
THE BLACKS TROUBLE SOME AT CAMPERDOWN.

Now that the aboriginals in this district are so few in number one would think it an easy matter to keep them under proper control, but, as will be seen from the following, the reverse is the case. The *Hampden Guardian* says:—"During the past few weeks the blacks who hang about Camperdown occasionally have been very demonstrative and objectionable, so much so, indeed, that last Friday a correspondent called the attention of the Protector of the Aborigines, Mr James Dawson, to the nuisance, and which, according to Mr Scott, was becoming intolerable. These representatives of the original possessors of the soil, consisting of Mr and Mrs Crow and family, Kitty, Charley, and Camperdown George, lately lost one of their number in consequence of the temporary retirement of George to Geelong, with a letter of introduction from Mr Wm. Adeney, J.P., to the governor of the gaol at that place, and we understand that the old gentleman does not contemplate a return for a space of six months or so. His countrymen and countrywomen, however, did not seem to take his departure much to heart, for they have been more than usually hilarious and demonstrative of late, probably in view of the approaching nuptials of Mistress Kate, who, we understand, is about to form another alliance. However that may be, the Protector, impelled, no doubt, by the complaints which have recently reached him, proceeded on Saturday to interview his *protégés*, and decided to put an end to the

nuisance by the very simple method of removing the cause, or rather, we should say, the causes. Mrs Crow is a native of the Camperdown or Timboo tribe, as is also old Charley, but, inasmuch as her spouse "Jim" is a Colac blackfellow, Mr Dawson concluded that the whole family, including two little ones, should clear out for Colac, and directed them to harness up and start without delay. The other blacks he ordered to their respective locations, and decided upon an appeal to the Government for a small sum of money with which to build a house for "Charley" and "Old George" to pass the winter in. The plan evidently was a capital one, the only drawback in connection with it being the apparent impossibility of carrying it into execution. Charley was easily enough dealt with, but Mr Crow, after promising obedience, and getting ready for a start, suddenly changed his mind, and positively refused to depart. With the gravity, if not the sobriety, of a judge he argued that Mr Dawson being protector "along a Camperdown" had no jurisdiction over him—a Colac black-fellow—and he determined to remain where he found his quarters so comfortable, and liquor so easy to be obtained. The result was that on Saturday afternoon the blacks all found their way back to their old quarters—an old untenanted house in Manifold-street—and there they remained to receive the visits of intoxicated white men almost as much in need of supervision as themselves. There can be no doubt that the nuisance occasioned by these poor creatures is excessively annoying to those who have to put up with them, and effective measures should be taken to suppress it, but

something surely might be done to discover and punish those who supply the blacks with liquor—too often vile poisonous stuff—which primarily is responsible for the scenes of riot and debauchery which occur. If the protector were to make a few examples in that direction he would have less trouble in looking after his charges.
