Presented to
The Friends' School.
Hobart.
Tasmania.

By Rogers Clark
1912-1925.

The manuscript is in the hand writing of George Washington Walker, and was presented by him to Margaret Bragg of Newcastle upon Tyne, England.

He had been engaged to her daughter, Mary Bragg, but she died in 1829, and afterwards accompanied James Backhouse on his Australasian journey, and settled at Hobart. He always maintained an affectionate correspondence with Margaret Bragg till her death in 1840, and sent her many interesting shell plaits which remain in the possession of her descendants.

He named a daughter after her.
(see stone in Friends Burial Ground, Hobart)
Isaac Wilson = Rachel Wilson 1464
of Higher Wray Winderdale

Margaret Wilson = Hadwen Bragg 1490
of Kendal

Rachel = Jonathan Priestman 1814
of Newcastle upon Tyne

Elizabeth = John Bright 1839
of Rochdale

Helen Priestman = Mrs. S. Clark 1866
of Street Somerset.

John Bright  

Roger = Sarah Bancroft 1900
[Wilmington, Del., U.S.A.]

John Bright & Roger Clark visited Hobart School
& Benjamin B. LeTall in 1898 & were
kindly welcomed by James Backhouse Backer
(son of G.W.W.) who while being educated
at Bootham School, York, England, had
spent his holidays at the house of
Margaret Bragg's daughter, Rachel Priestman,
at Newcastle upon Tyne.
Original Essays
on
Convict Discipline.

By

Captain Alex. Maconochie, R.N.

1837.

With some
Letters, &c.
in further illustration of the same
Subject.

By

Jas. Backhouse & Geo. W. Walker

1837.
Contents.

1. Introductory Note
   Page V.

2. Letter to Sir John Franklin. By Captain Maconochie. R. N.
   3

3. Report on Convict Discipline
   5

4. Notes to Dr. Dr. Dr.
   35

5. Observations in Answer to the Remarks of Matthew Foster (Chief Police Magistrate in Van Diemen's Land) on the previous Report.

6. Supplement to Report on Convict Discipline
   115

7. Summary of Papers on Convict Discipline addressed to the British Government
   139

8. Essay on Convict Discipline; intended to have been submitted to the Settlers of V. D. L.
   163

9. Dr. Turnbull's Objections to the proposed Changes in Convict Discipline, Answered.
   175

    195

    203

12. Index
    223
Introductory Note.

The following Documents, transcribed chiefly during a lengthened voyage from Van Diemen's Land to the Cape of Good Hope, as I could find leisure, were designed not merely for my own satisfaction, what I might retain in my possession a record of the many just and enlightened sentiments they set forth, but also that such of my friends as were interested in the subject of Penal Discipline, and who might not have access to the Essays through a more convenient medium, should have the opportunity of perusing them. I am led to hope, that this will in some degree subservice the cause of humanity, in tending to diffuse correct ideas both as regards the present state of Convict Discipline in the Colonies, and the principles which should form the basis of any changes that may be resorted to in the re-modelling of the system. In public questions of this nature, Government is open to the influence of popular opinion. It is therefore highly important that our Countrymen should in the first place be possessed of correct data on which to found their conclusions, and that those conclusions being properly matured, they should be exposed on all suitable occasions. It is thus that we must seek for the correction of evils, such as shown in the course of these papers to exist, in the appropriate quarter.
When it is borne in mind that the present and everlasting well-being of more than 40,000 of our unhappy fellow creatures, comprising the Convict Population of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, is deeply involved in the issue of this question— to say nothing of the indirect, yet powerful influence which their treatment, (as productive of either improvement or deterioration of moral character) must have on the Free Inhabitants of those Colonies; it should surely operate as an inducement to the reflecting humane, but especially to Christians, to look into the matter; to lend their influence in bringing about a better order of things.

In Captain Macarthur's Letter to Sir John Franklin, (Page 3) where reference is made to the condition annexed by Sir George Gipps, as the organ of the Home Government, to the discussion of the subject of Penal Discipline, by the talented Author of the Essays, it will be seen that he is hardly at liberty to publish his views (a measure I should think highly expedient), until the result of his communications with the Home Government is ascertained. Whatever may be his ultimate decision in this respect, which is doubtful; I have his full permission to make use of the subjoined documents in the way I have proposed.

Should this Volume meet the eye of any who, though interested on the subject of Convict Discipline, have not leisure to go into it at length, I recommend the perusal, at least, of "The Summary" (Page 139) which includes a brief, and condensed view of the leading points under consideration. (Ed.) Especially the Scheme of Capt. W. Page (38)

Cape Town. George W. Walker.