

Sept 5<sup>th</sup>

Since I rec<sup>d</sup> the letter of

4<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> I have been think<sup>g</sup> how to  
alter the uniform<sup>ly</sup> req<sup>d</sup> for my own  
knowledge of the Aborigines was  
very small indeed. When we came  
to this country in 1829 & located on the  
ourselves in the district of Oyster Bay  
the tribe of Aborigines was ~~considered~~<sup>held</sup> to  
be a very dangerous one, the tribe either  
sometimes in a body or other times <sup>in</sup>  
~~altogether~~ or in separate parties travelled  
the Portwater or rather Kangaroo Pt up to  
the N.E. corner of the Island & in their  
journeys seized the opportunity of  
attacking & killing every one whom they  
found alone & unprotected. Our first  
experience of them was on settling at  
Melb<sup>n</sup> Francis & his wife & family were  
residing at Pt. ~~De~~ <sup>the Stat<sup>n</sup> Military Stat<sup>n</sup></sup>  
& Melb<sup>n</sup> 6 miles to the S<sup>th</sup> was being  
prepared for our future residence -  
3 men were <sup>being employ<sup>d</sup> to clear</sup> employ<sup>d</sup> in clearing a small  
piece of Land, <sup>with a Logoon through it</sup> fronting on a lagoon & having  
a small creek on each side, it was thick  
with trees, the men lived in a Hut on the  
creek side, whilst taking their breakfast  
they noticed the Bullocks running towards  
the Hut as if frightened by some thing  
but <sup>no further notice was paid</sup> ~~it passed off unnoticed~~ of having gone  
to their work, they placed their muskets  
at the butt of a tree that they were going  
to cut up for burning & commenced chopping  
off the branches when Jones looking  
off his work observed the natives ~~was~~  
sneaking upon them, he called out to  
Black & "gah the juces" but it was too

late, the natives got hold of the furs  
the men were so prostrated by the  
sudden appearance of the Blacks that  
they could not defend themselves &  
soon 2 of them were speared, <sup>the 2<sup>d</sup> escaped</sup> but  
swimming thro' the Lagoon the Blacks had  
to go round a distance before they could  
again overtake them, the one of the  
2 escaped the other go on to the beach &  
all but one of the natives gave up the  
pursuit, he however was more determined  
follow' along the beach. & every now &  
then throw' his waddie at him, the man  
however kept his eye upon the Black &  
deliberately avoided the weapon, on reaching  
the end of the beach the Blk gave up the  
pursuit - F. C. as was usual was going  
to the workmen when he was met by  
Jones, who ~~said~~ prayed him to make  
haste back for the Blks were coming &  
they had killed Rogers (the one on the beach)  
Rogers however was soon found & received  
Med. Attn<sup>n</sup> - The Report being taken up  
once to the Milt<sup>y</sup> Comd - the Soldiers &  
Constables were ~~sent~~ dispatched at once  
to the spot, but so wary were the natives  
that they stripped the spot of everything, both  
provisions & blankets & they had disappeared  
& could not be traced anywhere, they took  
also 2 Kangaroo Dogs - one of these returned in  
a few days hardly able to crawl for several  
spear wounds he however eventually recov'  
the other dog most likely remained with  
them - ~~As~~ wherever they found a chance  
they attacked - & so stealthily did they make  
their attacks, the persons were not aware  
of their being in the neighbourhood

It was only by knowing which way the tribe was travelling that persons were warned of their approach hearing of a murder committed in one place was a warning of to others to be on their guard & no one was safe to travel with a Gun, a gun not to fire upon them for that would have been certain death they knew you could only fire once without reloading & would lose the opportunity of resting upon one with their spears & waddies - It is said they were not aware of the necessity of reloading but thought the gun would "pop-pop" as long as the person pleaded - They seemed to be periodical in their visits confining themselves <sup>chiefly</sup> to the sea coast & not going far inland - Hunted Kangaroos with their dogs & obtaining also opossums - The women would dive in the sea after shellfish but it seems they never caught other fish no fish bones having ever been observed at their fires. & perhaps they may have had a prejudice against eating them as the Aborigines had <sup>of the coast</sup> against eating the native Currant a fruit which grows so abundantly in the Barossa & other Ranges, & which can be eaten by Europeans & children without any unpleasant effects but which when the Natives saw the Europeans collecting said "plenty people die soon" in Adelaide - They visited in the season the Lagoons for Swan Eggs -

G. A. Robinson