried. A vote of thanks was then accorded to Mr. Uhr, and with three cheers for Lieutenant Bligh, the meeting terminated. February 10th, 1860.		

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	(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.) A "murderous fire," to use a military phrase, was opened in this town on Friday morning last by the brave Lieut. Bligh and his sable troopers on a party of defenceless blacks, resulting in two killed, number of wounded not known. Prevention is universally admitted to be better than cure, but the Native Police officers, with Mr. Morissett at their head, do not seem to know the meaning of the word "prevention," at all events if we are to judge by the arrangements they have made here to do the work that has been given them. They have pitched their tent, or head quarters, at a pleasantly retired spot called "Cooper's Plains" on the south side of the Mary, which, to be reached from this, the Mary must be either crossed by swimming, and a distance thereafter travelled of 15 miles, or by undertaking a journey of from 25 to 30 miles, via Maryanna, the station of Mr. Hugh Graham. The consequence is, that before it is possible to convey information of any outrage or depredation that may have been committed, the sable "Rob Roys" are safe in their bush retreats or island fastnesses, snapping their fingers at our very efficient, admirably conducted, and well managed Native Police force. Seriously, why should time be lost and business neglected in conveying to a force information of what they themselves should be the first to know. They are appointed and paid for this very purpose, and next they mock the intelligence of the country by quietly taking out of its pocket annually £20,000 for gratifying apparently their own personal pleasure or caprice, rather than doing earnestly and faithfully their simple duty. For the last two months and upwards a great many outrages have been committed by the blacks between this and the Twelve Mile Creek. Bullock-drivers have been obliged to travel with the whip in the one hand and the gun in the other. Why should not a picket of, say a		

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	sergeant and four or six men, be stationed on the public road, somewhere between this and the Twelve Mile Creek. Were this done there would be no such thing as an outrage or attack by the sable marauders of the bush from one year's end to the other, and no such bloody scenes as that of Friday morning ever witnessed. Our Police Magistrate, Mr. Arthur E. Halloran, started for Brisbane overland on Thursday morning last. I sincerely trust his Excellency will consult Mr. Halloran's personal comfort, and the welfare of this com-munity, by finding out a billet for him some where in the neighborhood of Brisbane or Ipswich. He would be a very good, and I dare say, a very efficient servant, were he constantly under the eyes of his master, but from his Port Macquarie propensities — entwined as they are from his long residence there into his whole system — he is just about as fit to represent the government, or act as its chief officer in a remote, yet free, community, as a black-fellow. Fawning and flattering on the one hand, and toadyism and flunkeyism on the other, are the elements in which Mr. Halloran delights to revel. This is a most unhealthy atmosphere for any man to live in. Let us again hope that his Excellency will afford him the opportunity of taking action afresh and by a course different from that he has thought proper to pursue here, win for himself the esteem, if not the affections, of the community in the midst of which he may be called to move. He has been playing a very unusual, and withal, a very unseemly game lately, in bringing forward and recommending his son-in-law, Mr. Robert Alexander, of Proston, to the electors of this town as a particularly fit and proper person to represent their interests in the forthcoming parliament. Now this, to say the least, looks very ugly, so ugly indeed that the matter has been taken up and brought before the notice of the government. The son-in-law		

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	has allowed himself to degenerate into a mere tool in the hands of the father-in-law. L. F. February 7, 1860.		
Moreton Bay Courier, 25 April 1861, p2	LIEUTENANT BLIGH'S SWORD. SIR, — Through the medium of the press of New South Wales and Queensland, the public have been duly informed that "the inhabitants of Maryborough" have purchased the highest reward of courage, the emblem of bravery — a sword — to present to John O'Connell Bligh, Esq., for certain meritorious actions said to be performed by him on the 3rd February, 1860; but as the said public is not aware of the precise nature of this "very meritorious conduct," or of the gallant heroism which called forth such a noble reward — a reward hitherto only bestowed upon the " bravest of the brave" — permit me, Mr. Editor, to state, for general information, the circumstances under which the said sword has been purchased. About the latter part of January, 1860, some five or six days before the (in Maryborough, never-to-be-forgotten 3rd February), the Camp-Sergeant suddenly left Cooper's Plains, and freely circulated about "this town that he did so in consequence of certain misconduct on the part of the Native Police officers, Messrs. Bligh and Phibbs, towards his wife." He stated that he had reported the case to Mr. Morrisett, the Inspector General of Police, and that (using the sergeant's own language) his report "would settle Messrs. Bligh and Phibbs. In the mean time, a counter-statement was made by Mr. Bligh, to the effect that the said Camp-Sergeant was dismissed for drunkenness and general bad conduct. However, the sergeant's report seemed to gain most ground with the townspeople, and heads were gravely shaken, and low mutterings went abroad as to the effect his complaint would have on the Native Police, who, up to that time,		

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	were very much complained of as being inactive, and almost useless. Thus matters stood, and considerable dissatisfaction had long existed in the neighbourhood in consequence, — while sympathy was becoming general for Gasson and his wife. On the morning of the 3rd February, there commenced a change, apparently, in the tactics or habits of the officers, for Mr. Bligh, with a party of the police, rode into town early, and lest, apparently, the change should not be noticed, fired several shots at a few blacks encamped near Cleary's; then came into East Maryborough, charged a camp near Mr. Melville's, drove the poor creatures from it — some through the town, some into the river — and commenced butchering them forthwith. "Darkey," who had been constantly employed in the town — who could have been apprehended at any moment, had there been any desire, or occasion, was shot down opposite Mr, Palmer's, where his body was left, and subsequently roasted. "Young Snatchem," an excellent and industrious black, was driven into the river, near the public wharf, — scores of men, women, and children stood by, and Lieut. John O'Connell Bligh stationed himself in the bow of a boat, which was in readiness, and forty or fifty shots were actually fired, five or six by Mr. Bligh himself. The boat overtook him (the black) in an exhausted state, and the "gallant hero" — the deserver of a sword — lowered his carbine, and shot the defenceless, tired, unresisting wretch, in the back, "Yankine," who was then wounded, has since recovered. Against him, there never was a single charge. Another poor fellow, blind in one eye, an old grey headed man, was taken prisoner, triumphantly marched in handcuffs through the town, led out some miles by these bloodthirsty brutes, and has never SINCE been seen. The blacks immediately brought in word that he had been shot near the Six-Mile Creek, and as the old creature was well known here,		

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	and a frequent visitor at certain houses, it is beyond doubt that he too had been, if possible, more barbarously murdered than the others. Thus terminated the foulest deed — and shall I say, the foulest day — Maryborough ever witnessed. No : a fouler one was in store for it; A people who could submit to see their benighted, confiding fellows thus slaughtered — see those they had employed, and in employing, had offered HOSPITALITY, and pledged their SINCERITY TO — butchered; were capable of sinking even deeper, and DEEPER they sank. On the following Monday a meeting was convened, a chairman WAS procured for it, and resolutions were actually passed, approving of Saturday's work, applauding Mr Bligh as a "gallant hero," and — oh ye Wellingtons, ye Nelsons, and Napiers! — deciding that he was entitled to a sword, and that the pleasure of subscribing for it must be limited to 5s per man. It seems incredible, all this, and a lapse of twelve months since the hideous circumstance only makes it more [sic] n-comprehensible to understand—more humiliating to ponder over. I never walk through Maryborough without blushing for that meeting. Disaster has already fallen on many who were connected with it, disgrace on more; but I trust shame, and contrition on most. Allowance should certainly be made for the misrule which the community had been subjected to; treachery, duplicity, and dis honesty were the examples most prominently afforded it, nor had its steps been well directed then—nor its duties to God and man been zealously taught by a conscientious carer for the people's souls. Changes, however, have taken place. There is no occasion now for the multitude to smile at iniquity, to applaud corruption to defend all that is bad; and in proof of this it is gratifying to find that many who attended that awful meeting—who subscribed to that weapon of blood, are thoroughly ashamed and repentant of the day,		

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	and the act. Mr Commissioner Halloran, it must be remembered, slept at the barracks the evening preceding the massacre; had been informed by Gasson of the charges he was laying against Messrs Bligh and Phibbs; went to Brisbane immediately after; and as soon as he returned took Sergeant Gasson into the public service as his orderly; AND BE IT NOT FORGOTTEN IN CONNECTION HERE WITH that to native police officers Mr. Halloran was mainly indebted for the signatures of those memorials got up in his favor, and the EVIDENCE he relied upon at the late investigation. I still hope "the inhabitants of Maryborough," as they are styled, will repudiate even their own act. A testimonial to the common hangman would be more appropriate—after each "operation performed"—than this one to Bligh. What honor can there be?—what courage is required? —what noble qualities are displayed in occasionally slaughtering the naked, unarmed, flying savage? It was a mockery of all the attributes of greatness and goodness to pretend to discover in Mr Bligh's conduct upon the 3rd February, 1860, that which entitled him to public praise, and to wear a sword!! 'Twas arrogantly rewarding, for a single act, a personage who had, up to that moment, ostentatiounly revelled in idleness,' and till then insolently DECLARED his determination to the Maryborough people not to protect them. I am, &c., " A BELIEVER IN GASSON'S STATEMENT" ! Wide Bay, April 10th, 1861.		
Moreton Bay Courier, 4 April 1861, p2	TESTIMONIALISM AGAIN.—A correspondent signing himself "The Sword of Damocles," addresses the following rather awkward queries to Lieut. John O'Connell Bligh, of the Native Police, through the columns of the 'Maryborough Chronicle':—"Notice The public are respectfully informed the sword		

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	subscribed for by the inhabitants of Maryborough, to be presented to Lieutenant Bligh, of the Native Mounted Police, 'for his services in suppressing the outrages of the blacks, is now on view at the Maryborough Inn for a short time.—GEORGE HOWARD. Maryborough, Feb. 27, 1861. 'Sir—The above advertisement appeared in the Wide Bay 'Chronicle' of the 28th February last. The services it alludes to were performed on the morning of the 3rd February, 1860. It matters not whether you pay for it, and only blush for them, so long as you answer, without equivocation, the following plain questions, put to you in the name of public honour and in the cause of humanity —and refrain from accepting that token of integrity until you do:— 1st: About the last week of January, 1860, did you entertain a party of friends at your camp at Cooper's Plains, and number amongst them a storekeeper and others from Maryborough, and a squatter from the Burnett? —2nd: A day or two after (I am not now as precise with dates as I can be), did your camp-sergeant Gasson state to you that, in consequence of the indecent liberties which yourself, your brother officer, Mr. Phibbs, and some of your friends, when in a state of intoxication, had taken with his wife during his absence, he would not suffer her to remain any longer in the barracks that he should report the disgraceful affair to Mr. Commandant Morrisett; and subsequently did he take her away?— 3rd. A few days later did you ride into Maryborough, and then and there, in the presence of some of those friends, dismiss Sergeant Gasson from the Native Police Force for drunkenness, &c.? —4th. Upon or about the evening of the 2nd February following, did Mr. Commissioner Halloran visit you at the barracks and have conversation with you relative to the awkward rumours Gasson had set afloat in Maryborough, and in a statement made direct to himself, which he wished		

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	forwarded to Mr. Morrisett? —5th. Did Mr. Halloran sleep at the barracks upon the night of the 2nd February? —6th. Did you on the following morning take your troopers into Maryborough, attack some blacks who were encamped near Mr. Cleary's, have one shot dead opposite Mr. Palmer's store, then chase those who were encamped near Mr. Melville's into the river — and while they were in the river did you row round them, close to them, and in the presence of men, women, and children, who are said to be Christians, did you yourself shoot in the back the exhausted, imploring, yielding blackfellow Snatchem—a black who for years, had been a constant and excellent labourer at one of the stores? —7th. Did you then capture a poor old man who also had been a constant attendant in the town, against whom there had never been a charge; did you, sir, capture the poor old fellow, handcuff him, march him out of the town, and have him shot? —8th. Upon Mr. Halloran's return from Brisbane some few weeks after the above visit, did he not, to your knowledge, take Sergeant Gasson again into the Queen's service as his orderly, and purchase for him a horse, saddle, and bridle, though the man was known to be penniless? —9th. Had you not informed Mr. Commissioner Halloran at the time that Gasson was dismissed by you from the Native Police for gross misconduct; did you object to Mr. Halloran taking him into the public service; and, finally, did you insist upon Gasson making good his gross charge against yourself and Lieutenant Phibbs?"		
North Australian, Ipswich and General Advertiser, 16 April 1861, p3	ABORIGINES V. COOLIES. I. Day by day we are drawing nearer to the time when questions of vital importance to the welfare of the colony must be discussed by those who have the power conferred upon them to wield the destinies of the people for weal or woe ; and, perhaps there will be few		

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	questions come before our legislators of greater importance than the manner in which the aborigines of this colony are to be treated for the future, and the terms on which Coolie labour is to be admitted. We have felt anxious to abstain from remarks on the present mode of treating the Aborigines until we had heard both sides of the case in the recent battue of aboriginals at Fassifern ; but, as we are on the eve of an election, where it will be desirable to obtain a representative who will fully and freely give his opinions on these subjects, and one who has the ability to give expression to those opinions in such a manner that they shall carry some weight ; as we week by week read of additional outrages on these aboriginals, more and more dis-graceful to a civilized community ; and as we have arrived at an era in our history when an opportunity occurs for our endeavouring to make use of our benighted brethren (which if we now neglect may never again occur) ; and, as we have just chronicled the proceedings of a society which may be justly proud of its labours among the Heathen, we consider that all these circumstances combined, demand us to give expression to our opinions of their condition and prospects, together with the means to be adopted to improve these unfortunate inhabitants of our country. Perhaps, with the exception of the Bosjesmans of Africa, no race of the human family have yet been discovered in so degraded and bestial a state as the aborigines of those parts of Australia upon which settlements have been formed. We find, however, that the farther north we proceed with our settlements the more manlike the natives become, rising from the degraded occupier of a lair under a gum tree, or a covering of green branches and bark, to the dignity of the occupant of a hut, constructed after the manner of most of the uncivilized natives of the Polynesian Islands. With this improvement in their domestic		

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	economy, we also find a corresponding improvement in their personal appearance and warlike character ; and we also find that, in the place of meeting a few scattered individuals of a tribe, we have to meet and to contend with communities counted by hundreds. Hitherto (with some few rare exceptions) it has been the custom to treat these original owners of the soil as so many incumberers of the ground, to be got rid of by fair means or by foul. Not content with witnessing the fearful havoc created among them by the introduction of the most loathsome of European diseases, by the very lowest class of our own so-called civilized fellow-men, whose intercourse must have caused disgust in the minds even of these degraded children of nature, we have pretended to feed them on no-good damper, of which those who eat once never eat again, for death seals their lips ; — and if that did not clear them off quick enough, there was fine sport to be had in shooting them down with as little remorse as kangaroos or dingoes ; and if this did not accomplish a clearance, and there was any attempt at reprisals, it was easy to find a speared bullock, or a story of an intended attack, to justify an appeal to the authorities for protection, often ending in a battue, such as we have had abundant opportunities of reading of during the last few months — as witness the case at Fassifern, the advertisement of the Messrs. F. and A. Mortimer, of Manumbar, who politely request the licensed murderers to bury their game, and the cases lately laid to the charge of Lieutenant Bligh, at Maryborough, by a correspondent of the Maryborough Chronicle, as follows : — Did you on the following morning take your troopers into Maryborough, attack some blacks who were encamped near Mr. Clarey's, have one shot opposite Mr. Palmer's store, then chase those who were encamped near Mr. Melville's into the river —		

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	and while they were in the river did you row round them, close to them, and in the presence of men, women, and children, who are said to be Christians, did you yourself shoot in the back the exhausted, imploring, yielding blackfellow Snatchem — a black who for years had been a constant and excellent labourer in one of the stores? Did you then capture a poor old man who also had been a constant attendant in the town, against whom there had never been a charge ; did you, sir, capture the poor old fellow, handcuff him, march him out of town and have him shot? And we have now before us a letter from the North, in which occurs the following paragraph : — " --- is the only white man who works ; the duty of unloading vessels, cutting wood, drawing water, running messages, collecting horses, &c., is performed by blacks, who are occasionally shot down in the streets or river by the Native Police, to gratify the morbid passion for excitement, and afterwards roasted and eaten on the spot by their sable brethren, to satisfy their cannibal propensities, and for the special delectation of admiring white spectators, more barbarous and cruel than themselves." All these cases go to show that so far as our intercourse with the natives has had any effect upon them, it has been to degrade them, and to make them more miserable than they were before the white man made his appearance amongst them. That, in place of protecting them, and endeavouring to obtain respect and love of civilized institutions, and of those who introduced them, our object has been hitherto to drive them from their native soil, persecuting them to death, or forcing them to retire to places not yet visited by the avant couriers of that civilization which the natives have so much cause to dread. The consequence must be, that the greater our advance, the more numerous the tribes of aboriginals we have to encounter, unless, as		

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	we have advanced, we have succeeded in exterminating the natives who stood in our way. If we have done this, it most become a fearful record against us as a community of rising nations. We do not believe that we have been guilty of such deeds, but we do believe that it will be found, as we advance into the interior and to the far north, we shall meet with many large and powerful tribes, whose numbers have been increased by the accession of those tribes, who have receded before the advancing tide of civilization. And as we have not the slightest doubt of the whole of the island continent of Australia becoming occupied by the Anglo-Saxon race, it becomes a duty we owe to ourselves and our successors that we should endeavour to make some use of the natives with whom we come in contact, and also take such steps to ameliorate their condition as will make them less dangerous to ourselves, and available as useful servants to our successors. In our next we intend to review the attempts which have been made in other colonies towards the accomplishment of this end.		
North Australian, Ipswich and General Advertiser, 26 July 1861, p2	THE NATIVE POLICE REPORT We have now before us the Report of the Select Committee, appointed by the Legislative Assembly, to enquire into the organisation and management of this fores, and also as to the possibility of adopting any measures for the amelioration of the present condition of the aborigines. The report is a very voluminous one, containing no less than 167 folios of foolscap. Much valuable information has been obtained by the committee during the course of the enquiry, and their proceedings will be read with much more than the usual amount of interest created by such documents, by all philanthropists or others who feel an interest in the aboriginal race of this colony. We feel confident that those who peruse the evidence appended to this report will come to the		

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	conclusion that Dr. CHALLINOR did good service to the country by the publication of the Fassifern enquiry. The attention of the Press and the public were awakened, and other similar occurrences which might have passed without observation or remark, but for the awakening of that attention, were brought to light. Although it is possible that some of the statements which from time to time gained currency may have been somewhat exaggerated, the evidence which has been taken is quite sufficient to prove that wanton outrage has been committed by the Native Police, and that it was high time that a re-organization of the force took place. The Committee have met with some unseemly obstructions in their enquiry by the refusal of attendance of those who had been foremost in making charges against the Native Police force. If they declined to give that evidence which might have thrown more light on the proceedings of the force than has yet been brought forward, and through, the withholding of that evidence the Committee are prevented from arriving at a correct conclusion, none will be so much to blame as those who have failed in the performance of what we consider to be a public duty. These persons must blame themselves only, if through their neglect of this duty they have prevented justice being done and a thorough reorganization of the force taking place. There is only one other view of the conduct of these persons to be taken, and that is that, they are unable to substantiate the charges they have made — We here wish it distinctly to be understood that we include both charges made against the Native Police, and charges made against the aborigines.— This is the general impression which remains upon the minds of all intelligent men who have considered the question, and which must continue to be attached to their conduct, until steps have been taken by them to substantiate their statements. The conduct of those		

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	persons contrasts most strongly with that of Dr CHALLINOR, who, whilst fully aware of the dislike and ill-will which his proceedings were to produce, did not shrink from performing what he conceived to be a public duty at all risks. Without committing ourselves to a full approval of all the acts of the Doctor in this matter, we yet feel satisfied that it was only by some such bold and determined course as that adopted by him that interest could be created, which resulted in the appointment of this committee. It is scarcely possible within the compass of a newspaper article to review the whole of the evidence taken before the Committee. We shall, however, endeavour to put our readers in possession of the most prominent features of the proceedings, and make a few comments thereon. We find Lieut. WHEELER, in his examination, defines the term "dispensing the blacks" as "firing at them." He says, "I gave strict orders not to shoot any gins. It is only some times when in the dark, that a gin is mistaken for a blackfellow, or might be wounded inadvertently." He further states that he considers it right to fire upon them in that way, "if they are the right mob." He allows the black troopers to go out of his sight for half an hour, having previously received orders to disperse a certain tribe ; and he does not consider it indiscriminate slaughter,—because there were only two blacks shot. He further acknowledges to the shooting of a gin in his own presence, but "that was a mistake." The only evidence, for this foray on the Telemon blacks, were the letters which he had received from the squatters in the neighbourhood, complaining of depredations committed by the tribe, and he knew it was the same mob, because he had "followed their tracks for a fortnight." Very circumstantial evidence, indeed ! especially when it is taken into consideration that they were camped in the same scrub with the Dugandan blacks, and that he used considerable exertion to get the		

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	latter away, "so that they might not get shot." Amazing discrimination on the part of Lieut. WHEELER! After performing this exploit, we had this hero journeying to a new field, "following up the same track" to Fassifern, where he acknowledges that two blacks were killed, and that he himself was present on the occasion. The unfortunates, in this instance, were sacrificed because he had received a letter from HARDIE, "stating that a mob of blacks had been threatening him, and that he could not get rid of them." He saw nothing himself, for he "could not waste time to see whether a cow or a bullock was killed." Excellent reasoning this. It was not necessary to take any trouble to ascertain the truth of the charges of depredation, or who were the perpetrators; a much better and easier mode of settling the difficulty being to shoot indiscriminately any blackfellow who might come within gunshot range! No wonder that the blacks are now everywhere much quieter in Lieut. WHEELER's district. He says : — "We have driven them almost entirely away from the Logan; they generally go to the islands in the Bay, over the dividing range, to the boiling-down establishments, and to the townships." No wonder at their disappearance, after the description of the means adopted to disperse them; there ought, however, have been an addition to the last piece of evidence, and that should be — the rest are shot. It would appear, from this evidence, that the most effectual means of relieving the squatters from annoyance is to drive the blacks from their runs — shooting a few as a warning to the rest — depriving them of the means of obtaining their usual food, and sending them into the neighbourhood of the towns to feed on the refuse of the boiling-down establishments, and, as a matter of course, obtain a more extended field for committing their depredations. On a second examination, Lieut.		

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	WHEELER informs the Committee that the Commandant of the force has never issued any written or printed instructions, that he never interferes with anything he (Lieut. WHEELER) does — that the latter acts upon his own discretion and upon his own responsibility —that he acts upon the letters he receives from squatters — that he thinks it right to pursue a tribe for a month — that he does "not think they can understand anything else except shooting them !" There are discrepancies in Lieut. WHEELER's evidence which appear strange to us, and which must have escaped the attention of the committee. We place before our readers the following : — 10. In those particular cases which the Chairman alluded to the other day at Fassifern and Dugandan, had you any warrant to apprehend any particular man in that tribe? I had old warrants for several blacks that live about there; there is one out against Cranky Charlie, who committed a rape upon a girl many years ago; and I had an old warrant for a boy of the name of Johnny One-eye (Millbong Jemmy) for trying to commit a rape at the Peak Mountains. 25. (By Mr. GORE). Do you ever receive warrants against black fellows guilty of offences? Very few, I have received two. 30. Don't you think it would be much better that the warrants for this part or the country should remain in your possession, so that you might be able to execute them as occasion offers? I have got copies— a copy is sufficient—the originals are kept in the office. 31. Do you know of a great many being in existence for various offenders? Only of two or three Mr. Sneyd would know more about the matter. I know of one for Nelson, and for Millbong Jemmie. 57. But has your attention been attracted to no blacks that have been reported to have committed a rape at Moongrah? Yes, I believe two—Cracky Charlie		

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	and Millbong Jemmy—are reported as the blackfellows who committed this rape. 35. In the course of patrolling in that neighbour-hood, if you saw those men, would you think it your duty to apprehend or shoot them? I would not apprehend nor them, as there is no war-rant out against them, and the thing was hushed up. In questions number 10 two blacks are mentioned by name as having warrants out against them, which warrants are in Lieut. WHEELER's possession ; again, in number 31, one of the same names is mentioned, yet, in reply to questions 97 and 98, where the names of both the offenders are repeated, we are told that no warrant is out against them, and therefore they would neither be apprehended, nor shot, if they were met with by Lieut. WHEELER on patrol. Were such evidence as this to come before a jury, it would be looked upon with great suspicion, and might even lead to unpleasant consequences to the individual giving such evidence. We shall now make a few extracts from the evidence of Mr. SHERIDAN, Collector of Customs at Maryborough, which fully corroborate the statements made by us in this journal on the 16th of April last, and fully prove the statements made by the northern journals respecting the conduct of Lieut. BLIGH. Mr. SHERIDAN gives the following account of the circumstances: — 63. Will you state the circumstances as you saw them? Well, I think it was between seven and eight in the morning, on 2nd of February, 1861. I heard a tremendous noise; I was at breakfast at the time, and looked out and saw the Native Police in pursuit of blacks; some of the blacks at that time were swimming in the river, some running along the land, one of whom ran through my own verandah, pursued by a single trooper of the Native Police. I made enquiry of the persons present as to the cause of the disturbance, and they said that a warrant was out against one of the blacks. I took no more		

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	notice of the matter, but, about two minutes after, I heard some shots as the blacks turned round the corner of the house; almost simultaneously with this, immediately in front of my house, where I was residing, there was a number of blacks in the water, and there was a boat pursuing them; some were captured and taken into the boat, and others swam under the public wharf for some time. A considerable number of white people were congregated about the place, and the Native Police officer, with, I think, some of the Native Police, and some white persons also, were in a boat. Two of the black men, who were either under the wharf or in a boat. — I won't be certain, because the crowd was so great.—dived from under the wharf or swam off the boat, and a moment after several shots were fired from the boat and the bank at them, — in all, one might presume some forty or fifty shots. 64. By the Native Police? Yes: I saw the Native Police officer, myself, fire four or five shots, and I eventually saw the black man at whom he fired sink, — raise up his hand and sink ; that was the last that was ever seen of him. Mr. SHERIDAN saw one black shot and another wounded; he goes on to state, in reply to the inquiry if he was aware that the blacks had been committing depredations in the neighbourhood, and that a warrant was out against them, that he subsequently knew of a warrant being out against one named DARKIE, and that he had seen the other working in a store in town a few days before. He further states that he felt certain the blacks shot by Lieut. BLIGH might have been taken without resorting to shooting — that there could have been no difficulty in reaching them. Im reply to the enquiry as to the cannibalism of the natives, Mr. SHERIDAN says : — I saw them have a man roasted for the purpose of eating him, in the town of Maryborough. The man alluded to in this case was one of the men shot		

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	by the Native Police — was skinned, and being roasted in the presence of white people, who did or would not interfere until I came there; even a constable told me he did not consider it his duty to interfere, although he was aware of what was going on; this occurred within the town of Maryborough. In reply to Mr. FITZSIMMONS, Mr. SHERIDAN says there were about half a dozen blacks appeared to be pursued, and then — 183. Did many of these get on land across the river, or where did they go to? They plunged into the river, as I think I said: or some ran away without going into it. I only know of four blacks that were accounted for: one was shot in the town, another was shot in the river, another was wounded in the river, and another taken prisoner and paraded through the town. I have never seen him since. 185. Was the lieutenant of the Native Police Force on land, or in the boat? In the boat, and he fired five or six shots during the time. To the best of my knowledge, I saw him fire four shots, 186. You stated, in your evidence, that there was a warrant for one of these blacks of many years' standing? It came out in evidence—it was asserted at the Police-office. 187. What was the crime of which he was guilty ? The original crime was stealing tobacco from Mr. Palmer. He ran a way, was pursued and captured, tried, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment in Sydney Gaol ; he was placed on board the steamer Waratah, to be taken to Sydney. She sailed to the Bar, but returned, as I am informed, through stress of weather. The black is represented as having been suffering from a loathsome disease, and the sailors would not have him on board — they broke his chains and let him go. During time he was about town there was no further notice taken of him, till the day that he was shot; he was an escaped prisoner.		

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	194. At the lime of the investigation was there no cause assigned in the Court — did not you, as a magistrate, ask for some? The cause assigned was the apprehension of an escaped prisoner. I believe that the law is, that if an escaped prisoner cannot otherwise be apprehended, he may be shot. If no other evidence had been forthcoming than that which we have here referred to, there would have been quite sufficient ground for the enquiry which has just taken place; but when we find these statements corroborated in the main facts by Lieut. BLIGH's own evidence, there is more occasion than ever for pursuing the subject through all its hearings. We also find that several of the officers have been guilty of intoxication, and unfit for their duty; so that the committee would have had great difficulty in arriving at any less severe conclusion than they have done. We consider that they have been extremely lenient in their report, and we shall not be surprised if the House reject it for this amongst other reasons that occur to us, the omissions or negligence of the servants of the public being passed over with little or no notice. Take, for example, the evidence of Mr. JOHN McDONNELL respecting the distribution of stores and cloth-ing to the police force, who says that the distribution ought to take place at the commencement of the year, but no distribution has yet taken place during the present year, and thus accounts for it:— 27. How comes the clothing not to have been distributed? On the recommendation of Mr Manning and myself, it was procured from the store-keeper of New South Wales—he had a large supply on hand — and it was considered more expeditious and economical to get the supply from him, as all the goods were ready there, and had been some six or eight months ; up to this present time, however, none of the clothing has been receired, and within the last few days. I drew the attention of the principal		

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	under secretary to the fact, and he promised to re-mind the storekeeper of Nev South Wales, and get the things as quickly as possible. It is somewhat amusing to notice the naviete of this witness, as recorded in reply to Mr. WATTS :— 66. By Mr. Watts : Do you not think it your duty to look out very sharp after the supplies for the Native Police? Yes. From the evidence of this witness, it appears that the troopers have had to find their own ammunition as best they could, and that they have been placed in circumstances where they might have required to travel 300 miles before they could obtain a supply ! One piece of information is supplied by this witness which will be new to many of our readers : — 70. Do you not think that the Native Police Force is almost useless without sufficient ammunition? Certainly; but this colony has been in a peculiar condition with regard to stores; there have been no stores to fall back on, and it has been impossible to get ammunition. We were not before aware that the circumstances of this colony were so peculiar as to prevent its tradesmen from supplying any article of clothing or ammunition that the force might require. This gentleman is evidently no ordinary individual, but has his own peculiar specialities, and doubtless this is one of them. He cannot, however, tell whether it would be advantageous to send supplies of flour, tea, and sugar to the different depots. "He had not looked into that question !" There has evidently, been a great deal of neglect to the management of the affairs of the force, and, as usual, no one is to blame. We have no doubt, however, that the members of the Assembly will insist on having some better security for a more efficient management for the future, and that those officers who have exceeded or neglected their duty shall be dismissed from the service, and replaced by others, whose qualifications shall have been		

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	tested before their appointment. We have not given this report a tithe of the ventilation it deserves, and we have purposely abstained from entering upon any discussion of the theories propounded for the amelioration of the condition of the natives, and the other questions therewith connected, as each branch of the enquiry ought to have separate treatment. We may, however, give each portion of the subject our attention on another occasion. We feel satisfied, however, that we have herein shown that the cry which has been rained against the Native Police Force was not with-out sufficient cause, and that it was high time that the representatives of the people stepped in to prevent the perpetration of such outrages.		
North Australian, Ipswich and General Advertiser, 7 June 1861, p4 [1]	THE NATIVE POLICE. (To the Editor of the Courier.) Sir,—The Courier, of the 2nd instant, has just reached us, and by it we have learnt that a committee has been appointed to inquire into, and report upon, the Management, &c., of the native police force. The Colonial-Treasurer, after having moved for a select committee for the above purpose, said it was totally untrue that the Government were inclined to pass over and palliate the indiscriminate slaughter of the aborigines. On the contrary, they were inclined to make the fullest investigation into those charges. He then says the whole question is mixed up with party spirit and pseudo-philanthropy, that when the utility or behaviour of the force was called in question, any provocation given by the natives was kept in the background, whilst provocation given by the whites was, on the other hand, always put back as a palliative for the excesses of the blackfellows. We shall not accuse the honorable gentleman of pseudo-philanthropy or party spirit, or of wishing to palliate the alleged atrocities committed by the police, but we will just quote one sentence more of his		

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	speech on this occasion, and let every one who may read it, judge what it is intended for. He says: — 'With reference to recent reports of alleged atrocities committed by the police, they should remember that this was one of the recurring years in which the bunya bunya was eaten, and on these occasions the blacks were invariably very troublesome. This may account for the frequency of their collisions with the police. Our station is bounded on three sides—on the North. East, and South — by the main range of the Bunya Bunya Mountains; and from ten years residence upon the station, we ought to be able to speak with some confidence respecting the correctness of the honorable gentleman's statement; and we think that the best comment, that we can make upon it, is to state a few facts and let them speak for themselves. About eight years' ago (the station at that time belonged to Mortimer and Anderson), a number of strange blacks, that had come to eat the bunya bunya, congregated at one of our out-stations, the shepherds and hutkeepers became alarmed, and one of them came to the head station to acquaint us with the state of affairs. Mr. A. being the only party on the head station at the time, went to the out-station where the blacks were congregated. He estimated their number at about two hundred. They were seated all around, and in the hut (the hutkeeper, in his fright, had given up possession and gone outside). Mr. A. forced his way into the hut, and in perfect good humour requested them to go out. They did not at first seem to understand him, until he give some of them a broad hint by pushing two or three of them outside the door. In less than ten minutes there was not one of them in the hut, and in less than an hour every one had left the station, and we had no more trouble from them that year. About six years ago, also, on a year of bunya bunya, a very large number congregated upon the station. They fought on an open level part		

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	of the run, near the head station, for three or four days (we estimated their number at between two and three thousand); two or three of them were killed, and about half a dozen wounded. We were a little apprehensive that they might do us some mischief, and we acted upon the advice that Oliver Cromwell gave to his Ironsides. We were, however, very soon relieved from all our apprehensions, for in the course of one afternoon, they dispersed without having done us any injury; and this was the last we saw of any strange blacks for the season. About four years ago we were to Sydney during a bunya bunya season, and cannot say from our own personal knowledge what took place upon the station; but as we heard of no particular mischief having been done by the blacks, we supposed it passed over similar to the other bunya bunya seasons. About two years ago, also a bunya bunya season, a very large number of blacks assembled on the top of a mountain at no great distance from us. We did not hear of any depredation by them; but we did hear some of our neighbours say that they were not favourable to such gathering, especially so near their cattle camp; and a very short time after a great number of them (we estimated it at about three hundred) passed our head station in one day; some of them gave us a call, others passed at a very respectable distance. To wards eight some of our station blacks came up, and to inquired of them the reason why so many blacks were leaving the bunya bunya; they told us "That Mr. Bligh been come up, baal shoot him, and baal run him, only woolah. I believe you budgery fellow; baal spear him bullock, and baal cram him monkey, but you been sit down good while and batter bunya, you go home and work now;" and thus another bunya season passed over. As we stated in a former communication how we were treated by some of the officers of the police force, and as our station is in the		

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	Burnett, which district was, we believe, at two different times apportioned to the protecting care of Mr. Bligh, we must, in justice to that gentleman, state that it was not whilst under his guardianship that we had any trouble from the blacks; it was during the time of his service in the Clarence. We were not subscribers for a sword that has been presented to Mr. Bligh—his Maryborough exploits we know nothing about — but we do know that the fear of Bligh acts like a hangman's whip on the blacks in our quarter; and yet we never knew him guilty of unnecessary severity in the execution of his duty. We have known him to follow on the track of notorious bad characters for days and weeks, but he seems to make it a point to punish only the guilty, and also a point that the guilty shall not escape, and this, we think, is what gives to his name a magic dread amongst evil doers of the black race in our quarter. It may be when he cannot conveniently apprehend a black that he uses his carbine and if he is sure that he has the right man, we think there is no great harm done, for we have no doubt but certain and summary punishment is the most effective way of preventing crime amongst the Aborigines; and as prevention is better than cure, it must in the end be the most humane. It may be pseudo-philanthropic, and perhaps un-English, but as in England a man can only be tried before a jury of his peers, it would be just as un-English, to try a savage before a jury of civilised men as to shoot him there and then without benefit of clergy; and we think the latter the better and cheaper way. We have made a long digression, but no doubt you will very readily excuse us, for it is quite plain to be seen that we are at business out of our line; we are not labouring in our vocation. But to return to the bunya bunya seasons. The present year, as the Colonial-Treasurer very correctly remarks, is one of the recurring years in which the bunya bunya is eaten; and about three months ago		

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	one of our station blacks' came and told us that "plenty myall blackfellow been make him camp-close up cattle; baal spear him, and baal run him. only me think it make him jerron." We started on horseback with the black next' morning, and when we were within a short distance from the scrub where the blacks were hunting and eating bunya; we sent our black on a little ahead, instructing him to cooeey to the blacks, and get as many of them together as he could. When he had got a few of them together, we rode up, and found amongst them a good many that we recognised. After talking to them for a short time, and dividing amongst our acquaintances a few figs of tobacco, we told them they may hunt and eat bunya-bunya where they were as long as it lasted, but when it was done they must not go down amongst our cattle, but go round some other way. From the number of camps and blacks which we saw, and the hideous hooting and yelling which we heard in the scrub, we judged that the number of blacks might have been about two hundred, and this was the last we heard or saw of them; and the bunya season is now over for the present year. Now, from the above facts, we may safely say that our ten years' experience amongst the bunya mountains does not bear out the assertion made by the Colonial-Treasurer — that in seasons which the bunya bunya is eaten, the blacks are invariably very troublesome; it merely amounts to this, that for about three or four months. when the bunya is plentiful and the blacks come in great numbers to eat it we have been required to exercise a little more vigilance in looking after our sheep and cattle than at other times; and in seasons when the blacks have congregated in extraordinarily large numbers, we have felt apprehensive that they intended to do us a mischief, but we have never known a sheep to be taken from our flocks, or a bullock to have been speared, by blacks that came to eat bunya bunya. We		

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	disapprove very much of blacks being allowed to assemble in such numbers as they sometimes do in bunya bunya seasons. Such assemblages of them are especially objectionable on cattle runs: and we consider, the Native Police are guilty of great dereliction of duty in not preventing them from doing so. This is our experience. Other squatters who have stations in bunya districts where bunya bunya is plentiful may have a different story to tell, and if so, now is the time to do it, for it is clear that the Government is desirous to, elicit *** respecting the merit or demerit of the Native Police as a protective force. But the Colonial Treasurer says they should remember that "this was one of the recurring years in which the bunya bunya was eaten, and on these occasions the blacks are invariably very troublesome, and this may account for the frequency of their collisions with the police." Very true, it may; we arrive at the same conclusion, but from very different premises. It is common for all blacks within fifty or sixty miles of the Bunya Bunya, in a season when it is plentiful, to leave for a time their more fixed localities, and go to eat the bunya bunya. Even station blacks, who never leave their masters at any other time, want a furlough for one fellow moon, or perhaps five fellow sleep (which generally turns out to be about twice as many weeks), to go and batter bunya bunya and make him corroboree along a broder; and at such times their masters generally give them a little stock of tobacco and a few shillings, of which they are very proud. We had ourselves distributed amongst two or three of our station blacks, who had been doing some work for us, six or eight shillings and about two pounds of tobacco about two days previous to the time when the outrage we had reference to in our advertisement took place on our station; the blacks we had given the money and tobacco to were at the camp at the time, and shortly after it took place they returned to		

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	the station without a shilling or a pipeful of tobacco. We asked them what they had done, with the tobacco and the money we had just given them. They told us "that been sit down along a dilly, when policeman come up me been throw him away dilly, and cabon run liken scrub; when policeman yawn (go away), that come back and mill mill dilly, but baal find him tobacco, baal find him shilling, and baal find him nye; me thinkit policeman been train him." We may here state that one of them had managed by great entreaties to borrow from us— for convenience, we suppose, of skinning the game, and defending himself from the attacks of saltwater blackfellows— our Arkansas toothpick, as brother Jonathan would say; it was a real Yankee and no mistake blade; about eight inches long, back three-sixteenths of an inch, thick sabre point, ivory handle, mounted with silver. We have not seen it since. If any person will re urn it to us it will be thankfully received, and no questions asked. We do not here prefer any charges against the native police, we merely state facts and give the blacks own opinion of what became of the knife, tobacco, and money which we gave; we know that we gave them these things, we know also that they were at the camp when the attack was made on it, and also that they returned shortly after the at tack took place, without money, knife, or tobacco; they could not have deceived us by concealing any of the articles about their persons, for although they left the station partially clothed and a blanket each, they returned, as a reverend gentleman in writing of the aborigines has said, in puris naturbilibus. When we said we arrived at nearly the same conclusion as the Colonial-Treasurer, but from very different premises we meant that the wily trooper knows very well that the dillies are better worth looking after during the bunya seasons than at other times, and when an attack is made upon a camp of blacks at such times his cupidity is no doubt a strong		

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	incentive to his intrepidity. But we wish here to be clearly understood, we do not accuse the officers of the police of making unnecessary attacks upon the blacks for the sake of gratifying their troopers with a little plunder, we do not believe that there is at present, or that there ever was in the force, an officer so void of principle; but we do think that when an attack has necessarily to be made upon a camp of blacks during the bunya season it may require more care on the part of the officers to prevent an indiscriminate slaughter at such times than it would to prevent unnecessary severity at other times. You will perceive that as yet we disclaim having preferred any definite charge against the native police, but we are now about to prefer a charge against them, we hardly know what to call it, some people in this country call it lifting things or shifting things, but as that is a very un-English way of speaking we shall call it downright robbery, and we are prepared to prove it too by our neighbour, Mr. A. Swanson. On the 11th or 12th of February last a party of native police, under the command of Lieut. Morrissett made a foray upon a camp of blacks near the head station Yabber, similar to the one they made a day or two previous upon a camp near our head station, and which we described in an advertisement some time ago. There happened to be at the camp at the time the attack was made, a black in the employment of Mr. James Swanson, who had very shortly before got from Mr. Swanson a good new blanket. As soon as he saw the police coming on the camp he bolted, and "skin for skin, all that a man hath will he give for his life," he left the blanket at the camp, and being a stout active young man, he very soon got out of range, and made the best of his way to the head station, where they encamped for the night. The black fellow having now got where he knew he would be protected, ventured up to the police camp, and seeing one of the		

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	troopers in possession of his blanket, he demanded it from him. The trooper refused to give it to him, and threatened to shoot him if he asked for it. The black fellow argued the matter with him as well as he could, and told "well baal that belongin to mine, that belong in to master that only been lend him." At last he went to Mr. A. Swanson and told him of it, and he spoke to Mr. Morrissett about it, who at first scorned the idea of one of his troopers taking a blanket from a black fellow. Mr. Swanston, [sic] however, insisted that they should go and see; they did so, and he (Mr. S.) identified the blanket and Morrisett caused the trooper to give it up. Now we think that a job of this kind in England would be called robbery. But we must not put forward all the bad actions which they did about Yabber, and keep the good in the back ground. They did one very commendable action, which Mr. A. S. can also prove, they apprehended two deserters from the native police. One of them was implicated in the murder of Fanny Briggs. Mr. Morrissett had him put in irons and left him charge of the troopers for the night. Mr. Swanson remarked to Mr. Morrissett that he was afraid the prisoner would make his escape before morning. Why he should have suspected so we cannot tell, but unfortunately his suspicions were but too well founded, for it turned out just as be said: and now we have put the committee on a track, which, if they follow it up, they may find more information respect ing the management, &c, of the Native Police force, and we expect that the hon. the Colonial-Secretary will move a vote of thanks to us before the close of the session; at any rate, it will be very un-English of him if he don't. By the bye, the hon. gentleman that we have just been speaking of made a very neat, short speech in vindication of the police force; he said he had not intended to have offered any re marks on the subject, but as one particular matter had been broached in the		

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	course of discussion calculated to militate more than anything else against the character of the Native Police force—he alluded to the charge of murder: he felt bound in vindication, to state that the attacks made on that body, especially by the press, were most cowardly and un-English —under any circumstances, were disgraceful; but they were particularly so in reference to a body of men who had voluntarily risked their lives in defence of the country (hear, hear). You reported does not inform us who the *** was who responded hear, hear, to much twaddle; but, whoever he was; we fancy he must have had the point of his thumb at the extremity of his proboscis, with the rest of his digits pointing towards the speaker, the spaces between them forming something like angles of forty-five degrees. We observe the hon. gentleman says he is bound to vindicate the police force. We think a vindication of the force would have come from him with a better grace after it had been formally acquitted of the charges preferred against it (as no doubt it will be) by the committee of investigation. But what does his vindication amount to? "A little sound and fury." Has he produced anything to justify the force, or anything to prove the charges false that have been preferred against it? No, he merely makes an assertion that the attacks made on that body, especially by the press, are most cowardly and un-English. We are not sure what meaning he attaches to the word un-English, as we have just looked over Johnson and cannot find it there; but we shall tell him what meaning we attach to it, and the inference we draw from it, when we see it used in the way he has done. In the first place, we look upon it as intended to convey strong condemnation of the thing or person it is used towards; in the second place we infer that the party who uses it has got an idea that things that are English and things done in the way that things are done in England, are better		

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	than things that are un-English, or things that are done in a different way from things of the same kind done in England, and consequently that Englishmen are better than men that are not English; and last of all we infer that as a sequence of what we have stated, the party who uses it must be a man of very narrow mind and illiberal sentiments; for our own part, as a general rule, we value things according to their utility, whether they be English or, un-English, and men according to their merit and moral worth, whether their skins be black or white—whether they were born on the banks of the Thames or the Shannon, of the Ganges, or of the Mississippi—and if be intended it for us we shall tell him it was very un-Dutch of him to do so. As to the word cowardly we know of but one meaning for it, and if he meant to use it towards us we very respectfully return the compliment, and tell him that if we have preferred any charges against the native police we have done so over our own signature, and it will be time enough for him to use that epithet towards us when he has been refused any explanation that he may ask for. But we think that in the finish off of the vindictory speech the hon. gentleman has himself given the native police the worst, the unkindest cut of all,—for it is most certainly a burlesque upon the force, and the officers themselves must know it to be so, to speak of them as a body of men who had voluntarily risked their lives in defence of the country. Where is the man who ever went out to settle on new country in the northern districts who has not, in some measure, risked his life in the defence of the country, and we submit, without fear of contradiction from any one really acquainted with the country, that there is not a shepherd or hutkeeper in the northern districts that has not risked his life in a much more eminent degree in defence of the country, in the same sense, as the native police has (for it is merely		

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	a protective force—so are shepherds and hutkeepers) —than any officer in the native police has any occasion to do; and if the honorable gentleman thinks otherwise we would recommend him to call for a return of all the names of the shepherds and hutkeepers killed by the blacks in the northern districts during the last ten years, and also for a return of the names of all the officers and troopers killed (and we might here add wounded, scratched, or bitten, for it is well known that the nails and teeth of a black-fellow are his vademecum piece of armour, and we have often seen them, in fights amongst them selves use the latter with grand effect on very awkward and inconvenient places of their antagonists,) in the execution of their duty for the same length of time, and we have no doubt but a comparison of the lists will confirm our statement, and we really believe that should the same outcome of evidence that has been brought against the native police be brought against a shepherd or hutkeeper in proof of a similar charge, he would very soon be hung as high as Haman. J. & A. MORTIMER. Manumbar, 18th May, 1861.		

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Northern Times, 7 March 1860, p3	MARYBOROUGH. — On Friday morning, 10th February, this place was roused by shouts of "stop him," yells, and the stamping of horses. It turned out to be Lieutenant Bligh, with a troop of Native Police, chasing a tribe of long known depredators. He had been after them for some time, and after much watching, tracking, and hardship, came on their final track on the 9th, about the Six Miles Waterholes. He traced them to Mr Cleary's, and from thence into the town. This was early next morning. They (the blacks) scampered all ways, and made for the places they thought tho best protection would be given by the inhabitants. In this, however, they were "Blighted" for nothing but their capture or death would satisfy. They called lustily to one or two for assistance, but that assistance was impossible. Lieutenant Bligh tried all he could to induce them to surrender, but without effect, and the consequence was, one long known "darkie" was shot by a native trooper in full pursuit, just as he was entering the scrub. This darkie had been committed for felony, and had made his escape from the steamer, for which the constable in charge got six months, at the Brisbane Assizes. Of course this could not pass off without various opinions, and a few, but very few, cries of "shame," and "oh the poor blacks." These few, however, considering the quarter from whence they came, were sufficient to bring out inhabitants to express their opinions, for which purpose a meeting was called, and held at the court-house on Monday evening and it has been resolved that a subscription present shall be given by the inhabitants to Lieutenant John O'Connell Bligh — Moreton Bay Courier.		

References

2 entries

Author	Date	Chapter Title/Journal Article Title	Book/Journal Title	Page numbers	Tools
Laurie, Arthur	1959	The Black War in Queensland	Royal Historical Society of Queensland	155-173	
Queensland Legislative Assembly	1861		Report from the Select Committee on the Native Police Force and the Condition of the Aborigines Generally together with the Proceedings of the Committee and Minutes of Evidence.		