

Rp^{td} Fr^d[?]

Since I Rec^d thy letter of 4th Oc^{to}? I have been think^g how to obt^{ain}[?] the informatⁿ req^d - 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~~ held to be a very dangerous one, the tribe either ~~altogether~~ or in-sometimes in a body at other times in separate parties travelled f^{rom} Pitwater or rather Kangaroo Pt up to the NE corner of the Island & in their journeys served the opportunity of attacking & killing every one whom they found alone & unprotected. Our first experience of them was on settling at Kelvedⁿ-Francis Cotton his Wife & Family were residing at [illegible] ~~Ke-Statⁿ~~ [illegible] Statⁿ & Kelvedⁿ - 6 miles to the Sth was being prepared for our future residence - 3 men were ['beginning to clear' written above line] employed on clearing a small piece of Land, ['with a lagoon fronting it' written above line] 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 something but ['no further notice was partook' written above line] it passed off unnoticed as having gone to their work, they placed their muskets at the but[sic] of a tree that they were going to cut up for burning & commenced lopping off the branches when Jones looking off his work observed the natives [illegible crossed out word] sneaking up on them. he called out to Flache[?] "grab the juices[?]" but it was too late, the Natives [illegible] got hold of the Guns the men were so prostrated by the sudden appearance of the Blacks that they could not defend themselves & soon 2 of them were speared ['the 3^d escaped' written above line], but swimming thro' the Lagoon the Blacks had to go round a distance before they could again overtake them, ~~th~~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^g along the beach & every now and then throw^g his waddie at him, the man however kept his eye upon the Black & detrously[sic] avoided the weapon & on reaching the end of the Beach the Bl^k gave up the pursuit - Fl. as was usual was going to the workmen when he was met by Jones, who ~~said~~prayed him to make haste back for the B^{lks} were coming & they had killed Rogers (the one on the Beach Rogers however was soon found & Received Med.^c Attentⁿ The Report being taken at once to the Milty Comd^t the Sold^{rs} & Constables were ~~sent~~dispatched at once to the Spot, but so wary were the Natives that hav^g stripped the Hut of everything, ~~both~~provis^{ns} & blankets & they had disappeared & could not be traced any where, they took also 2 Kangaroo Dogs - one of these returned in a few days hardly able to crawl f^{rom} fever and spear wounds he however eventually recov^d the other dog most likely remained with them - ~~An~~Wherever they found a chance they attacked - & so steathely[sic] Did they make their attacks, that persons were not aware of their being in the neighbourhood [illegible] 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^t 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 leave the oppor-[line break]tunity of rushing 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 pleased - :They learned to be periodical in their visits confining themselves chiefly to the Sea coast & not going far inland - Hunting 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 of Sth-Austl^a had against eating the native currant a fruit w^h grows so

abundantly in the Barossa & other Ranges, & w^h can be eaten by Europeans ad libitum without any unplea- [line break] sant effects but w^h when the Natives saw the Europeans collecting said “plenty people die [illegible]” in Adelaide” - They visited in the season the ‘Lagoons for Swans Eggs –

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