

Franckesche Stiftungen zu Halle

Brief von Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann.

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Port Lincoln, 26.05.1842

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Port Lincoln May 26th 1842

Sir,

As the 'Governor Gawler' is still in the Harbour, I take the opportunity to inform you of the result of an expedition against the native murderers since writing my last report to you.

On the 20th of the present month a party consisting of the Police force in Port Lincoln & several Volunteers left the town in search of the murderers. Two days after I was requested by a note from Mr Driver to come to Pillaworta in order to communicate with a prisoner the party had made & supposed to be one of the murderers.

On my arrival I found that the Prisoner was Ngarka, a native of the Eastern Coast Tribe, & the head which had been taken from a man that was shot & which was shown to me I recognised as that of Ngula, a native of the same tribe. Neither M. Moorhouse Esq. Prot. of Abos.

of these men was ever accused of having been implicated in the murders. A quantity of European property taken from Pillawoota & found in the camp where Ngarka was apprehended, he admitted to have been stolen by Ngala & others who escaped, but he asserts that he was on the Coast fishing at the time when the robbery was committed.

A party of soldiers left in charge of Pillawoota station state, that on the 18th inst. a number of natives came to them, among whom was Kungka & Tunba & who called out their names given to them by the soldiers viz: "One Eye & Blanky face" that they fired at the natives & brought two down, when the latter threw spears at them & compelled them to run seeing that they were surrounding them. Ngarka does not know of any having been killed or wounded of his tribe except Ngala, & the whole statement of the soldiers does not appear very coherent or clear.

It is not my province to give an opinion
as

as to the propriety of taking the head from the body of the dead Native but I certainly think it my duty to acquaint you with the barbarous & revolting treatment of it at Pillamoota of which I was witness. The soldiers & Police men stuck the head on a pole & put it on an old pig sty forcing a short clay pipe between the teeth. I remonstrated with the Lieutenant against the impropriety of such conduct, but could not prevail on him to put a stop to it. That conduct of this kind is not calculated to restore harmony between the white & black population of Port Lincoln, I need not say, it would therefore be desirable if a repetition of similar occurrences could be prevented.

A Native boy who had been captured by the party before they fell in with the tribe, is retained in jail with the view, I believe, of being sent to

to you. The destruction & removal of the innocent or at least less guilty natives, while those who I have forfeited their lives escape with impunity, besides some other circumstances, are gradually convincing me, that my presence will not much longer be wanted in this part of the province.

I had a good deal more to say, but I hope soon to be able to communicate with you by word of mouth.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant

C. W. Schürmann