

CHAPTER XV.

Germain Nicholson and His Daughter's Reminiscences—Edward Sayce, a Quaker—St. Kilda Road in 1853—Howard's Royal Hotel Built in 1847 Mrs. Charles Keen's Letter—The Queen's Mews—George Sparrow— Carriage Days and the St. Kilda Gentry—Four-in-Hand on St. Kilda Pier—Sparrow's Son's Memories—Archibald Michie's Recollections of Early St. Kilda—St. Kilda's Cattle Run—Questions in Parliament— Pounds and Poundkeepers—Hon. James Service and His Pig.

GERMAIN NICHOLSON, born in Cumberland, England, in October, 1814, was so well known in Melbourne, where he arrived on January 7, 1842, that a street corner, for many years, "Nicholson's Corner," was associated with his name. The corner was on the north-west side of Swanston, and Collins Streets, and it was at that place he started the business of Melbourne's leading grocer, in the year 1845. He became a wealthy man through buying town sites, and making enormous profits by the resale of the land. He also, during the golden years, speculated in gold buying. With his friend, the banker, William Highett, and other wealthy men, he originated the Bank of Victoria. In other commercial ventures, launched in the rapidly-advancing city of Melbourne, he was also an active participant. Early in his successful Victorian career, he was so charmed by the attractiveness of the sea-side settlement at St. Kilda, that he bought land there, built a house, and became a permanent resident.

In the year 1878, it was one of our duties to frequently wait on Germain Nicholson, who had been created a Justice of the Peace for St. Kilda and Melbourne, in 1858. His flattering courtesy to a youth, and his love of exchanging harmless jokes on each visit, left so pleasant an impression that the memory of his geniality has lingered for a lifetime. Germain Nicholson was then 64 years of age. He looked what he was, a benevolent old gentleman, with white hair and beard. He had bright, kindly, laughing eyes, and his smile was almost a benediction. His shop was a long, low weatherboard building.

One side of the shop ran parallel to the footpath line of Swanston Street. The side was a wooden wall, blind but for an ordinary house window. The thirty odd years, that had passed, since the one-storied shop was built, had sufficed to allow the wooden foundations of the floor to rot away. The floor, in places, rested on the earth. It was in that building this esteemed pioneer of the years of the fifties in St. Kilda carried on his business. What a fruitful source Germain Nicholson would have been to draw upon for reminiscences of early St. Kilda, had the youth been gifted with the foresight, and the ability to do so! Failing to have Germain Nicholson's recollections, we are fortunate in possessing a manuscript, "Memories of Early St. Kilda," by his daughter, Mrs. E. M. McMicking. The first impact of the Nicholsons with St. Kilda was in the year 1846. At that time there were, on the Esplanade, only six cottages, and to one of them Mrs. Germain Nicholson with her infant, went for her health's sake. According to her daughter, who was the infant, her mother did not, in 1846, stay long in St. Kilda, being "frightened back" to Melbourne by a "violent earthquake."

Mrs. McMicking's memories state that:—"In the year 1850, Mr. Germain Nicholson bought land at the Junction, St. Kilda, a long strip which ran up between Wellington, and Octavia Streets, and built upon it. The house, a two-storied wooden building, was one of a consignment imported from California already prepared for erection, and was put up under the superintendence of a builder named Jennings, and, although the foundations of "Charnwood," Mr. Octavius Brown's house, had been laid, 'Nicholson House,' as it was renamed by Mr. Moody, in later years, was the first house erected in this quarter of St. Kilda, and Mr. Nicholson's family were in residence there early in 1851. Mr. Highett, a banker, told people how, in his youth, he used to walk from Chapel Street to the Esplanade for his sea bath, and only passed two houses on his journey, one of which was 'Nicholson House,' the other one was probably 'Garnault Villa,' built by Mr. Edward Sayce, facing Wellington Street. He was a Quaker, who having brought £2,000 to the colony, invested it in a sheep run on the Ovens River, which having turned out disastrously financially, he returned to Melbourne."

We interrupt the lady's memories to say, that when Edward Sayce died, Germain Nicholson became the guardian of his son, Joseph Sayce, who was born in 1850. He entered him as a pupil, in the year 1860, with Dr. Bromby, Head Master of the Church of England Grammar School. Young Sayce was in the school cricketing team in 1863-64. Subsequently he went to West Australia. This guardianship was one of the good deeds that were characteristic of Germain Nicholson.

Mrs. McMicking resumes:—

"The first house near Wellington Street was a butcher's shop in Chapel Street. What is now St. Kilda Road was in 1853 defined in a most remarkable manner, viz., by a long avenue of fallen timber, all blown down at the same time, it being the track left behind it of a fierce hurricane. In 1851, the first bus between St. Kilda and Melbourne, carried passengers at 5/- per head. The track in use to Melbourne started from what is now the Esplanade, went through the swampland of Albert Park, and in those days when a few inhabitants of St. Kilda and the old Royal Hotel, drove to and from the city by these tracks, they were at times attacked by the bushrangers. On one occasion, the latter seized no less than thirteen people by the swamp, and tied them separately to various trees, treating them most shamefully. Some of the young bloods down from their far-off stations, hearing of this, joined themselves, with the townsfolk, in a band, and succeeded in dispersing the bushrangers from these their haunts. Yet, whilst Mr. Nicholson was driving at this time an exceptionally high-spirited, and beautiful horse, to and from town, he was never once attacked, although his horse alone was a valuable asset. It was said by Mr. White, of the Melbourne Observatory, this was owing to his goodness, and charity, which had gained for him the title of poor man's friend,' and so he was allowed to go about unmolested.

"Howard's Royal Hotel was built in 1847 in St. Kilda, when a broad belt of tea-tree fringed the shore. At first a few cottages were built there, and later on came more pretentious houses."

Mrs. McMicking refers to Christ Church in her notes as follows:-

"The architect of Christ Church, St. Kilda, was Mr. Charles R. Swyer, and at the time of the dedication of the church, my father and myself were living on the Esplanade, and the Bishop, Dr. Charles Perry, and fifty of the clergy, partook of afternoon tea at our house, previous to the function, and then all walked to the church which was close to our home, 'Esplanade House.' The handsome carved pulpit, which still stands in Christ Church, was built from money obtained through a bazaar held by Miss Mathews, and her pupils, at her boarding school on the beach (Alfred Square). My young friend, Miss Annie Seddon, the minister's daughter, did duty for her mother, who had died previously."

Other notes of the same early resident state "Euro-reka," meaning St. Kilda, was given by Mr. Davis to the big house he built in Burnett Street, off Grey Street. This leads Mrs. McMicking to recall, that George Watson, the Master of the Melbourne Hounds, lived in Burnett Street, and that he was a hard man, though for "all that he was very popular." A story of the day is that Watson, and his wife, were riding along the St. Kilda Road on two hunters. When they were nearing the closed toll gates, situated close to the military barracks, Mrs. Watson thought that they would draw reins as they usually did, and wait for the toll gate-keeper to open the roadway to the horses. Her husband, without any warning to her, struck with his heavy hunting crop the flanks of his, wife's hunter. The animal leapt forward, and bolted along St. Kilda Road. Ahead of rider and horse was the closed six-barred toll gate. The start was so sudden that Mrs. Watson had no option but to ride the horse at the gate. Any interference with the hunter, she thought, spelt a spill on the road, or a smash up at the gate. Therefore, she gave the animal what he had already, his head, and - the animal, in dashing style, cleared the gate. Mrs. Watson's husband followed her lead. What Mrs. Watson said afterwards to George is not history, nor is what the toll keeper said to himself suitable for this record.

Mrs. McMicking writes :—"Mr. William Nicholson, M.L.C., and E. B. Green and some others first settled in Grey Street. Later on, 'Old Grannie's' fruit and sweet shop was built opposite the Royal Hotel. Near the beach, there had been built a little wooden School House, which also did duty for all Church

purposes. First there was only a visiting clergyman, Rev. L—, but later on the Rev. David Seddon became the Resident Incumbent. Some years later, when the consecration of the new 'Christ Church' took place, the bishop, with the clergy, met that afternoon in Mrs. Nicholson's Esplanade house, where they partook of tea, previous to the processional function.

"When the late town clerk of Melbourne, Mr. E. G. Fitzgibbon, was a young man, he resided in Octavia Street, on the brow of the hill. He had as a neighbor, Mr., afterwards Judge, Webb.

"My father, Mr. Germain Nicholson, was one of the originators of the Melbourne & Hobson's Bay Railway Company, of which he was a director. He was also one of the original founders of the Church of England Grammar School, St. Kilda Road. He declined on various occasions to become an active politician, and stand for election to Victorian Parliament, as he was solicited to do. His death (23rd November, 1888, aged 74) occurred on board the s.s. 'Salazir,' of the M.M. Shipping Co. His body was buried in the Red Sea, near the 'Brother's Isle.' "

In The Argus newspaper, date May 19, 1928, there are extracts from an original manuscript journal of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean, "descriptive of their theatrical tour in the Australian Colonies, and of the social life there." The manuscript, which is preserved in the Alexander Turnbull Library at Wellington, New Zealand, contains letters dated from the Prince of Wales Hotel, St. Kilda. That hotel in the early days was a favorite hostelry for theatrical "stars," who were birds of passage, to stay at. Writing in a letter under date October 18, 1863, Mrs. Kean says to her daughter, Mary, in England :-

"We are lodged at St. Kilda, a pretty suburb looking on Hobson's Bay, about three miles from Melbourne. It is a private house adjoining the hotel (the Prince of Wales), with all the advantages of privacy and comfort of a hotel. . . . We are told that we shall find the advantage of this when the hot weather sets in. We begin to ask when will that be, for we are perished with cold. . . . On Sunday, we had a walk with Mr. Coppin in St. Kilda Park, and gathered the most exquisite wild flowers, blue stars, canary colored violets, crimson peas, lemon-colored asters, mauve campanulas, and a creeping shrub all yellow and brown. The prevalence of yellow is extraordinary.

The park and meadows are covered, as thick as buttercups in May, with a yellow sort of dandelion, accidentally brought, some few years since, from the Cape of Good Hope, and it is choking the white clover, much to the disgust of the colonists. The gardens, too, are all yellow. I see no birds except swallows, and few of these. . . . Up to this date, we know nothing of their beautiful climate. Heavy rains that flood the roads are frequent. Two horses were drowned between this place and Melbourne on the common way last week, and the captain of the steam tug who came to us at the Heads was drowned with another passenger in a stage coach 10 miles off. We sometimes have a baking hot sun; even that necessitates a warm shawl or a greatcoat for the wind changes with incredible suddenness, and the rain comes down as in Wales without a cloud to warn you. There are snakes here, Mary, and jolly big ones, too, one six feet long was killed last week opposite the park gates, but then no harm comes of them."

"The yellow sort of dandelion" Mrs. Kean refers to, as carpeting St. Kilda Park, was the cape weed, which had been introduced, but not accidentally as she states, from the Cape of Good Hope as a fodder plant. Its drawbacks have proved to be greater than its food values. The plant spread over St. Kilda, and in spring-time, the paddocks at Elwood were blazing yellow blankets of color, almost dazzling, when the sun shone on the flowers. The useless onion weed, with its small pink flowers, has, in Elwood, eradicated the cape weed, and it is now the weed in possession of the Elsternwick Golf Links.

We do not suppose that a publican, whose name was George Sparrow, was 'aware of the curious apposition of a name, when he called his livery stables, attached to the Corner Hotel, at the St. Kilda Junction, the Queen's Mews. The word "mew" means, among other meanings, a cage for hawks, but Sparrow employed the word to describe a stable for horses. The king's stables, in London, were called "The King's Mews," because they were built upon the site where the royal hawks were kept, or "mewed," on the northern side of Trafalgar Square. The mews were established on that spot, from the time of Edward I. During the reign of Henry VIII., the mews were converted into stables. The London National Gallery is built upon the place where the King's Mews stood. The Royal Mews were stables

used for stabling carriage, and other well-bred horses. Sparrow, no doubt, when he named the stables, attached to the Corner Hotel, the Queen's Mews, did so in the hope that the public would regard the place as something superior to a mere livery stable. If that was his reason, he realised his hope. The Queen's Mews, St. Kilda, had the reputation of being the best livery stable in Melbourne. It was patronised by the gentry of Melbourne, when the gentry rode in carriages, and when its members were wanting to hire a showy saddle horse. Huntsmen baited their horses there, and race-horse owners had boxes in the Mews.

The old building, the Queen's Mews, was pulled down in July, 1926, to make room for a motor garage. The new age, like youth, will be served. The fine "colonial ladies and gentleman who patronised the Queen's Mews," are dead and forgotten. At the time the building was demolished, George Sparrow, junior, the son of the owner of the Corner Hotel, 'and of the Queen's Mews, stated that his father was a retired seaman, when he took over the control of the stables and hotel. The son explained "that time was about 58 years ago, when there was but little settlement in Melbourne.. He (his father) was one of the greatest hands with horses in Victoria, and he speedily established himself. At the time, if you did not live at St. Kilda, you were not regarded as anybody, and if you did not engage your broughams and other conveyances from Sparrow's Queen's Mews you were not regarded as anybody.

"For years my father kept the finest horses, and had his employees dressed in livery. Sarah Bernhardt, Minnie Warren and little Tom Thumb all engaged his broughams.

"The stables were extensively used by owners and trainers of racehorses, as there was a trotting course near the Albert Park lake, and the Elsternwick racecourse was not such a distance away. Maurice Griffen had his stables where the Ritz Hotel now stands. Jimmy King, who was regarded by many as the finest flat and hurdle jockey Victoria has ever seen, was apprenticed to Griffen. The stables were also used to hold rough-riding competitions, whilst on occasions there were cock-fights." One Sunday morning, George Sparrow, senior, drove a four-in-hand drag from the Queen's Mews along Fitzroy Street, on to the St. Kilda pier. He turned his team, and drag on the

pier successfully, and returned safely to the Mews. He relinquished the Mews, and the hotel, to go to New Zealand, and the owner of the Elsternwick Hotel, the late Henry Young, who had made money at the New Zealand gold diggings, became the licensee of the Corner Hotel, Prospering, Young, who was a picture collector, passed on to the hotel in Melbourne that became well known to sportsmen and others as Young & Jackson's. The Queen's Mews, on Sparrow's departure, came under the management of Charles Willoughby. During his tenancy, a fire destroyed the stables, horses, and vehicles. Willoughby left for the Klondike gold fields, and that was the last St. Kilda heard of Willoughby. After the fire, it was decided to rebuild the Queen's Mews. On completion, a livery stable keeper, named Neill, and his four sons, bought them. From the Neills, the Mews passed to Fred Hooper, then to a man named Downey, and so to the present end of the Queen's Mews—a taxi garage.

James Tyrrell was another of the well known livery stable keepers in St. Kilda. He started in business in the year 1854. In turn he kept the livery stables at the Royal Hotel, the Prince of Wales Hotel, Fitzroy Street, and the Newmarket Livery Stables, in Inkerman Street. He died in the year 1900.

Archibald Michie probably knew early St. Kilda as well as any of his contemporaries. In the course of a lecture he delivered at the opening of the St. Kilda Town Hall, he said: "It is now above twelve years since I took my first walk in this now—but by no means then—delightful neighbourhood. Steaming down the coast from Sydney, en route for Adelaide, I dropped in at Port Phillip. Inquiring for the whereabouts of an old friend, and once fellow-counsel of mine in Sydney, the then resident judge, now ex-chief Justice Sir William a'Beckett, I was informed that he was at St. Kilda, about three miles on the southern side of the Yarra. I trudged off, buses and low-backed cars were unthought of in those days, and railways were only mentioned by an occasional mild lunatic. I soon found myself in a pretty thick bush, and reached St. Kilda, which, so far as I could judge, seemed to me to consist of one house, the now Royal Hotel, on the shore. In this house I found my friend amongst some of the members of his family, seated on a dingy and battered old sofa, with a patient perseverance that almost brought tears into my eyes, as he

endeavoured to persuade himself that he was spending a few days at what he called, with the utmost seriousness and good faith, a watering place. For very sympathy's sake I tried to look as much as if I were at Hastings, or Brighton, as I could ; and knowing what my friend had suffered in his official removal from Sydney to this spot, I strove, and I hope successfully, to disguise my consciousness that I was in about the dimmest, and most desolate hole, a civilised, and social, being could be buried in. The everlasting shipless bay in front, the monotonous bush around—such was the spot, now covered with Alma, and Sebastopol, and Inkerman Roads, crowned with terraces, and villas, and rich and unsurpassable in crinoline. And yet, even in those days, Port Phillipians had their fun, their scandal, their picnics, races, concerts, theatres, ladies' benevolent societies, wedding breakfasts, politics, public meetings ; and hearty English life pulsated not the less vigorously, because, as yet, the gold lay undiscovered in the soil. All men—gentle or gimple—educated or ignorant—came to work at something or other. We started therefore without an aristocracy, in the common conventional sense of the word, and there was no tyrant called the fashion, for every man was free to follow a fashion of his own. Even Bond Street bucks turned into brigand-looking squatters here; they smoked perennial black pipes, ate no end of clay-like damper and hard beef, and were so many Dr. Johnsons in the number of their cups of tea."

Archibald Michie lived to become a Q.C., K.C.M.G., and he had the sad experience of outliving his generation. It is doubtful if, at the last, many Victorians recognised the man, passing through the old Temple Court on his way to his chambers in Chancery Lane, as the politician who more than once stirred Victoria, from the sea to the Murray, by his addresses. Sir Archibald Michie's chambers were between those of that great, and good man, George Higinbotham, and those of Hartley Williams. The future, at that time, contained for Higinbotham, the Chief Justiceship and for Hartley Williams, a Supreme Court Judgeship. The past held Sir Archibald Michie's fame. All that was left to him of his life's work was its memory. We recall him as we knew him then, in Chancery Lane, as being a thin, delicate old man, with a blue stuff bag, tucked under his left arm, his left hand nervously twitching at the bag, as he

half tottered across the Lane, to see if his clerk in Temple Court, John Gill Tanner, had, by any good fortune, a brief for Archibald Michie, Q.C.

Not only was Archibald Michie a celebrity in Melbourne, but such was the eminence of the man, that his cow also, for a day, was even more talked about than he. A later politician who desired to rob St. Kilda of Elwood lands, Thomas Bent, said he "took off his hat to a cow," but Bent's cow was not the first four-legged cow mentioned in the political history of Victoria.

Some particulars of the locally famous "Cattle Run" throw lights on the domestic troubles of the residents of early St. Kilda, arising from their bovine possessions. The residents were kept in a state of renewed irritation through the repeated disappearances of their cows. The "run" was leased in the years of the fifties, by the Government, first to "Paddy" Devereux, and afterwards to John Beagley.

In the beginning of the year 1860, the inhabitants, who owned cows, complained to the St. Kilda Council, that if they allowed their cows to depasture, on the vacant lands, during the night, it was in vain they told Mary in the morning, to go, and "Call the cattle home, across the sands of St. Kilda." The cows had to be searched for, at times, through a long-lived day, or two. The lost animals were usually found in the tea tree scrub at Brighton, or somewhere, in the bush, near Caulfield. The residents believed that their cows were mustered at night, and driven afield as a protest by somebody against their being found grazing about the suburb. Breakfasts without milk continued to cause widespread indignation. At last, householders were incensed so far that they called a public meeting, where it was decided to take drastic steps to discover, and to punish, if possible, the raiding cattle man. Then the raider made a fatal selection. In the darkness, he did not discriminate between the favored cow, which gave a distinguished Queen's Counsel's household its matutinal milk, and the meadow cow, that dutifully supplied milk to a less distinguished household. The deplorable result was that the Michie household had no fresh milk in the morning, after the previous night's raid. The storm which arose in Michie's tea cup, without milk, was like unto a legal hurricane. At the time, Michie happened to be one of the Parliamentary

members for St. Kilda, and he gave notice, in the House, on February 10, 1860, that he would ask the Chief Commissioner of Lands, and Survey:-

1. "Was it true that the inhabitants of St. Kilda were living in the midst of a cattle run?
2. "If so, what was the nature of the holding, the extent of the run, and what was the license fee paid by the licensee or lessee ?
3. "Whether Mr. Beagley, the alleged present licensee of suburban land at St. Kilda had not very lately obtained from one of the subordinates of the Crown Lands Office a certain extension of run, or other advantage beyond any previously possessed by his predecessor, Mr. Devereaux, formerly entitled the town herdsman of St. Kilda?
4. "Whether Mr. Beagley's lease or license embraced any defined boundaries, so as to give him any exclusive right of depasturing cattle on all the unsold and unreclaimed land of St. Kilda suburb; if so, what were the boundaries ?

The Chief Commissioner for Lands, James Service, replied, saying that the inhabitants of St. Kilda were similarly situated to the inhabitants of North Melbourne, and Emerald Hill, there being lands, in the vicinity of each place, which were let for the purpose of a cattle run. The nature of the St. Kilda holding was a yearly license, and the licensee was John Beagley. The extent of the run could scarcely be given in acres, but it comprised a considerable portion of the south part of that triangular piece of ground, on the east side of the Brighton Road, running from the Junction Hotel, to the junction of the Brighton, and Punt Roads. Besides that, it now comprised a few reserves, not included previously, in this so-called run. The amount of license fee paid was £190 for the current year.

Beagley, who was a gardener by occupation, residing in High Street, presented, in November, 1859, a memorial to the Acting Commissioner of Crown Lands, pointing out that certain reserves at St. Kilda were being used by the residents to depasture their cattle, and thereby depriving him of the fees that would have accrued to him, had they been forced to depasture the animals on his run. Beagley, therefore, prayed

in 1860, that the reserves he referred to, might be included, within his run, which request was acceded to upon the receipt of a favorable report from the Chief Ranger.

Beagley's license did embrace certain defined boundaries, but his license did not give him the right to depasture cattle on all the unenclosed land of St. Kilda. The Government had no power over land not actually in the possession of the Crown. The reserves had been alienated from the Crown, and they were in the possession of the St. Kilda Council, which had not, however, enclosed them with a fence. The Government admitted, in the House, that the Acting Commissioner of Crown Lands had made a mistake, in including the reserves in the license, but he was held to be free of blame, owing to the existing state of the law.

As a result of the agitation, the right to graze cattle on the reserves, belonging to the St. Kilda Council, was, at the end of March, excised from Beagley's license, and in consequence of that, it is presumed that Michie's cow, and all the cows, of high and low degree, of the village, were no longer driven at midnight to Brighton, or to Caulfield.

In the list of the Council's first applications to the Government, was a request for the "establishment of a public pound." The Government's reply is given that the Council's request was "under consideration." The Council also asked for "the control of the Town Herdsman, and to be supplied with information as to his privileges." The Government, in the year 1858, complied with the Council's request, as regards the establishment of a pound, which was placed at the corner of Alma Road, and Alexandra Street, where now stands, in Alexandra Street, "Fairholm," a house formerly known as "Holmwood," when an early resident, Edward Fanning, resided there. In a report of the Council, issued shortly after the establishment of the pound, the Council stated that its advantages had "already become very apparent." Wandering cattle, from adjacent suburbs, were driven into the pound, and they were not released until poundage dues were paid. Neighbouring Councils saw in this collection of poundage dues, a possible source of revenue that they had not tapped, besides, if their ratepayers' wandering cows were to be impounded, it was more profitable for their own Councils to do so, than to allow the St. Kilda Council to profit by a monopoly of such arrests.

The adjacent Councils erected pounds within their own boundaries, and the result of their doing so was that the poundage fees at St. Kilda were "considerably reduced." In face of a falling revenue, the St. Kilda pound keeper was glad to be quit of the personal responsibility of pound keeping. In 1864, the St. Kilda pound was placed by the Poundage Act under the control and management of the St. Kilda Council. The Council bought the pound house from the late pound keeper. He agreed then to become an officer of the Council, and to receive wages for his services. The poundage fees were paid into the funds of the Borough. It was found that the reduced receipts of fees just about paid the cost of managing the pound. The Town Common was let for grazing purposes by tender for one year at a rental of £65.

One of the first St. Kilda pound keepers was R. D. Bust, who was succeeded in October, 1858, by Matthew Hunt, who in turn made way, in 1861, for George Richardson Marsack. St. Kilda pound keepers were above suspicion, though pound keepers, as a class, were "suspected" by the police on principle. It was said that many of the pound keepers were in league with cattle thieves. The unsatisfactory working of the Impounding Act was frequently under criticism in Parliament, and a Select Committee was appointed, in 1859, to inquire into its working.

"The Herdsman's Run" for the town herd, the herd comprised of the cows, and horses, of the residents, was the piece of land now beautified and known as the Blessington Street Gardens. At the beginning of its formation only the central portion or the paddock was made into a garden, or "botanical plantation," as it was then the custom to call such ornamental reserves. Enclosing the central garden was a substantial fence, seven feet in height, placed there, to protect the gardens from the animals depasturing on the herdsman's run. Complaints were made to the Council that its employees did not keep the gates of the garden securely shut, and that the gates fastenings were so ineffective that the gates were frequently open. Residents, who grazed their animals, on the run, were liable to be fined 10/- if their horses, cows, or goats, strayed into the garden. One man wrote to "The Argus" newspaper stating that he had been fined 10/- and then he had to pay 15/6 poundage expenses. He blamed the Justice, Edward Sydes, J.P., sitting

in the Court of Petty Sessions, St. Kilda, for having such misty ideas of what justice was ; he blamed the Surveyor of St. Kilda, Sydney Smith, who knew that the fastenings on the gates were insecure, yet, he had taken no action to repair them ; he also blamed the Council for not seeing to such things. Because of the neglects enumerated, he had had to pay the fine, and the pound keeper's fees.

No cow-keeper in St. Kilda was an admirer of the town herdsman, James Beagley. His office beggared his chances. But he had a fellow in his isolation from communal regard, and he was Matthew Hunt. In their names they were well placed for the work they were employed in Beagle and Hunt. One of their sons, in October, 1860, drove ten cows belonging to William King, a dairyman, into a pocket, of the area of six square yards, that led to the gates of the St. Kilda pound. King came hurriedly, in a cart, on the scene, just in time to see the cows being driven towards the pound. King shouted, and lashed a stock-whip about the cows, causing the animals to stampede out of the enclosure. The boy succeeded in closing the gates of the pound, and securing one cow. King chuckled, as he drove off, with his nine rescued cows. He did not know that releasing animals in pound, or in the custody of a pound keeper, were serious offences. He was prosecuted, and his lawyer, Frank J. S. Stephen, pleaded that the cows were not in the pound ; that the boy was not the St. Kilda town herdsman, nor was the boy the pound keeper. These pleas did not succeed. King was fined £10, and the Bench made an order giving £5 to Beagley, and £5 to King.

Michie asked "Was it true that the inhabitants of St. Kilda were living in the midst of a cattle run ?" The answer for all practical purposes was "Yes." The whole of the Crown lands of Elwood to Brighton Road, and along that road north, to the St. Kilda Junction, was an authorised grazing area for cattle. Across the Junction, the Albert Park, sweeping around to Emerald Hill, was a cow pasture. Then the St. Kilda West Beach swampy lands, and so from them along the shore to Point Ormond, Elwood, were also cattle pastures. Thus it will be seen that the St. Kilda residents were practically living in the midst of a cattle run, residing, as the large majority of them were, on, and about, the St. Kilda Hill. Regulations of the Crown Lands

Department existed defining that area as a cow pasturage. The Government authorities leased the lands to men, who farmed the parks and reserves to owners of cows. These men regarded every vacant reserve in St. Kilda as a part of their holding, and seized cows thereon that were not pastured with them. The St. Kilda Council complained to the Department of this wholesale trespass on their reserves by outside herdsmen. The Crown Lands officers expressed their regret that such liberties had been taken by their lessees, and the practice was stopped.

Cows, their pastures, and their impoundings, were very animated questions among residents of St. Kilda, since so many of them kept cows. We have seen a note wherein the wealthy Tom Monahan was described as a cow keeper. He did, in fact, at the bluestone residence he built and called "Erindale," in Brighton Road, keep a beautiful herd of Alderney cows, and his wife sold their rich milk as a regular custom to those who went for it. "Erindale" after Monahan's death was pulled down, the estate was subdivided, and a nest of villas hides the once well known place. From "Erindale," we have been told, Monahan rode almost every morning, an old roan horse which he stabled at Kenney's Baths, while he had his bathe in the sea. Monahan's name does not appear on a petition as one who grazed his cows on the Town Common. His lands and the green fodder he grew were sufficient for his Alderneys.

Rules, and Regulations, of the St. Kilda Town Common were issued from the Town Hall, St. Kilda, August 6, 1866, by the managers of the Town Common, Edward Bradshaw, Town Clerk, Sydney W. Smith, Surveyor, and H. Wilkinson. They show, among other things, that the triangular piece of land, with its base on Acland Street, its top resting on Albert and Carlisle Streets, and its other side Barkly Street to the point formed by Acland and Barkly Streets, opposite to the Village Belle Hotel, was one of the mustering grounds for cattle; the other mustering ground was at the west end of Fitzroy Street. Every cow had to be delivered to the town herdsman at either of these two places, appointed by the Council for that purpose, from 7 to 8 a.m., and owners of cows had to attend there between 3 and 4 p.m. to take re-delivery of their cows from the herdsman. Every householder was entitled to depasture one horse, and no more, on any part of the Town Common. Every householder had the right to depasture any number of mulch cows not exceeding

in number six, but no dry cows or sheep were allowed to graze on the Town Common. Cattle had to be registered at the Town Hall with full particulars of their brands and appearance. Sixpence per head was charged for depasturing cows and horses, but if the town herdsman delivered them each afternoon at their owner's residences, then the charge became one shilling. The owner of any cow dying on the Town Common had to remove the carcase at his own expense.

The Council received in March, 1872, a petition from ratepayers of the Borough, extolling the good qualities of Matthias Lyons in his official capacity of Town Herdsman, and asking the Council to appoint him permanently as the Town Herdsman. The Council was told by the petitioning ratepayers that Lyons, if appointed, would continue to pay the sum of 180 per annum to the Council. Several testimonials from residents are incorporated in the petition. Most of the leading burgesses' signatures appear on the petition. The Rev. J. Stanley Low writes: "I have much pleasure in signing this document." Henry Jennings is the cautious lawyer: "I believe Matthias Lyons attends well to his duties, and therefore recommend him, but know nothing more. Henry Jennings." Matthias Lyons, usually called "Mat," and humorously alluded to as the "Squatter of Elwood," was afterwards, when the abattoirs at Elwood were established, appointed to the position of Slaughter House Keeper.

If the "fine folks" kept their cows in St. Kilda in 1860, the "poor classes" also kept their goats. Apparently the goats were, in 1856, regarded as a nuisance, and the owners of wandering goats were liable to be fined. "The Argus," of May, 1856, has a report of the proceedings in a "goat case" at the Melbourne City Court. The owner of the goat, James Hanna, residing at St. Kilda, was fined 1/- by Mr. Sturt, P.M., who said to the mounted trooper, who impounded the goat, that he "could see no grounds for interfering with goats, which were a great convenience to a number of poor families. Goats, in his opinion, did no harm in eating grass off common land."

Notwithstanding the police magistrate's opinion, the majority of the residents of St. Kilda, who had gardens, and orchards, knew that goats, on their hind legs, were a destructive nuisance. The St. Kilda Council did not regard goats with any favor. In February, 1868, Sergeant Boutall, in charge of the St. Kilda Police Station wrote to the Council, requesting

that the order made by the Council, and served upon him, requiring him to destroy his poultry, and his goats, be not enforced, as he had "tethered the goats."

The keeping of pigs, by residents of St. Kilda, was interdicted by the Council of St. Kilda. A questioning notice, dated October 24, 1873, was issued by the town clerk, George Sprigg. "To all and sundry residents and ratepayers," stating that the Borough Council of St. Kilda has had under its consideration, the question of the prohibition of the keeping of swine, within the borough, and he asked that, if any resident had any objection to that proposal, the objector would lodge his objection with him, the town clerk. An objection did come from one resident, no less than the Premier of the colony, James Service. He said, in his objection, that he considered the prohibition to keep pigs not only objectionable, but unnecessary. He kept a pig to prevent waste, and grow his own pork, and he was at a loss to understand why his liberty, in that respect, should be interfered with. To prohibit the keeping of swine in populous towns, or cities would be a necessity, but, in a semi-rural district like St. Kilda, it was altogether different. "People," said James Service, "came to live in St. Kilda, in order that they might enjoy the luxuries and pleasures of the country, without losing the advantages of proximity to Melbourne. But what was the use, if they were to be subject to all city restriction? He thought the case might be met by prohibiting the keeping of pigs within 40 to 50 feet of any dwelling. The Honorable James Service, by his appeal, saved his bacon, the Council allowing him to keep his pig.

When houses, and populations, increased at East St. Kilda, opportunities to graze cows were less frequent. The necessity of a pound, in East St. Kilda, passed away, and the St. Kilda pound was re-established at Elwood. Like conditions of closer settlement, as had happened at East St. Kilda, took place at Elwood. The pound there was disestablished as from January 31, 1924. The Council then took steps, under the Pounds Act, 1915, to create a pound in the old market place, in Inkerman Street. The residents objected, a petition was presented from them to the Council. The Council took no further action to establish a pound in St. Kilda, recognising perhaps, that the days of cows wandering through the streets of St. Kilda had passed away.