

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[It must be understood that we do not necessarily endorse the opinions of Correspondents under this heading.]

### SCOTTY'S GRAVE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—In the *Herald* of the 24th February allusion was made to the present state of the fencing at Scotty's Grave on the Hamilton-road, and it was suggested that in order to preserve a memento of the early days the fence should be restored. I think the idea a good one if the owner of the land is willing to allow it to be re-erected. I may also state a few facts as to Scotty's history, as you seem to be altogether at sea on the matter.

Scotty was hutkeeper near the washpool on Allen's Creek—I think Mr. Staker owned the land afterwards. The owners of the station were Baker & Newland, and the manager Thomas Hallock. Scotty was a good natured fellow, and owned a horse and cart, and used to do a little general dealing among the station hands, and was prepared to buy or sell anything and take an order on the overseer for payment. He was a general favorite, but not much to look at; he had one withered arm, and no one could tell his age by the look of his face. In August, 1846, there was a flood in the Light, and Scotty went over with his cart at the usual crossing a little below Baker's Flat, and on his return the cart was upset in the stream. He was washed through one of those large holes into shallow water, where the body was found shortly afterwards. The remains were removed to their present resting place. I think Mr. George March, who is at present, and has been for many years past, on the Anlaby estate, assisted to dig the grave. A tombstone was bought and the grave fenced in by subscription among the station hands. I was passing the place in 1865, and went to look at the grave. The fence was in good order then, and the name on the stone quite clear. I copied the following only—

JAMES BURNETT.  
Died 2nd August, 1846;  
Aged 36 years.

It also stated that the stone was placed there by subscription amongst his friends—that subscription I remember was 10s. each—just one week's wages for a shepherd at that time. It is possible that the stone may be lying near there yet with the inscription on it.

I am, Sir, &c.,

W. FLAVEL.

St. Kitts' Creek, March 4, 1885.

A VERY plucky act was performed on Saturday, at Camperdown, by two lads named Wyndham Jones and Walter Jones, sons of the Shire Rabbit Inspector. It seems that the

boys were collecting wood in the Leura paddock, near the township, when they chased a rabbit in among the roots of a tree. They ran a stick a short distance, and felt what they took to be a rabbit. Wyndham Jones, aged 16, then stooped down and ventured to put his right hand into the hollow. Suddenly he felt a prickling sensation at the end of one of his fingers, and called out to his brother that the rabbit had bitten him. He attempted to pull back his arm, but was unable to do so without the assistance of his brother. When he pulled it out, a large black snake was coiled around the wrist and had fastened its poisonous fangs to the extremities of the middle finger and fore-finger of the right hand. The boy shook off the snake and called out to his brother to chop off the two fingers. Walter partly cut them off, and the two then hurried home. On the way, Wyndham Jones insisted on the two fingers being completely severed, which was done. The boy was then taken to Dr. Pettigrew, who dressed the wounds, and on Sunday the fingers were properly amputated. The lad is now progressing favorably, and has kept up well under the accident. It should be stated that for the self-possession shown they are indebted to their teaching at the local State School, where they had constantly put before them in their classes the treatment of snake-bite. Dr. Pettigrew has no doubt that the snake was poisonous, and considers the lads to have acted sensibly and pluckily. Snakes are very vicious and venomous at this season of the year, and are plentiful in this district.—*Warrnambool Standard*.

The Hon. A. Evelyn Ashley, Political Secretary to the Colonial Office, has expressed his disapproval of the project for the severance of the colony of Queensland.