

FIRST DISCOVERY OF PORT DAVEY AND MAC-  
 QUARIE HARBOUR, BY JAMES KELLY.

[Note.—The MS. containing the following account is in the Society's Library at Hobart, and owing to its great historical interest the Council decided to publish same. The Manuscript is in Kelly's handwriting, and apparently was originally contained in two note books which have since been bound together as one. There is, in the Mitchell Library, Sydney, another account of this voyage. It is not in Kelly's handwriting, but is signed by him. The peculiar fact is that this second account commences the voyage on 16th December, 1815, and concludes with the completion of the journey on January 24th.

The following account was evidently written some time after the completion of the voyage. As far as a printed copy will permit it is reproduced here exactly as Captain Kelly wrote it.

James Kelly was born at Parramatta, N.S.W., on 24th December, 1791. His parents do not appear to have been in affluent circumstances. Although self-educated, James Kelly's natural ability soon showed itself, as he rose from cabin boy to commander. He later became the owner of several ships trading out of Hobart.

Captain Kelly was appointed Harbour Master for the River Derwent on 18th April, 1819, and for many years lived at North Bruny. He died on 20th April, 1859.—Ed.]

FIRST DISCOVERY OF PORT DAVEY AND MAC-  
 QUARIE HARBOUR, BY JAMES KELLY.

on the 12th of December 1815 James Kelly Sailed from Hobart Town in a Small Sized open five oared Whale Boat to Examine the then Unknown West Coast of Van. D. Land accompanied by the following Named four Men as the Crew

John Griffiths a Native of the Colony  
 George Briggs Do.  
 William Jones Englishman  
 Thomas Toombs Do.

on the 13th we attempted to haul the Boat up on the South Side of Recherche Bay but was prevented by a Large Body of Natives giving us a Tremendous Volley of Stones and Spears we Were obliged to Retreat to the North Side of the Bay and Haul up for the Night

on the Morning of the 14th Launched and proceeded Round the South Coast of Van D. Land, With a fresh Breze at South East at Sun Set the Same Evening Hauled up in a Small Sandy Bay to the Northward of the Largest of the De., Witts Isles Here we had a Freindly Reception from a Large Number of Natives—we made them a few presents of Some Sugar and Biscuit But the Disgusting Sight of them Puling Virmin by Handfulls from their Heads and Beards and Eating them Which they Seemed to Enjoy more than the Sugar and Biscuit, in fact it Seemed Like a Rejoicing at them Seeing their New Visitors, but they did not Seem the Least Hostile as they Brought Down their Women and Children to see us, Which Denotes friendship in these Savages, at Dusk they took thair Leave of us and pointed to a Small Rising Hill about a Mile Distant Signifying that they intended to Sleep there we thought it was only a Decoy to put us off our Guard but we Kept a Good Watch During the Night in Case of an attack but we Saw no more of them.

at Day Light of the 15th We Launched and proceeded to the Westward towards the South West Cape about Noon we put into a Bay about Eight or Nine Miles to the Eastward of S W Cape which was Named New Harbour but on Sounding found it Verry Shoal and only fit for small Vessels although Looking well to the Eye after Geting inside we Remained in this Place only two or three Hours and then proceeded on to the Westward—at Sun Set Hauled up on a Small Low Island about four Miles Eastward of S W Cape Where we Remained the Night this is a Good Boat Harbour being only seperated by a Boat Passage from the Main Land, with a Good Stream of fresh Water and Plenty of Wood

on the Morning of the 16th Launched and Steered to the Westward—at Noon Ronnded the S W Cape Distant about a quarter of a Mile with a fair Wind at South East and Steered along the Shore to the North West in the Evening Hauled up on a Small Grassy Island for the Night about Seven Miles to the N W of the Cape this Island Nearly Joins the Main, seperated only by a Small Boat Passage, and not a good Boat Harbour

at Daylight of the 17th Launched and Steered along Shore to the North West at Noon Entered a Large inlet

Which was Named Port Davey" in Honor of the then (1) Lieutenant governor (2) of Van D. Land in the Evening we Hauled up on a Low Sandy point three Miles up the North Side of the Harbour Where we Remained the Night, inside of a thick Scrub we Cleared away about two Rods" of Rich Ground and Sowed" a quantity of Garden Seeds" this was Named Garden Point in Consequence". We Remained in the Harbour three Days the 18th. 19th & 20th Sounding and Making a Sketch of its Extent the Eastern arm was Named Bathurst" Harbour in Honor of Lord. Bathurst" Secretary for the Colonies" the Inner West Point of Port Davey was Named Point Lucy" in Honor of Miss Davey" Daughter of the Lieutenant Governor, During our Stay in this place we Caught a Great quantity of Wild fowl" Black Swans Ducks teal and plenty of Ells and fish

on the 21st of Dccember we took our Departure with a Light breze at East from Port Davy" and Steered along the Coast to the Northward in the Evcning we Landed on a Low Grassy Island about five Miles to the Southward of Low Rocky point and Close to the Main Land, here we fell in with two Natives aboriginees, they Seemed Verry Much alarmed at Secing us they Were above Six feet high thair Stomachs Verry Large Legs and arms Verry thin and Seemed as if they Were Nearly Starved we gave them two Black Swans of Which we had a good Stock in the Boat they Secmed Delighted with the present on Landing on the Island we intended to Remain the Night but fearing there Were More of them on the Island it was thought best to Leave it Which we Did and hauled up for the Night in a Small Creek half a Mile to the Southard of Low Rocky Point this was named Craw fish Creek in Consequence of the Immence Number of Craw fish that Lay at the Waters Edge they appeared to have been Gathered the day previous Which must have been Done by the Natives there Was above three tons in one Heap

on the Morning of the 22d Launched and Steered along the Land to the Northward at Sun Set Hauled up in a Snug Cove Near High Rocky point on the 23d and 24th a heavy Swell Roleing in from the Westward Which prevented us from proceeding along the Coast, 25th December Christmas Day"—Strong Gales" from the West-

(1.) [Note the wording, "of the *then* Lieutenant Governor." This is one of the indications that this account was written some time after the voyage. Colonel Davey was Lieutenant Governor of V.D.L. from 4th February, 1813, until April, 1817.—Ed.]

(2.) [Lieutenant Governor. V.D.L. was then a dependency of N.S.W. It was not proclaimed a separate colony until 3rd December, 1825.—Ed.]

ward and a Heavy Sea Heaving into the Cove, this Day we Had a Glorious Feed for Dinner Two Black Swans One Roasted (stuck up) the other a Sea Pie a three Decker in the Large Iron Pot a first Rate Christmas Dinner on the West Coast of, Van Diemens Land—after Dinner We Named the Cove Christmas Cove by throwing a Glass of Brandy into the Salt Water and Three Hearty Cheers for the occasione—on the 26th the Gale abated—on the 27th in the Morning we Launched with a Light Breze from the Southard and proceeded along Shore to the Northward In the fore Noon the Wind freshened and Blew Strong at S.S.Et. we Run Close along Shore untill the Evening Where we Hauled up on a Small Sandy Beach, inside of Some High Rocks that Lies a Little Distance from the Shore and about Six Miles to the Southard of Macquarie Harbour—at Noon this day Passed Point Hibbs Close too and Examined it—on the Morning of the 28th Launched Weather Calm Pulled along Shore to the Northward—at Noon Rounded a projecting point Which opened to an Inlet to the South East, we found a Strong Current Running out Which Made us Believe there must be a Large River in the South East Direction—

The Whole face of the Coast Was, on fire and Lucky it Was for us it Was on fire, for the Smoke was so thick We Could not See a Hundred yards a Head of the Boat, on puling into the "Narrows" at the Small Entrance Island We Heard a Large Number of Natives Shouting and Making a Great Noise as if they Were Hunting Kangaroos,

It was Lucky the Smoke was So thick for Had the Natives Seen the Boat passing through the Narrow Entrance it is possible they would have Killed Every person on Board by Volleys of Stones and Spears in their usual Way

in the afternoon the Smoke Cleared off a little we found ourselves in a Large Sheet of Water Near a Small Island Where we Landed and found plenty of Black Swans on thair Nests, and plenty of thair Eggs we Remained on the Island, the Night Which Kept us Safe from the Natives—on the 29th the Morning was Clear we Could see Nearly all over the Harbour this Island Was Named Elizabeth Island in honor of Mrs. Gordon Wife of James Gordon Eq. of Pit Water in Van D. Land, the Harbour was Named Macquarie Harbour in Honor of the then Governor of New South Wales—we Launched and pulled to a point on the South Shore Nearly oposite the Island Where we Caught about a Dozen fat Black Swans to Eat we Had four of our Stock Left that we

Brought from Port Davey" after Catching a fresh Supply we gave those four thair Liberty in Macquarie" Harbour and Named the Point—Liberty Point in Consequence— at Sun Set We Hauled up on an Island about twenty five Miles up the Harbour which was Named Sarah' Island in Honor of Mrs. Birch" Wife of Thos. William Birch Esq. of Hobart Town

on the Morning" of the 30th Launched and proceeded further up the Harbour untill we Came to the Mouth of a fresh Water River Made a Sketch of it and Named it Gordon" River in Honor of James Gordon Esq. of Pit Water, he Having Kindly Lent his Boat for this particular trip of Discovery" Round Van D. Land

This Day we proceeded up an Inlet to the Southard of Gordon' River Which was Named Birches Inlet in Honor of Mr. Birch—on the 31st we Went Round Macquarie" Harbour Made a Sketch of it and found it to be a Bar Harbour only for Vessels of a Light Draft of Water we also found Plenty of Huon" pine Growing on the Banks of the Harbour

on the Morning of 1st January 1816 We Left Macquarie Harbour With a fresh Breze at South East This day we Run a Long Distance to the North West Having a Strong fair Wind at 8 P M attempted to get into a River Which was Named Retreat" River being Nearly Lost on the Bar in a Heavy Surf During the Night of the 1t January it Blew a Strong Gale from the Southard We were obliged to Heave the Boat Too by a Raft made of the oars with about forty five fathoms of Rope Where she Lay Verry Snug During the Night, the Men taking it in turns to attend to the Steer oar" to Keep the Boat End on to the Sea and Having a Good Tarpaulin" that Covered the Boat all over She Lay Verry Dry—at Day Light of the Morning of the 2d of January Hauled the Raft in, Set the Reefed Lug" and Steered in" for the West point of Van D. Land with a Heavy Sea Runing," as we Ncared the Shore we had to pass" through Heavy tide Rips the tide Runing to the Southard against the Wind made it more Dangerous"

We got Within 500 yards of the Shore, the Boat was pooped by a Heavy Sea that filled her to the thoughts— and had it Not Been for the Precaution" taken Before we Left Hobarton" that was of Having three good Buckets Slung with Lanyards and fastened to the thoughts for the purpose of Bailing the Boat on Such an Emergency" we must all Have Been Lost" However by the quick use of the Buckets the Boat was Soon Bailed out—we got under the Lee of the point and Landed on a Small Sandy Beach

Hauled the Boat up and Began to Examine" our Clothes Blankets Provisions and arms' all of Which" was Wet" and Nearly useless" fortunately the Amunition" was in a Small Box in the Stern of the Boat that was Water tight Which Preserved" it otherwise" we Should have been Badly off

We now thought we were Safe so far and had just got a Large fire" made to Dry ourselves" When to our great Astonishment" we were acosted by Six Huge Men, Black Natives" Each of them above Six feet high and Verry Stout Made thair faces Greased and Blacked they had a Spear in Each of thair Right Hands and two in thair Left" they Were quite Naked and appeard quite Ready for War" or Mischief—our Men got Greatly alarmed and Called out What Was to be Done—it was thought Best to make gestures" to them to Come Closer to us" they Were Standing Behind a Low thick Scrub and did not seem inclined to Come any Nearer, our arms" all Wet and no Means of Defending ourselves we Were in a Verry Dangerous" Situation —

it hapened that Luck was Still at our side we Had 9 or 10 Black Swans" and a Large Wombat in the Boat that we Brought from Macquarie" Harbour for fresh Provisions" on Showing them one of the Swans" they Seemed Delighted and Came Nearer to the Boat after they Came out of the Scrub" we saw more of thair War Impliments" as Each of them Had a Spear betwen the Great toe of Each of thair feet Draging them along the Ground we Supposed they Had never Seen a White Man Before, it was thought best to try to Barter with them for thair Spears" that if we got Posssion" of them they Could not Hurt us —we Luckily Succeeded—and gave them four Swans" and the Wombat" for all thair Spear's they Seemed much pleased with thair Bargain" they Went away Holding up one Hand as a Sign of frienship we Were Equally pleased When they Were gone we saw no more of them, During the Evening a Great Number of Smoaks ware made along the Coast Which we thought to be Signals" Betwen the Natives

We Remained on the Beach that Night and got our arms" dried and put in firing order Keeping a Good Watch, in Case the Natives Should pay us another Visit— On Examining our Bread flour Tea Sugar etc we found it nearly all Spoiled Which Caused us to go on Short allowance" —

on the Morning of the 3d of January at Day Light we Launched and proceeded to the Northward towards Cape Grim" it was Nearly Calm" during the day with a

Heavy Swell from the Westward we had to pull' Nearly the Whole of the Day in the Evening Hauld up in a Small Nook about 9 Miles to the Southard of Cape Grim"—

on the<sup>e</sup> Morning of the 4th Launched and Stood to the Northward with a Light Breze at South East—about Noon Rounded Cape Grim" we passed Between two Pinnical Rocks that Lies Near the Cape we Were Nearly filled in a tide Rip Going through but Luckily Escaped We pulled along Shore to the Eastward untill we Came to the South End of the Largest Hunters Island we Landed on a point oposite on the Main Land on a Large flat of Pebble Stones to Boil our Kettle" and take a Rest there was a Great many fires along the Shore we Kept the Boat afloat and the arms" Ready in Case of an attack by the Natives Tooms" and Jones" were Left to take Care of the Boat and Have the arms" in Readiness" we had Just got a fire Lighted When we Saw a Large Body of Natives at Least fifty in Number Standing at the Edge of the Bush about fifty yards from us they Were all armed with Spears" and Waddies We Immediately Brought the arms" from the Boat and put ourselves" in a State of Defence" Near the fire they Began to advance Slowly towards us We held up our Pieces" and made Signs to them not to Come any Closer" they Held up thair Spears" in Return with Loud-Laughing and Jeering" at us as if they thought we Were afraid of them at Seeing them so formidable" We thought it best to Retreat to the Boat, When all of a Sudden they Laid Down thair Spears and Waddies in the Edge of the Bush and holding up Both thair Hands as if they did not mean any Mischief, at the Same time Making Signs to us to Lay Down our arms" Which we did To Satisfy them for if we had Retreated to the Boat quickly they Must Have Killed Every one, Before we Could Have got out of the Reach of thair Spears x—they then Began to Come to us one by one Holding up Both thair Hands to Show they had no Weapon" But we Kept a good Lookout that they had no Spears between thair toes as they had on a former occasion" but they had none"—there was 20) Twenty two Came to the fire (we Made Signs to them that no more Should Come") upon that being Understood two More Came from the Bush together one of them Seemed to be a Chief a Stout good Looking Man about Six feet High 30 years of age, the other an old Man about Six feet Seven Inches High with Scarcely" a Bit of flesh" on his Bones. When the Chief Came he ordered them all to sit Down on the Ground Which they did and formed a Sort of Circle" Round the fire, the Chief ordered the old Man to Dance and Sing, as if to amuse us Which he did, Making

ugly faces and putting himself into Most Singular attitudes. While the old Man Was Engaged in his Dancing and Singing we found out it was only to take our attention off What the Chief and his Men Were Doing, he ordered them to gather pebble Stones about the Size of Hens Eggs and put them Between thair Legs Where they Sat for the purpose as we Supposed to make an attack on us with the Stones at this our Men Began to get alarmed and Expecting some Mischief Would be Done We planed it to give them a few Swans" and get off as Well as we Could—Briggs—Brought two Swans" from the Boat one under Each arm When the Chief Saw them he Rushed at Briggs to take the Swans" from him but did not Succeed he then ordered his men to give us a Volley" of Stones Which they did by him giving them the time in most Beautiful order by him Calling With the Swing of the arm three times Yah". yah". yah", and a Severe Volley it Was, I Had a pair of Large Dueling Pistols in my Coat pocket Loaded with two Balls Each and seeing there Was no, alternative" I fired one amongst them, Which Dispersed them the other I fired after them as they Ran away two of them Draged Briggs along the Ground a little Distance to get the Swans" from him but did not Succeed—the Chief and his men Run into the Bush and Was quickly" out of Sight—on Looking Round after they had all Ran" away we found the 6 feet 7 inch Dancing Gentleman Laying on his Back on the Ground We thought of Course he was Dead" but on turning him over to Examine his Wounds" found he had not a Blemish on him, his Pulse" was going at 130" it must have been the Report of the Pistols" that frightened him, We then set him on his feet to See if he Could Walk he opened his Eyes" and trembled Verry Much We Led him a few Steps towards the Bush he stood up Straight Looked around him and took one Jump towards the Bush the Next Leap" he was out of Sight as Soon as he was out of Sight the Hills around Echoed" with Shouts of Joy" from the Voices of Men Women" and Children that the Daning" Gentleman had escaped—We measured the first Jump the old Man took, it was Exactly Eleven" yards but the Second one must have been More this was More Like the Jump of a Kangaroo" than a Man—

We found Several Marks of Blood on the Stones in the Direction that the Natives Run away When the Pistols was fired, Some of them must have been Wounded, we got into our Boat, Just as we Were pulling away we Received a Volley" of Stones and Spears from the Natives one Spear Went through the Side of the Boat But Luck-

ily" no one was Hurt We Landed on a Small Rock Covered with Birds they Were Laying we got Six Buckets full of fresh Eggs" a good Supply"

this Seemed to offend the Natives as a Number of Women Came down on a point of Rocks and abused" us Verry Much for taking thair Eggs" We pulled to a Small Island 3 Miles to the North East" one of the Hunters Islands Where we Hauled up for the Night

On the 5th at Daylight we Launched with a Light Breze at N.W. and Went into Robins" Passage"—Examined it, in the Evening Hauled up for the Night in the East End of the Passage—

on the 6th in the Morning" We Launched with a Light Breze" at South West and pulled along Shore towards Circular Head at Sun Set Hauled up for the Night on the Beach" at the South East side of the Head—on the 7th at Day Light Launched with a Strong Breze" from the Westward and Run along Shore all the Day to the Eastward at Sun Set Hauled up on a Pebbly" Beach about Forty Miles" from Circular Head—The 8th Strong Brezes from the Westward at Day Light Launched and Run along Shore to the Eastward, this Day" Run a Long Distance" at Sun Set arrived at What was Called the first Western" River—We hauld up for the Night this River has Since been Called Port Sorell"—(3)

9th at Daylight Launched Wind North West and Steered towards Port Dalrymple" at Noon arrivd at George" town, on Landing at the Wharf we Were Hailed by a Man Like a Soldier"—Who, are you What Boat is that Before we had time to answer" Eight Men Rushed from Bihind an old Building with Muskets' and fixed Bayonets" in thair Hands Sayaing if you Move we Will Kill Every Man of you, one of them Seemed to be an officer" he had a Double Barrel in his hand Himself and the Rest Were all Dressed in Kangaroo Skin and a Ruffian" Like Mob" they Were, the officer Said have you any arms" in the Boat, the answer Was yes" plenty, he then said Sargeant Handcuff them all and hand the arms" out of the Boat—we were Handcuffed two and two as we Came out of the Boat But the Captain of the Boat had the Honor of being Handcuffed by himself When we were out of the Boat Standing on the Wharf the officer Said now my Ladds" What Have you to Say for yourselves" I have been a Long time Looking for you and have got you at Last"—

(3.) [Note the wording:—This has *since* been called Port Sorell. Colonel William Sorell held office as Lieutenant Governor from 8th April, 1817, until 1824. The designation was probably changed during his term of office.—Ed.]

you are the Collegues" of Michael Howe the Bushranger and if you do not give me all the Information—Where we Can find Howe and his party I will send you all to Hobart Town in Double Irons I told him we Knew nothing of Howe" and that we Were on a Voyage of Discovery Round the West Coast of Van Diemens' Land he Laughed at this and Said that Story went do for me I then Recognised" him to be Major Stuart 46th Regiment Comdant at Launceston—I put my hand into my Waistcoat Pocket to find the Key" of the Ammunition" Box" Where our Port Clearance" Was Kept, he in a flurry" Said Sergeant Mind he is puting his hand in his Pocket I Supposed the Gallant Major" thought I was going to take out a Pistol to shoot him the Serjeant Seized my hand and Said what are you going to do—I said there is the Key of the Box" that will give you all the Information you Require.

the Sargeant unlocked the Box and took out the amunition" the Journal" and Port Clearance" Which he handed to the Major it Was a printed form in the Usual" Way filled up and to the following" Effect—

Commandants Office

Military Barracks Hobart Town

Those are to Certify to all Whome it May Concern" that the Boat Elizabeth" Commanded by Mr. James Kelly" was Cleared out for the West Coast of Van Diemens Land on a Voyage of Discovery after Having paid the Acustomed Dues

Given under my hand

this 11th Day of December, 1815

in the absence" of the Lieutenant

Governor

Wm. Nairn,

Captain 46th Regiment

Commandant.

the Names of the following Persons" who Comprised the Crew of the Boat was Written in the Margin" of the Clearance"

John . Griffiths

George . Briggs"

William Jones—

Thomas Tooms"

When the Major Received the Clearance" from the Serjeant he turned Round and Walked a few paces Seem-

ing to Examine" it Verry Minutely, in a few Minutues" he Returned—and Said—

How Long" have you been from Hobart Town—the Answer was from the Date of that Clearance" Have you Seen any Military parties in Search of Bushrangers", not any, Have you seen any Boats or Vessels on the Coast, Not any, When you Left Hobart Town Were you aware that Bushranger's Was out, Yes", Where was the Lieutenant Governor, it was Said he was gone to the Lakes", he asked Several other questions, he then Said Sergeant toake the Handcuffs" off those Men, the order was obeyed, he said Which of you is the person in Charge of this Boat Mr. Kelly answered, I am, Are you the Person Who was Master of the Brig Sophia" Some time ago at Hobart Town, I am, Have you Ever Seen me Before Mr. Kelly, O" yes, Repeatedly, Where, at Hobart Town I have Dined With you often at Mr. Birches" in the Castle" Still Holding the Clearance in his hand Reading it and Could Scarcely" Believe it he Said is it Usual" at Hobart Town to give Clearances" Such as this to open" Boats going Round the Coast, Mr. Kelly answered it Was" and Was always the Case Since Martial Law Commenced" in this Island he then Called the Mens Names over one by one from the Clearance" and asked them a Great many questions Still Looking Verry Suspiciously" at them

the Major said now Mr. Kelly" are you quite Sure you Know who I am, the answer" was O" yes I Cannot Mistake you, you are Major Stuart" of the 46th Reigment Commandant at Launceston—the Major then Said Mr. Kelly I am quite Satisfied Who you are give me your Hand and I am Verry Sorry for What has hapened that was puting yourself and your men in Irons" But had it not been for the Port Clearance" I Certainly Could not have Believed But you Were an associate" of Michael Howe the Bushranger", However you must Come up to the Government Cotage and accept of a Knife and fork and a bed at my quarters While you Remain at George Town—Sergeant you will haul Mr. Kellys Boat up Close to the Barracks—Let the oars etc. with the arrms" be secured in the Guard house and Let his Men Live With the Soldiers, give them plenty to Eat and Grog" but Dont Let them get Drunk,

Here was a Chang in the State of affairs" Mr. Kelly a Prisoner" in Handcuffs" and in a few Hours Released and Seated at the Majors" table Dining and partaking of a Bottle of his Best Wine," after Dinner the Major"

Related to Mr. Kelly that he had only Returned to to George Town, the Day previous that he had been out with a Strong party of Military" for the Last Six Weeks" Round the North East Coast in search of Howe" and his party but heard nothing of them

that he had Received Information that Howe" Intended to Lay Wait at the Entrance of the Tamer" to Capture a Boat or a Vessel" that he Might make his Escape over to the Coast of New Holland—Mr. Kelly Spent the Night in the Majors quarters and Having a good Nights Sleep on a good Bed Having been Sleeping in the open air by a fire Side for twenty five Nights Previous he awoke in the Morning and found himself Verry Much Refreshed his men was also well housed and good Beding in the Soldiers Barracks

10th January We Remained this Day at George Town under the Majors Hospitable Roof During the Day he ordered the Seargeant to open the Public" Store and Issue to us as Much Provisions, Such as flour Tea Sugar Beef Pork Spirits etc. as we thought proper to ask for he also Remarked that the Mens Beding and Cloathing were not Sufficient for Such a Voyage as we were on he ordered the Seargeant who was the Store Keeper to Issue to Each Man one Pair of Blankets and one Suit of Slops, this Being all Public Property Mr. K. offered to give a Draft on Hobart Town for the Whole amount of the Supplies We had Received but the Generous" Major said No you shall not pay any thing for What you have Received I will account to the Government for all, you are on a Voyage of Discovery What you are Doing is for the Public Good and for the Good of this Colony—in the Evening Every thing was Ready to Start the Next Morning and took another Night of the Majors Hospitality—the Major prepared a Despatch adressed to the Lieutenant Governor at Hobart Town" informing him of What he had Done with Mr. Kelly" and that Mr. Kelly had offered his Services in the Event of him falling in with Howe" and his party to Return to George Town or proceed on to Hobart Town Which Ever might be most Convenient to inform the Government of Howes" Position—Mr. Kelly was also Requested that in the Event of him Coming in Contact with the Bushrangers to Destroy the Despatch for fear of them falling into Howes" Hands

it was not often that Communication Could be Had by the Government" between Hobart Town and George Town, in Consequence of Howes" Formidable' Position in the Bush" and Repeatedly Sending threatening Letters to

the Lieutenant Governor telling him that he Should open all his Despatches—and the Armed—Messengers” who Conveyed them if they Were Soldiers he would hang them up by the Heels to a tree Let thair Intrils out and Leave them Hanging Just as he would do a Kangaroo” and that he would Serve the Governor or any of his officers in the Same way but more Particularly” Mr. Humphrey the Police Magistrate” Who he termed his Bitter Enemy”—

11th January 1816—all this day it Blew a Strong Gale from the Northward Which prevented us from Launching but got our Boat and Geer in good order to Start the first fair Wind—12th January after Partaking of a Good Early Breakfast With the Major we Launched with a fine Breze from the Westward and was soon Clear of Port Dalrymple Having taken Leave of Major Stuart” and all his party thanking him and them for thair Kindness We Steered along the Coast to the Eastward and in the Evening hauled up on Waterhouse Island Where we Remained the Night, before We Landed a Smoke was Seen opisite the Island on the Main Land Which we though might have been Howe and his party but on Looking with the Glass” we Saw it was a Large Mob of Natives Walking along the Beach

13th January at Daylight Launched with a fine Breze from the Westward and Clear Weather and Run along the Shore” to the Eastward at Noon Landed on Ringarooma” Point Here we Suddenly fell in with a Large Mob” of Natives Who at the first aparance Seemed Hostile but on Seeing Briggs, they all Knew him Well particularly the Chief Whose Name was Lamanbunganah” he seemed Delighted at Seeing Briggs and told him that he was at War with his own Brother Tolobunganah” Who was then on the Coast Near Eddistone” point, a most Powerful Chief Who Briggs also Knew Verry Well, Briggs at this time had on the Island two Wives and five Children that he had Left During his absence to Hobart Town, and had taken this trip in the Boat Round the West Coast thinking he might fall in with Some of his—Black Relations,” Near Cape Portland, one of his Wives was a Daughter of the Chief Lamanbunganah” we just fell in with, Briggs Generally” Called his father in Law Laman” for Shortness the Chief Made Enquiry after his Daughter and was told that She and her Children Was Safe over on Cape Barren” Laman Said he Knew that for he Saw her Smokes almost Every Day”— after Some further Discourse Laman asked Briggs if he had any fire arms in the Boat he told them we Were

Well armed Laman Said he was Glad of that—as he had heard that five or Six White Men Well armed was with his Brother—Tolobunganah” at Edistone Point and that they Intended to Come and attack” him and Kill them all he Intreated Briggs to Join him and go and Meet them and Fight it out Briggs of Course Declined telling him that he had no Controle” over the Boat and that Mr. Kelly Could not agree to any Such proposal,” at this Laman Seemed Verry much Dissatisfied and told Briggs in a Verry Hostile Tone that he had often Before gone with him to fight other Tribes” when he Wanted Women”—Laman then gave a Loud Coo” and in two Minutes we Were Surrounded by above fifty Natives Laman” Said to Briggs now we Will force you to go with us and fight Tolo” he meant the Chief his Brother the White Men Spoken of We of Course thought must be Howe and his party—Briggs asked if they had a Boat Laman” Said no

We now got Much alarmed at the Dangerous Situation” we Were in, and as an Excuse to get away—Briggs told Laman” that we would go over to Cape Barren and fetch his Wife Lamans” Daughter also that we would get five or Six of the Sealers to Join us with plenty of fire arms We would Come over and fight them Laman” Seemed much pleased and asked when we would go. Briggs Said we would Start Directly—Sleep to Night on Swan” Island and Tomorrow Morning go over To to Cape Barren and Return in three Days Laman” and all his Mob was much pleased at this arrangement,” the Boat was Launched We pulled to Swan Island and Hauled up for the Night, Much pleased with the Escape we made from Lamanbunganah” and his Mob—Had we Refused or Resisted his proposal to fight he would have taken the Boat and Killed Every man of us as it was Impossible we Could have Stood against Such a Number of Natives

Briggs had been Employed as a Sealer” on the Islands in Bass’ Straits for many years Previously and had acquired the Native Language” of the North East Coast of Van Diemens” Land fluently in Consequence of often having gone over from the Isands To Cape Portland to Barter with the Natives for Kangaroo Skins also to purchase the Young Grown” up Native females to Keep them as their Wives and for Hunting Kangaroos” and Catching Seals, Both for thair Skins they Were Wonderfully Dexterous”

The Custom of the Sealers” in the Straits was that Every man Should have from two to five of those Native

Women for their own use and Benefit to select any of them they thought proper to Cohabit with as their Wives—In fact a Large Number of Children had been produced between these people the White man and the Black Woman and a fine active Race of People they Were Both for Hunting Kangaroo and Catching Seals the men good Boat men the Women Good assistants to them, they were of a Light Copper Colour and Generally Verry good Looking—14th January, Launched from, Swan Island with a Moderate Breze at North West and Steered along Shore to the South East. Soon after Leaving the Island we saw Smokes on the Shore and Some Natives walking on the Beach Which we Supposed to be our friend Laman and his tribe they Called and made Signals to us to Come on Shore but we took no Notice of them Having had so Narrow an Escape the Day before Just Before Sun Set we hauled up on King George Island or Rocks on a Small Sandy Beach Not Wishing to give a Chance to Mr. Tolobunganah to Serve us as Mr. Lamanbunganah had Done the Day before for While we were on the Island we were Safe from thair atacks—Here we found a Large Number of Seals Laying on the Rocks Basking in the Sun, but having no Salt with us to Cure the Skins we thought it useless to Kill them, on the following Day the—15th January the Wind Set in at South East and fine Weather

We thought it Needless to Lay Idle with a foul Wind and being Provided with Knives Steels and Clubs and Being all old Hands at Sealing into the Bargain, we Commenced Killing and flinching the Skin from the Body and Streching it out on the Grass with Wooden pegs it was Dried in the Sun and in one day Became Perfectly Cured this day by the above Process we Killed flinched and Peged out thirty Skins the following Day — 16th January we Killed flinched and Peged out twenty five Seal Skins—Wind Southerly and fine Weather—Several Smokes on the Shore oposite the Island and a Large Number of Natives on the Beach this day Caught ten young Cape Barren Geese Which afforded us fresh Grub and with a little of the Majors fine pork we lived Sump-tuously.

17th January this Day Wind South East and fine Weather found the Seals geting Shy of Coming up on the Rocks we gave them a Rest as it would not do to Storm them only at Low Water—at Noon—Launched the Boat and Went over to see the Natives and took with us four Seals Carcases that had been Skined and four young Pups alive about three Weeks old, we did not go Closeer to the

Beach than Musket Shot for fear" of Being Surprised by a Shot from Howe and his Party" Briggs Stood up in the Boat and Called out to the Natives in thair Language to Come to the Water Side, they seemed Shy untill he told them who he was When an old Man Rushed up to his Middle in the Water Briggs Called to him to Swim to the Boat Which he did we hauled him in turned out to be the old Chief Tolobunganah" he was over Joyed at Seeing Briggs and asked if he had Seen his Brother Laman" he Said No" Tolo" asked where we Came from Briggs said from Cape" Barren" by Way of Swan Island Tolo" said I Know that I Saw you Come from there. We then pulled a Little Distance along the Beach" to a Small Rock that lay off about fifty yards from the Shore. Tolo"-

Continud from first Book—

17th January 1816 from first Book Continud, Tolobunganah" Stood up in the Boat and Called to the x Natives" about twenty of them Came down to the Water Side they all Knew Briggs and Seemed Glad to See him, we made Tolo" a present of the four Dead Seals and the four Live pups" at Which he seemed much pleased—Immediately after they got the Seals Six Women Came Down to the Water Side Each with a Dead Kangaroo" on their Shoulders Tolo" ordered them to be Brought to the Boat—and Said that we Must Receive in Exchange for the Seals" we had Given them, that they had no more Kangaroo but tomorrow they would catch plenty, Tolo" Seemed anxious that we should Come on Shore We Declined

17th January 1816 Continued

by telling the Natives that we We did not wish to Come in Contact with the Six white men they had Seen" Tolo" asked if we Were Frightened of them, Briggs said no—but they were bad men and we Wanted to Know Whereabouts" they was—

all these Excuses" we was obliged to make to get all the friendly" Information we Could from the Natives Relative to Howe and his Party as we were still of opinion that they was Near at Hand but the Natives assured us that they was Gone a Long Distance to the Southard towards Saint Patricks" head we took Leave of Tolo" and his Mob in the Evning" and told them that we Should Come over Next day and Bring them More Seals at Which they Seemed Delighted and Said that if we Brought them plenty of Seals, they would give us plenty of Kangaroo" and thair Skins in Return—the Wind being fair we Run over to the Island Hauled the Boat up and Had a good Kangaroo Steamer for Supper the first we had this Voyage.

18th January 1816 at day Light it being Low Water there was a good Number of Seals up on the Rocks we Stormed them, and Killed, twenty Which we Skined and pegged out to Dry the Weather was Verry fine Wind from the South East, this, day found the fresh Water on the Island geting Short and Verry Brackish, Launched the Boat and put our three Water Kegs into her to get the Natives to fill them with fresh Water we also put into the Boat twenty of the Seals Carcases to Barter With the Natives for Kangaroo Skins, we also took Six young Seal pups alive as presents, Early in the morning Signal Smokes was made on the Beach for us to Come over according to Promise

on arrivcing at the Beach We did not See a Native Which Made us think there was something the Matter we waited about half an hour When we saw Tolobunganah Make his appearance on the Beach We Called to him to Come to the Rock Where he had been the day previous he Came we asked him why he did not Come to the Boat when we first arrived he said that all the Natives was in the Bush Hunting Kangaroo and geting Skins but they would be Here Shortly, we had still a Suspision that Howe was with the Natives but Tolo assured us he was not we told him we wanted our three Kegs filled with fresh Water and that we Would Buy all the Kangaroo Skins he had; in about twenty Minutes the Whole tribe Came down on the Beach there were about Two. Hundred Men Women and Children and at Least fifty Dogs on seeing them approach we pulled the Boat out from the Shore a Little Distance Leaving Tolo on the Rock and got our Arms and Examined them, to see that they were in firing order We held up 3 or 4 Seals Carcases and told them we Wanted to Barter for Kangaroo Skins Tolo ordered Ten Women to go into the Water Each Loaded With Kangaroo and Skins we then gave the Women the Seals Carcases we Brought over they Carried them to the Mob and Returned Immediately to the Boat With another Load of Skins as Payment for the Seals we then Requested Tolo to fill our Kegs with fresh Water Which he Did but we would not Let them take away more than one Keg at a time for fear they should not Bring them all Back at Which Tolo Seemed Displeasd—

The Natives asked if we Would Bring over more Seals Tomorrow Briggs told them they were geting Scarce and Shy of Being Caught Tolo told Briggs We had Better take Some Women over to the Island to assist in Catching Seals at Which they Were Verry Dexterous This Being agreed on Tolo ordered Six Stout Women to

go into the Boat which they Did and seemed Delighted the Wind being fair We run over to the Island Hauled the Boat up, and Pegged the Kangaroo" Skins out to Dry, the Women on Seeing the Seals on some of the outer Rocks Were Verry "anxious" to Commence" Catching them, Briggs having Been a Long time on the Islands in Bass' Straits with the Native Women as a Scaler was Well Acquainted with the Mode of them Catching Seals" and a Most Singular Mode it is, It is here Described

We gave the Women Each a Club that We had used to Kill Seals" with they went to the Waters Edge and Wet themselves" all over their head and Body as they Said to Prevent the Seals from Smeling them as they Walked along the Rocks they Were Verry Cautious not to go to Windward of them as they Said a Seal Would sooner Believe his Nose than his Eyes" When a Man or Woman Came Near him, the Six Women Walked into The Water two and two and Swam to three Rocks about 50 yards from the Shore Each Rock had about 9 or 10 Seals on it they were all Laying aparently asleep, Two Women went to Each Rock with their Clubs in hand Each of them Crept Slowly Close up to their Seal and Lay Down with their Club alongside them Some of the Seals aRose their heads up to Look at their New Visitors and Smell them Scratchd themselves and Lay Down again—this Was Done by their fin or flipper

the Women Went Nearly through the Same Motion as the Seal Did by holding up the Left Elbow a little and Scratching themselves With their Left hands Keeping the Club firm in the Right hand Ready for the attack—the Seals Seemed Verry Cautious" Now and then Lifting up their heads Looking around Scratching themselves with their flippers and Laying their heads Down again, the Women went through the Same Motions as Near as possible—after they had been Laying on the Rocks for Nearly an hour the Sea ceationly washing over them and they quite Naked We—Could not tell their meaning for Remaining So Long all of a Sudden the Women aRose" up on their Seats their Clubs up at arms Length—Each Struck a Seal on the Nose Which Killed him, and in an Instant they all Jumped up as if by Magic and Killed one More Each, after giving the the Seals Several Blows on the head and Securing them, they Commenced Loud Laughing and Dancing as if they had gained a great Victory" over the Seals, Each of them Draged a Seal into the Water and Swam with it to the Rock Where we was Standing and then Swam Back to the Rock and Brought one more Each Which made twelve Seals the Skins of Which being worth

one pound each in Hobart Town Was not a Bad Beginning by the Black Ladies, the Six Women then went to the top of a Small Hill and Made Smoaks as Signals to the Natives on the Main that they had been Killing Seals Which was soon answered by Smoaks' on the Beach We Skined the Seals and peged them out to Dry the Women then Commenced—Cooking their Supper Each Cut a Shoulder off a young Seal Weighing three or four pounds and threw them on the fire When they were about Half Done they Commenced Devouring them and Rubing the oil on thair Skin Saying they had a Glorious Meal.

19th January 1816

at Daylight being Low Water the Women Began Killing Seals they would not Let us Come Near until they had Killed all that Could be got on the Beach they Killed twenty six before Brakfast, the Weather being fine Wind South East, the Remainder of the Day was Spent Catching and Killing Seals Principally by the Women

20th January 1816

at Sun Rise Smoaks were made on the Main, the Women Said they were Signals for us to Come over we were Employed until Noon Killing and Skining Seals Mostly by the Women Swimming to the outer Rocks the Seals geting Verry Shy we only Succeeded in geting Sixteen Skins in the Evening Launched the Boat and Went over to the Main Took two of the Women and Loaded the Boat with Carcases of the Seals we had Skined, on arrival at the Beach Tolobunganah' was there the two Women told him What we had Done he was Delighted to See the Boat Loaded with Seals he told us he had plenty of Kangaroo and Skins for us in payment for the Seals We threw the Seals into the Water the two Women Draged them to the Beach Tolo ordcred the Mob, to take them all into the Bush in a few Minutes they Returned with ten Dead Kangaroo and about Ninety Skins Tolo Enquired how Long we Should want the Women we told him about two or three days as the Seals were geting Scarce we should not Stay Longer he ordered the two Women to go over with us and Stop as Long as we Required them the Wind being from the Westward we Run over to the Island and hauled the Boat up the four Women we left on the Island informed us that During our absence they had Caught Six Seals.

21t January 1816

During this Day fresh Brezes at South West and fine Weather Employed Drying and packing Skins in Bundles

Ready for a Start, Killed and Skined Eleven Seals the Women Employed Roasting a Large Number of Seals—Flippers and Shoulders Ready to take over with them they informed us that if We gave them Some Seals for the trouble they had been at in Catching them the Chief Tolo' would not Let them Keep them but if the Shoulders and flippers Were Roasted they Might Keep them and do as they pleased with them so the Ladies were Determined to have a good Stock of fresh Meat to take home with them

22d January 1816

During this Day the Wind blew—Strong from the Eastward and thick Weather, Killed and Skined Eleven Seals the Women Employed Roasting Seals Shoulders and flippers

23d January 1816

first part of this Day fresh Brezes from the Southard and fine Weather the Women Killed five Seals on the outer Rocks at Noon Loaded the Boat with Seals Carcases the Women and thair Roasted Meat and took them over to the Main on our arrival at the Beach Tolo' and all his Mob Came Down they had a few Dead Kangaroo and about fifty Skins they Were Verry Much pleased to See the Boat Loaded with Dead Seals, we threw them out of the Boat Tolo' ordered them to be put in a Heap on the Beach, he also ordered the Six Women to take thair Roasted flippers and Shoulders into the Bush, Briggs then told Tolo' that we Should Start Tomorrow from the Island and that we should now take our Leave of them at Which the Women all Began to Cry' in Fact the Whole Mob Seemed full of Sorrow that we Were about to Leave them Tolo' then told Briggs not to go away untill they Had a Dance, the Whole Mob about three Hundred in Number formed a Line in three Divisions the Men in one the Women in one and the Children in one Tolobunganah then gave the Signal to Commence the Dance and a most Singular Dance it was, the Women Began in the Center with a Song Joining thair hands forming a Circle and Dancing Round the Heap of Dead Seals then throwing themselves Down on the Sand and puting themselves into Most Singular attitudes Beating the Lower part of thair Bodies with thair hands and Kicking the Sand over Each other With thair feet the Men and Children Laughing Verry Much Seeming to Enjoy the Sport the Women then all Sat Down. the Children had a Similar Dance to the Woman and Sat Down the Men then Commenced a Sort of Sham fight with Spears and Waddies then Dancing Round the heap of Dead Seals' and Sticking

thair Spears into them as if they Were Killing them all this Lasted about an hour Tolo then told us the Dance was over he asked Briggs Where we Where going when we Left the Isand Briggs told him we Where going to Cape Barren and if he Saw the White Men Meaning Howe and his party to tell them So this was to Deceive them in Case they Should try to Waylay us on our way to Hobart Town the Wind being fair we Run over to the Isand hauld the Boat up and Began to pack our Skins Ready for a Start Next Morning if the Wind and Weather should Permit

24th January 1816

at Sun Rise the Wind North West and fine Weather Launched the Boat got all the Skins Provisions &c. into her after Breakfast Started with a fine Breze at North and Steered along Shore to the Southard the Natives made three Smoaks to Say good Bye We found after Leaving King George' Island and Rocks we had been there Nine Days and had procurd one Hundred and Seventy two Seal skins and two Hundred and forty six Kangaroo Skins from the Natives, the Whole Value of Which is £180 at Hobart Town we Run to the Southard untill Sun Set When we hauled up for the Night on a Small Sandy Beach at the South Side of the Bay of fires —

25th January 1816

Throughout this day strong Brezes from the Westward at Sun Rise Launched and Stood along Shore to the Southard under the Reefed Lug in the Evening Squally with Rain Hauled up on a Small Beach under Saint Patricks Head for the Night

26th January 1816

all this Day Strong Brezes from W S W, at Sun Rise Launched and pulled along Shore to the Southard a Heavy Swell Seting from the Southard in the afternoon Hauled up in Waubs' (4) Boat Harbour a Heavy Surf on the Beach Half filled the Boat Landing Which Wet all the skins

27th January 1816

all this day fresh Gales at South West Employed Drying the Skins and Cleaning the arms in the Evening a Small party of Natives Came along the Beach Close to

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(4.) [The reference to Waub's Harbour is of interest. This designation was apparently given to the locality in honour of Waubedobar, an aboriginal woman who was probably of some importance in the district, as on her death she was buried there, and a stone erected to her memory. The inscription on the stone is as follows:—"Here lies "Waubedobar a female aborigine of Van Diemens Land died June "1832, aged 40 years. This stone was erected by a few of her white "friends."—Ed.]

us but Seeing our Number they Returned and went into the Bush

28th January 1816

all this Day Light Brezes at North West and fine Weather at Daylight Launched and Stood along Shore to the Southard at Noon Passed Wine Glass Bay Winds Light pulling along Shore to the Southard at Sun Set Hauled up on the North Side of Schouten Island in the Boat Harbour for the Night Saw a Large Number of Natives on the Island Which Caused us to Keep Watch During the Night for fear of an attack by them

29th January 1816

at Daylight a fine Breze from the Northward. Launched and Stood Round the West End of the Island at 8 a m Landed on the White Rock in oyster bay and Killed Six Seals" put thair Skins into the Boat and Made sail to the Southard Saw Several Natives on Maria" Island Runing along the Beach Calling to us to Come on Shore Which we Declined in the Evening Hauled up in the Inlet Near East Bay Neck and Began to Carry our things over the Neck Ready to Haul the Boat over Next morning—

30th January 1816

at Daylight Hauled the Boat over East Bay Neck got all the things into her and Made Sail for Hobart Town With a fine Breze from the Northward at Noon passed Iron Pot Island and Entered the Derwent at 4 P M arrived at Hobart Town Discharged the Boat and Hauled her up — this Day finishes our Voyage of Discovery Round Van Diemens Land Having Been Forty Nine Days absent Without Meeting with any accident or Danger further than what is Contained in this Journal" Which is a true Narative of What Tranpired"

James Kelly.