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WILLIAM HENTY

William Henty (1808-1881), the fifth of the nine sons of Thomas Henty (1775-1839), came to Tasmania in 1837 to join his father and brothers who had emigrated earlier. He travelled out with his wife, Susannah Matilda (Camfield), and a baby son who died on the voyage, on board the Fairlie which also carried Lt.Gov. Sir John Franklin and his lady and suite. Having been admitted as a solicitor in England in 1829 and practised in London and Brighton, Sussex, Henty entered into partnership with John Ward Gleadow in Launceston. He was a member of the Legislative Council for Tamar and was Colonial Secretary from 1857 until he left the Colony in 1862. Henty was secretary of the Launceston Horticultural Society and took an active part in church, education and other local affairs and played cricket. He wrote a pamphlet "on improvements in cottage husbandry" (Launceston 1849) suggesting suitable crops such as hemp, millet, mustard, cider, dried fruits. After he left Tasmania in 1862 with his wife and young daughter, Mary, he settled in Brighton, Sussex, U.K., where he took an interest in local charitable institutions, especially a home for blind children. He wrote several articles, including one on the youth of Shakespeare.

APPOINTMENTS

- H.1-11 Letters of Appointment 1829 - 859
Formal letters of admission of William Henty of the Strand, Middlesex, and Brighton, Sussex, as attorney, commissioner for affidavits, solicitor, notary public in London, Sussex etc., U.K. (1829-36); Commissioner of Supreme Court of Victoria to take and receive in V.D.L. verification of memorials & deeds relating to property in Victoria (1852); Colonial Secretary Tasmania (25 Apr. 1857); summons to attend the Synod of the Diocese of Tasmania (1859).
(11 docs. parchment and paper, 1 doc. damaged by fire)
- 12-13 Resignation 1 Nov. 1862
Draft letter resigning as M.L.C. and from office as Colonial Secretary preparatory to "quitting the Colony for a season" and reply from J. Gore Brown, Governor.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 14-16 Sir John Franklin 1839, 1841
Friends of the Church of England (4 Apr. 1839); draft letter from Henty petitioning for the discharge of Edward Bonner from service as "boy" on H.M.S. Favorite (Capt. Dunlop) so that he and his brother, Henty's clerk, might provide means to bring out their poor mother and brothers and sisters from England and Sir John's reply that discharge was "contrary to the practice of the service", also reference to Launceston Horticultural Society (6 July 1841).
(3 docs.)

- 17 James MacArthur 10 Feb. 1859
Asking "your friendly aid" in seeking appointment to Mr Noyes' post during Noyes' leave of absence.
- 18 Henty to nephew Henry 9 June 1843
Pleased with Henry's letter to his father, Henry and his brother's studies improving, plants, boomerang, family, compliments to Mr and Mrs Hawkes.
- 19-22 Henty to wife Matilda and Mary Aug. - Oct. 1862
Letters to his wife, Matilda, and daughter, Mary, on holiday with relatives at Tomago N.S.W., written in the form of a journal describing his last days in office and preparations for leaving the Colony. When Parliament was dissolved after the defeat over the "Ad valorem duty bill", having carried the State Aid Religion Bill, William Henty was able to resign and made his farewell speech on 17 October 1862. He described his preparations for departure: he catalogued his books for sale, sorted and burnt papers, packed up a side saddle for Mary, suggested sending Mary's old school and story books for Ann's children at Tomago, his servant Dinah was to go to Mrs Dobson, his dog Fanny was given to Joseph Archer - with Mrs Archer's permission - but "poor little Fanny looked very forlorn at me when the man took her away cuddled in his arms . . . she lately has come into the Council regularly with me and everybody took notice of her", Banjo the cat to the butcher, who promised to take good care of him, the mare sold for £30 and the carriage for £50 and he gave his picture of the cricketers to Lewis Dobson. Henty was suffering from a bad foot and Dr. Crowther "applied caustic" but might have to take off the toenail using chloroform. Dr. Crowther was operating on Mrs Buckland's eyes for cataract.
- There are references also to relatives and friends and social life. Henty dined at Government House with Governor and Mrs Gore Brown and the guests played at *bouts rimes* making verses out of questions and nouns. He also referred to Mrs Gore Brown's "theatricals", her slighting Miss Rose and then dining at "old Gregsons". *The Messiah* had been played at the Theatre for the Packers. Henty also dined at Archdeacon Davies' to meet Mrs Kermode and old Mrs Archer etc. Willy Garrett said "the girls" were getting on well with the scholars and "the young Cockburns" were going to board there. Bobby Maning had run away to Captain Fenton's and Willy Knight was trying for a Tasmanian Scholarship, but was thought to be "much behind the others". Mrs Crouch had sent her promised book "The Young Ladies' Instructor". The Barnards had returned on the "Heather Belle". It snowed in Hobart several times that winter and a gale blew down the end of the stable. Henty hoped that young Mary was finding the weather in N.S.W. more agreeable and was pleased to hear she had seen the comet - Mr Abbott had also seen it.
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| 19 | 12 Aug. - 3 Sept. |
| 20 | 5 Sept.- 23 Sept. |
| 21 | 23 Sept. to Mary |
| 22 | 9 Oct. - 18 Oct. (incomplete) |
- (6 folded papers)
- 23 C. Darwin to W. Henty 29 Feb. 1868
Scrap of paper with postscript referring to table of colts and fillies of race mare and part of envelope from C. Darwin, Bromley, Kent [U.K.]

DIARY

24 Diary of voyage to V.D.L. 26 Aug. 1836 - 6 Jan. 1837

William Henty's journal of his voyage on the "Fairlie" to V.D.L. accompanied by his wife, Matilda, their baby boy (referred to only as "Baby" or "Babet") and their servants Mr and Mrs Hutson.

Other passengers included the new Lt.Governor of V.D.L. Sir John Franklin and his lady and their party, making 32 adults at table in the cabin (plus servants and others in the steerage, a total of 216 souls apart from the crew). To make room at the table some of the ladies dined with the children who were served their meals earlier. Henty commented that "Sir John and his lady try to put everyone at their ease and require no state" Archdeacon Mayres, also on board, regularly read evening prayers and "reads beautifully". Once they were in calmer and warmer waters Sir John's piano was brought on deck and with Miss Kracoft [Cracraft] as "chief musician" 7 or 8 couples danced country dances, quadrilles, etc., allowing the games of leap frog, French and English etc to decline. The traditional King Neptune revelries on crossing the line were forbidden by the Captain and the occasion was marked simply by launching a lighted tar barrel.

The Henty's were, however, mainly occupied with their young baby who was sickly. Henty washed and dressed the baby himself when his wife was seasick, although their servants were attentive. The baby was fed on arrowroot and water three times a day plus rusks and a little gravy from the children's dinner and then was put to sleep during the day in the arms of Hutson or his wife or on the hen coop. He was teething, had a bowel complaint and developed a cough and swollen and sore hands and feet, thought to be due to the wet state of their cabin. Henty hoped a spell ashore at the Cape would cure him but his journal entries cease after nearing The Cape on 31 October until Monday 12 Dec. 1836 when he records the death of their baby son on the previous Friday. Hutson had laid him out and made a little black coffin. There were several deaths, too, among the steerage passengers and when an Irishwoman died leaving a baby the Archdeacon promised the father a job on landing and offered to have the child taken care of but he refused to part with it.

Before they reached The Cape, however, Henty described shipboard life, noting the tremendous noise of the ship's work, especially scraping the decks in the early hours of the morning, the food provided which he considered very nice - plenty of fresh meat with puddings, bread and biscuits, passing ships - one "having a blue streak painted round her denoting the death of the captain or owner, flying fish, shark, Portuguese "men of war" and other sea creatures.

(quarto vol., disbound)

SCHOOL BOOK

25 School book - W. Henty Sept. 1820

Classics exercise book of William Henty when "near 12 years old", including notes in neat copybook handwriting on Roman history, Latin exercises, and Greek alphabet, declensions and exercises.

At back printed tables of weights, measures etc.
(octavo vol.)

PUBLICATIONS & PRESS CUTTINGS

26-28 Publications by William Henty

- 26 "On the wreck of the Isabella" by W. Henty, Launceston 1837 (poem 1 p.)
 27 *On improvements in cottage husbandry* 1849, pub. Henry Dowling jun. Launceston (28 pp.)
 28 "Hints & helps on conversation for a social (table) party in Brighton, William Henty, Brighton, Christmas 1874 (2 pp)

29 Press criticisms & obituary notice

30 Miscellaneous press cuttings etc. 1831 - 1842

Bundle of cuttings, notices etc., mounted on papers, including: shipping advertisements - "Fairlie" to include Sir John Franklin, Govnr. with his lady and suite (1836), Worthing [U.K.] regatta (1831), exhibition of whale skeleton London (ND.), Guildford Royal Grammar School prospectus (ND.), opening of Mechanics Institute Hobart (1842), "Chambers Information for the People No. 14 'Emigration to V.D.L.' ", South Australian colonisation, Launceston Horticultural Society notices W. Henty secretary (1838-9), miscellaneous cuttings on horticulture, sheep management, immigration, female immigration (1836), insurance.
 (bundle)

NAME	AGE	DESCN	DATES	TOPIC	REF
Archer, Joseph			1862	Henty's dog	H 6/22
Bonner, Edward			1841	"boy" on HMS Favorite	H6/
Browne, Harriet		2nd w Thomas Gore E.	1862	dinner, theatricals	H 6/19-20
Browne, Thomas, Gore	(1807-1887)	Govr., KCMG 1863	1862		H 6/13, 19-20
Crowther, William Lodewyk	(1817-1885)	surgeon	1862	operations	H 6/19-22
Franklin, John	(1786-1847)	kt, Govr.	1836, 39, 41	voyage, church, navy	H6/24, 14-16
Garrett, William			1862	school	H6/19-22
Hawkes, William H		schlmr.	1843	H.Henty Franklin House School	H6/18
Henty, Henry	(1833-)	s. James H	1843	school	H/618
Henty, Susannah Matilda		(Camfield) w. Wm. H.	1836-62	fmly	H 6/224, 19-22
Henty, William	(1808-1881)	s. Thomas H, solr.	1829-74	voyage, Leg Counl, fmly	H 6/1-30
McArthur, James			1859	appln. for post	H 6/17

SUBJECT	TYPE	DATE	DESCN	REF
comet	astronomy	1862	sighted	H6/21
health	medicine	1862	operations	H6/19-22
Parliament	Leg. Cncl.	1862	refs.	H6/19-22
ships	Fairlie	1836	voyage	H6/24, 30