



Presented to

The Friends' School.

Hobart.

Tasmania.

By Roger Clark
1918-1925.

The manuscript is in the hand writing of George Warlington Walker + 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 1828. + G. W. W. afterwards accompanied James Backhouse on his Australasian journey, + settled at Hobart. He always maintained an affectionate correspondence with Margaret Bragg till her death in 1840 + sent her many interesting shells, plants &c 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 1764
of High Wray
Windermere of Keudal

Margaret Wilson = Hadwen Bragg 1790
of Keudal

Rachel = Jonathan Priestman 1814
of Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Mary
engaged to
G. W. W.
died 1828.

Elizabeth = JOHN BRIGHT 1839
of Rochdale

Helen Priestman = W^m 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 Walker
(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.

I

Original Essays
on
Convict Discipline.

— By —
Captain Alex^r. Maconochie. R. N.

1837.

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

— By —
Jas. Backhouse & Geo. W. Walker.

1837.

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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, & that 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 on 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 subserve 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, these conclusions being properly matured, they should be expressed on all suitable occasions. It is thus that we must seek for the correction of evils, such as ^{are} shown in the course of these papers to exist, in the appropriate quarter.

When

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 Maconochie's Letter to Sir John Franklin, (Page 3) where reference is made to the condition annexed by Sir George Grey, 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, let me earnestly recommend the perusal, at least, of "The Summary" (Page 139) which includes a brief, and condensed view of the leading points under consideration. Read especially the Scheme of Capt. M. Page 30

Cape Town. } George W. Walker.
 So Africa. }
 25th Dec. 1838