

## ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

### ROBERT FRY, THE MANIAC MURDERER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN.

Sir—Having understood that several reports have been circulated about the case of Robert Fry, who some weeks ago murdered his wife in a fit of madness, which are utterly at variance with the actual facts of the case, I beg to hand you a real and true statement of the affair.

I left here with Fry's late stock-keeper, in the employment of the only relative Fry has here, to take charge of the station and to superintend everything there. The first night we slept in the hut Fry was on the top of it, and set his dogs on to worry all the sheep we had on the station. The next night we camped on the side of the range and watched him down to the creek, where he took away one remaining sheep from her lamb. We have not only seen Fry, but he told one of the blacks called King Williamy, after rubbing the rifle over his shoulder, that he only wanted to shoot one more white man, and that if he told it to any white fellow he would shoot him (meaning King Williamy) next time he saw him. He was also seen hunting the bush by 2 blacks, named Bobby Robinson and Jeremiah; and I went with one of Mr Anstey's shepherds 16 miles after 10 o'clock, to Robinson's Point, to ascertain the particulars. I afterwards went, with three of Mr Anstey's shepherds, down to the blacks, and they stated they had seen him with his trousers torn up to his knees, no hat, and carrying a gun over his left arm, and making all kinds of wild motions.

I have had 13 years colonial life, and I must say, Mr Editor, that I never passed so anxious a time as the fortnight I passed at Fry's station, and about the range. The hut is filthy beyond description.

Yours, &c.,

J. C.

[On Tuesday afternoon the writer of the above letter, who has given us his name, called at our office and, in addition to the information it contains, mentioned that the fear of Fry is so great in the neighbourhood of his station, that it is utterly deserted, no one daring to go near the place. The property is at the mercy of himself, the natives, or any chance marauders. Fry has always been, as our informant expressed it, much more like a native than a white man, and could subsist for any length of time in the bush without difficulty; there can be little doubt therefore that armed and resolute as he is, his capture will cost a desperate struggle. The police were still after him, seeking the blacks who are supposed to know his haunts. The immediate reason of our informant's leaving the station

who are supposed to know his haunts. The immediate reason of our informant's leaving the station was, that Mr Allom, Fry's late overseer, accidentally shot himself in the head, and it was found necessary to bring him into town. The writer was anxious it should be known how this unfortunate circumstance occurred, as he had heard it falsely reported that Mr Allom had been shot by Fry. The wound, at the time he called, had been examined by Dr Davies, who had hopes that it was not dangerous. Ed. S.A.]