

and ill-used his wife; that the hut was not burned or plundered; that the Natives did not attack the camp; that our people went from the camp to attack the Natives, who remained at Burke's house; does not know how many Natives were killed; supposes five or six; in the years 1813 and 1814 a number of Natives were constantly fed from his door; a number of children were forcibly taken from the Natives, and they disappeared from the camp.

There were no natives killed upon the Hospital-hill at Hobart Town; some shot and skeletons were found there some years after the settlement was formed; the shot were the remains of stores brought from Port Philip, and the bones those of persons who arrived from India, died, and were buried there; the Natives behaved well all the time they came to my house; their number varied from six to twenty-five; they came there constantly for twelve months; the first white man who was murdered by the Natives was George Munday; he was out hunting; I believe at that time if any person had been surprised in the bush unarmed the Natives would have murdered him. Munday had fed the man who speared him; the Native had a spear concealed, and held by his toes, and as Munday turned from him he caught up his spear and threw it at him; this happened in 1807; I arrived in February 1804; we had little intercourse with the Natives until after the attack at Risdon; has frequently been in boats, landed, fed the Natives, and when putting off have been obliged to have muskets presented at the Natives to prevent them from spearing the people, although not the least provocation had been given them; conceives this treacherous and ungrateful disposition prevailed amongst all the Natives; has understood that the Natives cross the country from east to west in the month of March; the generally received opinion was, that the Natives went to Risdon to hold a Corrobberry in May 1804.

*Mr. W. T. Stocker.*

ARRIVED in 1804; was not at Risdon in May; heard that the Natives came to Risdon to hold a Corrobberry, and that our people went to them; never heard of any attack upon the Natives at the Hospital-hill in Hobart Town.

16th March.

*Edward White.*

WAS one of the first men who landed 27 years ago; built Lieutenant Bowen's house at Risdon; was then servant to a man named Clark; on the 3d May 1804, was hoeing new ground near a creek; saw 300 of the Natives come down in a circular form, and a flock of kangaroos hemmed in between them; there were men, women and children; "they looked at me with all their eyes," I went down to the creek, and reported them to some soldiers, and then went back to my work; the natives did not threaten me; I was not afraid of them; Clark's house was near where I was at work, and Burke's house near Clark's house; the Natives were never within half a quarter of a mile of Burke's house; the Natives did not attack the soldiers; they would not have molested them; the firing commenced about 11 o'clock; there were a great many of the Natives slaughtered and wounded; I don't know how many; some of their bones were sent in two casks to Port Jackson by Dr. Mountgarrett; they went in the Ocean; a boy was taken from them; this was three or four months after we landed; they never came so close again afterwards; they had no spears with them; only waddies; they were hunting and came down into a bottom; there were hundreds and hundreds of kangaroo about Risdon then, and all over where Hobart Town now stands; the Natives were driven from their houses afterwards, and their wives and children were taken from them by stock-keepers; lived three years as a shepherd in the Western Tier; was always afraid of them; afraid they would kill him; they often fell in with him; never pursued him; they carried spears in the bush; he never carried a gun; the soldiers came down from their own camp to the creek to attack the Natives; I could show all the ground; Mr. Clark was there; the Natives were close to his house; they were not on Burke's side of the creek; never heard that any of them went to Burke's house; is sure they did not know there was a white man in the country when they came down to Risdon.

The Natives leave their women and children behind them when they are going to war; believes the largest Natives were at Prosser's Plains; does not know any difference between the Natives of New South Wales and here; "those at Port Jackson are savager."

*Robert Evans, of Muddy Plains.*

ARRIVED in Van Diemen's Land early in the year 1804; was a marine; landed on Hunter's Island; was not at Risdon when the attack took place upon the Natives; heard that they came down in a great body; not that they made any attack; that they brought a great number of kangaroo with them for a Corrobbery; never heard that they interrupted any one, but that they were fired on; does not know who ordered them to be fired on, or how many of them were said to have been killed; heard there were men, women and children; that some were killed, and some children taken away; never heard that any Natives were killed upon the Hospital-hill; never left the Colony since his arrival; nor this side of it, except once or twice; if Natives had been killed on the Hospital-hill must have heard of it; a small tribe of Natives came to his house at Muddy Plains for six years constantly, until Musquito behaved ill to his wife, and he was the cause of their going away; never found them disposed to be mischievous; they would pilfer; never any person killed by them at Muddy Plains; at first, 18 or 20 used to come to his house, then nine or ten; has seen none for the last five years; does not know if the last execution of the two blacks had any effect upon the minds of the Natives; they left off coming to his house before that occurrence; never would have thought it safe for a person to trust himself with them; always thought them treacherous; they have always behaved treacherously to others who went into the bush.

17th March.

*Roderic O'Connor, Esquire.*

THE Natives have become so dexterous that it is now next to impossible to get a sight of them; they move with greater rapidity than formerly; they are never seen in winter; their attacks are from September to March; they then retire into the interior; they will not now be content without sugar, bread and blankets; they have very great appetites; saw a child of eight months old, then at the breast, eat a whole kangaroo rat, and then attack a craw-fish; the settlements are now so numerous, and many of them so wide apart, that it is impossible to give them all protection.

Roving parties cannot travel so fast as the blacks, being obliged to carry provisions, which the Natives know where to procure. The Natives travel in parties of 10, 20 and 30. "The only way is for the settler to protect himself and his men;" they do not at present; but expect Government to protect them; would not anticipate any evil from the arming of the convicts; there would be no union amongst them; they would betray each other; ranging the country will never do any good; they are remarkably keen-sighted, and they will never come near a place where they see soldiers or constables; stratagem must be resorted to, and ambushes formed; does not see how the government can do it; stock-men used to shoot and hunt the Natives; Captain Ritchie's men, to the westward of Norfolk Plains, used to hunt them on horseback, and shoot them from their horses; one of those men was known by them, and watched and followed till they killed him at Piper's Lagoon; he had told Mr. O'Connor that he had thrown a woman upon a fire and burned her to death; the Natives think lightly of the whites; their huts being thatched are easily fired, and the inmates being unarmed, and frequently flying when attacked, gives confidence to the Natives. After treating the Natives kindly would not trust himself with them; knows they have taken bread with one hand and thrown a spear with the other; instanced the murder of Osborne and his wife. The settlers cannot send their men away in pursuit of the Natives; one party of Natives frequently decoy men from stock-huts, whilst another plunders it; this cannot be prevented but by the men staying at home; the Natives are more anxious to plunder than to murder; they will not attack a respectable-looking house; they did not go near Mr. Harrison's house as reported; it was his own men who created the alarm; Mr. Sherwin's hut was in a very secluded place, and had not the appearance of a house; they do not now come to the places in the settled districts they were wont to frequent; they are prevented by  
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