

**THE GRAVES OF SHIPWRECKED
MARINERS AT KING'S ISLAND.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.

Sir,—My attention having been drawn to a report in *The Argus* of the 7th April, in re the "Graves of Shipwrecked Emigrants," I furnish you with the following information.

Being sent over to King's Island in 1843, by the late Sir J. F. Palmer (then Dr. Palmer) to superintend the floating of the barque *Rebecca*, which I did, and successfully brought her to Twofold Bay without chart or compass in nine days, I am in a position to give some information of King's Island and its inhabitants at the time, which consisted of three Tasmanian female aboriginals named Maria, Mary, and Kuitiki. The island was inhabited by Scott, a ticket-of-leave man from Tasmania, with five lubras, two of whom died on the island. Scott and one of the half-caste children were drowned on leaving the *Rebecca* in his whaleboat, and I assisted to bury them in Scott's garden. The cook, steward, and boatswain were also drowned. The former two we also buried in Scott's garden; the remains of the boatswain we never found.

In 1845 the ship *Catarique*, 423 crew and emigrants, from London to Port Phillip, was wrecked on the morning of the 4th August. News arrived in Melbourne about the 20th of August. Howie and his party, with the lubras, were living and hunting at Sea Elephant Bay, 16 miles from the wreck. The lubra Mary dreamed that she saw a big ship and thousands of people drowning, which, after her many persuasions, induced the party to go to that part of the island. When they arrived at Wrecktop Point they discovered the wreck, nine survivors, and numerous dead bodies strewed along the beach. They then went to the Yellow Rock. Scott's home station, for provisions to feed the survivors, which they did. The survivors were—Guthrie (chief mate), five sailors, two apprentice boys, and one emigrant.

Two gentlemen on a hunting expedition from Melbourne brought the survivors in their cutter to Port Phillip, accompanied by Howie; the surgeon, surgeon's assistant, with 204 others, buried in the large grave above high-water mark. In No. 2 grave 50 persons were buried; in No. 3 grave, 18 persons; and some odd ones in different places, in all, 346 buried. The captain's body was underneath the ship, and was burned when she was set on fire by us to get the copper, &c.

The Hon. George Coppin having given a benefit in his theatre in Queen-street, on behalf of the survivors (the piece played, "The Wreck of the Windsor Castle"), he will, no doubt, remember that the surgeon and his assistant were not amongst the survivors.

I fenced the large grave with portions of the wreck, and cut the names of several of the officers on the posts; and from my intimate knowledge of all the circumstances con-

the officers on the posts; and from my intimate knowledge of all the circumstances connected with the melancholy event, I will be glad to give further information, if of interest to any one concerned.

—I am, &c.,

JOHN ROBERT, Carpenter.

Amherst, May 23.

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