

22/3/56

Mr Clark

Catechist

Oyster Cove
J. W. Wellesley

+

W7/24 (2)

Melbourne

March 22/86.

Mr Clark

Dear friend

I desire to make use of
your old acquaintance for some
information, which I earnestly
request concerning the Aborigines.

Bringing out a work on the
"Black War", I look for your
recollections of that eventful
portion of Colonial history.
Seek any facts bearing on that
subject.

In your conversations with the
natives of old, did you learn the
probable number at the period
of the white man's visit? How
many parties were there - what their
name & place & had they regular chiefs?

Were they guilty of infanticide?
Had they definite knowledge of fact & consequence?
What ideas had they of their origin?
We have detail of their cruelties to
whites, what reliable tales have they
of their personal ill-treatment of old?
Had different whites different modes of burial?
What was the cause of their rapid
decrease on St. Andrew's Island?

Do you believe in Count de Kerguelen's theory
that after intercourse with a white
the black woman breeds not in her trials?
Has M. Vincenz seen us printed & played
as among our blacks this tale?
What are your present numbers, sexes
& ages?

Could you do greatly oblige me,
as I wait for your communication,
as to forward some notices to me
through Mr. Walker, within as few
days as your leisure will enable you?

I rely much upon your letter.
I am resolved in my work
to do justice to Catechist Clark.

Any materials you have by you,
or any portraits see, will
be most acceptable, & shall
be returned within a month
to W. Walker, after I receive them.

Wishing much for
your personal kindness, &
your anxiety to add something
to the memorial of your departed
friend, I am dear Sir
Yours very truly
A. W. Remond.