

## EARLY VICTORIA.

### WORK OF BATMAN'S PARTY.

#### DIARY OF WILLIAM TODD.

(By "Goulburnian," in the "Argus.")

It was announced on Thursday that a diary kept by one of Batman's party at Indented Head, in 1835, had been found among the papers of Mr. Anthony Cottrell, a member of the association for which Batman acted. The discovery was made by Mrs. Edwin Fowler, daughter of Mr. Cottrell. Mr. and Mrs. Fowler live in St. James's Buildings, William-street, and Mrs. Fowler has been in possession of her father's papers for 46 years. She never examined the diary closely until the appearance of the article in the "Argus" of last Saturday on Australian pioneers. It was assumed to be one of Mr. Cottrell's private memorandum books, and left unread. It does not bear any signature, but the handwriting is the same as that of William Todd, who signed Batman's agreement with the blacks; and Todd was one of the three white men left by Batman at Indented Head, Port Phillip (on the N.W. corner of the Queenscliff peninsula), while he went back to Tasmania. The diary is written in ink in an ordinary memorandum book, bound in calfskin, and runs to 40 pages. A few pages at the end are missing. The paper has become yellow with age, and the ink has faded; but the writing is clear and legible. There can be no doubt as to its having been the work of William Todd. His two companions, James Gumm and Alexander Thompson, are referred to in the diary as Jem or Jim Gum and "Allick." With them were five of the eight Sydney natives who accompanied Batman. Their names were Pigeon, Joe the Marine, Bullet, Bungett, and Old Bull. The diary refers to them as "Pidgeon," etc.

#### LIFE AT THE CAMP

The diary begins on the day Batman, after spending a month inspecting the country, returned to Tasmania to complete his arrangements for permanently settling at Port Phillip. This date is given as June 8 by the writer of the diary. Batman, in his journal, gives it as Tuesday, June 9, 1835; but as Bonwick, the historian, points out, Batman was often wrong in his dates. The diary goes on to describe the life the little party led, and their daily round of duties, in a most interesting way:—

"June 11—Got a long spar to hoist a flag, which we had erected close to the bay. Commenced grubbing and clearing the timber for a garden. Marked out a piece of ground 90 yards square for a garden.

"June 12.—Jem Gum and three of the Sydney natives left here at 9 o'clock to go kangarooing; fell in with the natives' huts about 10 miles from this. Can track them from there to the Heads, being about 20 miles, the land being extremely good, and in parts thickly timbered, and plenty of fresh water. Not having taken any provisions, and being

lucky, and plenty of fresh water. Not having taken any provisions, and being late in the day, they were obliged to return home. Allick and I employed grubbing and clearing the timber.

"Sunday, June 13.—Allick and two of the natives went kangarooing. Fell in with most beautiful clear ground, even superior to any that has yet been discovered. Also some remarkably fine timber for sawing within two or three miles from the hut. Caught a very large forest kangaroo.

"June 14.—Allick and I employed in grubbing, falling, and clearing the timber. Jem Gum measured out a spot for a house 30ft. by 15ft. Not being able to find any timber to split handy we are obliged to build it with sods. He also broke up a piece of ground and planted the onions. Rendered the blubber of the porpoise; got a gallon and a half of oil. Caught two large kangaroos.

"June 15.—All hands at home. Some employed grubbing, falling, and lopping the timber. Some in fencing the garden; others in breaking up the garden. Had the misfortune to break our shovel, which will hinder us from building a house as large as we intended.

"June 17.—Raining all forenoon. Fencing the garden in the afternoon. The natives gone out duck-shooting; brought home seven ducks.

"June 18.—Two hands fencing. Pidgeon, Joe, and Bull gone to the Heads

afishing for two days. Commenced sowing the wheat, and finished this day; also planted the carrots and parsnips.

"June 19.—Allick and I employed in falling the clearing for the garden. Jem Gum is breaking up the ground and sowing onions.

"June 20.—Fencing the garden, breaking up the ground, and preparing beds; sowing parsnip seeds. Pidgeon, Joe, and Bull returned from fishing, but had no luck whatsoever. Discovered a river apparently joining the head of Gellibrand Bay, emptying itself into the sea coast to the westward of the bar of Port Phillip."

#### NATIVE VISITORS.

Native visitors made their appearance, and soon increased in numbers. They were not hostile, but so fond of the white man's food and so voracious that they soon left the whole party short of provisions. The anxiety to get rid of the natives without provoking their hostility is very evident from the narrative.

"June 22.—Four of the Sydney natives gone kangarooing. Bullet left at home to cook. Allick and I employed burning-off and clearing the timber off the garden. Jem Gum gardening. About 2 o'clock Bullet went down to our well for water, and there fell in with the natives, who were in number five males, which followed him up to our hut, and remained with us all night, during which time they behaved themselves very well. When Pidgeon and the others came home from kangarooing they were highly pleased to see them, and their joy was beyond anything when they saw them corrobbering.

thing when they saw them corrobbering. Their language is quite different from those we have seen before. They were singing most of the evening for us. One of them sang a song the same as the Sydney natives do.

June 23. Pidgeon, etc., have just left with the natives to catch a kangaroo. Jim Gum has sowed some broad beans and peas, also planted some potatoes. Pidgeon, etc., have returned with the natives from kangarooing. They caught one kangaroo, which pleased the natives much. Immediately after the dogs had caught the kangaroo the natives ran to the spot, made a fire, cut it open, drank the blood, and roasted the remainder and brought it back with them. On their return they made a fire as a signal for their guns to come to them. According to your orders we got them to make their mark on a tree, which I imitated on a piece of paper, they being by at the time. One of them made signs for me to give them some paper and a pencil. I do so. They then drew out a most extraordinary mark, which filled up half a sheet of paper, which I have kept for your inspection. Their names were also got, which are as follows:—Gulgoing, Calmadaring, Wolmudging, Dyberry, and Momboring. We then distributed the following to them, namely:—Two red shirts, three cotton shirts, 10 handkerchiefs, 6 knives, 6 pairs of scissors, 6 tomahawks, and 1 blanket, belonging to Jim Gum. They were highly pleased with the above, singing and corrobbering most of the evening. Remained with us all night.

June 24.—Momboring and Gulgoing gone to bring their women down, and have left the other three with us. Breaking up the garden and setting potatoes.

June 25.—Breaking up the garden and setting apples, peaches, oranges, cherries, and plums, also potatoes. Jim Gum, I, and Bullet went kangarooing. When we returned home there was between 50 and 60 men, women, and children, which Momboring has brought with him, some of which belong to the first mob you fell in with at Gellibrand Bay, they having the beads on their necks which you gave them. Jim Gum distributed the following to them, namely:—100 handkerchiefs, 30 knives, 6 tomahawks, 54 scissors, 14 shirts, 5 looking-glasses, 12 tin-pots, being all we were possessed of. They remained, highly pleased with their things, for that night. Pidgeon, etc., corrobbering for them, which astonished them much. We all remained up during the night.

June 26.—Baked 100lb. of flour for them in small dampers, which they soon demolished, being very hungry; also caught a kangaroo for them. In the evening Murroslanuck, the king, and his wife beat the drum (a kangaroo knapsack), while 10 of his

men corrobbered. They painted themselves like Pidgeon, etc., does, and commenced assembling in one mob close together. After they had consulted to-

commenced assembling in one mob close together. After they had consulted together for some time, they sang a song, and stretched themselves in rotation on the ground, their heads being in each other's laps, with their two hands up, acting the part of a kangaroo. They then got up and acted the same as Pidgeon, etc., does. After they had shook their legs awhile, they put their heads down in rotation, holding their heads down towards the ground, with their hands pointed behind them, and concluded at that, being well worth seeing. They then had their supper, and retired to their huts for the night. They consumed most of our potatoes. We kept watch all night.

June 27.—Still with us. Three hands gone to catch kangaroo for them. Returned with two. All very quiet, and well satisfied; singing most of the evening. All hands keeping watch as usual.

June 28.—Three hands gone kangarooing, and returned with two kangaroos. Baked 10lb. more of flour for them, which we were obliged to do, on account of their liking the bread so well. They have taken a particular fancy to our dogs, on account of which Jim Gum has given the king two of them (Ball and Spring), to prevent them taking the remainder. After they caught the first kangaroo, Pidgeon fired off his gun to get a light, so as the natives might roast the kangaroos, which was returned by some sealers at the head. Remained with us all night. Kept watch as usual.

Sunday, June 29. Three hands gone kangarooing as usual. Returned with a large forrester. Natives still with us. Find it very difficult to get them to leave us, they having taken such a particular liking to the bread. We are obliged to use none ourselves on account of their distressing us, they being of such a greedy disposition that they would take it all from us. Stopped us all night watching, as usual.

June 30.—Tried all we could to get them to leave us, but found it impossible. Three hands obliged to go again kangarooing. All hands without breakfast, etc., so as to show them we have got no more to give them. Returned home with two kangaroos, remained all night quiet and quite satisfied, but seem to have no idea of leaving us, which makes us exceedingly uncomfortable, not being able to get a meal of vittles in comfort, and always obliged, for our own safety, to keep watch.

July 1.—Baked 60 pounds for them to entice them to leave us, but, after we had done so, three hands were obliged to go kangarooing, so as not to affront them in any way. They returned home without any, the dogs being completely knocked up. At sundown Jim Gum went up to the king's hut and requested of him to leave one of his sons with us until such time as he returned from the bush, which he consented, and was much pleased at the offer. He is quite a young boy, but will be of great use to us in case the other natives come down.

down.

July 2.—Denied them of any rations and tied up the dogs, thinking it would be the means of their leaving us; after which they consulted a while together, and desired us to take care of their children while they went kangarooing, which we consented. Bulliyan, the king's brother-in-law, offered Jim Gum one of his children, which he refused, not properly understanding what he said, which seemed to annoy him much, hanging down his head and looking very sulky. After which Jim found out what he meant, and consented for him to stop, so as he might be company for the other, which pleased him highly. Returned from kangarooing. Spearred one kangaroo, which got away with the spear. Seemed very mournful. Pidgeon, etc., corroborated for them, which pleased them much, and they all retired to their huts for the night.

July 3.—Three hands gone kangarooing for them, and returned with two kangaroos, which pleased them much, being without provisions for a few days. We have heard guns firing for the last three or four days in the direction of the Heads, but are unable to leave this to see who it is.

July 4.—At 4 o'clock this morning all the natives rolled up from their huts, saying they heard natives cooeing and waisting. At daylight they sent two men to see what it was, but they returned home without seeing them, which, we imagine, was no more than to frighten us. We told them we would not be afraid of a hundred of them. The men have taken their spears and gone hunting for the day. Two have left us for good. We expect they are gone to fetch down another mob, but they returned home without killing any. About 9 o'clock in the evening they made another false report that the women had come down. Their motive in making these reports we cannot tell.

July 5.—All the men gone hunting, as usual. Stopped all day, and returned at sundown with one kangaroo, which Spring and Ball caught for them. The women also were away on the furrago most of the day, and all their children in our care.

(To be Continued.)