



John George

the **Wilmot enigma**

Ken Whitehouse

JOHN GEORGE - THE WILMOT ENIGMA

A GENEALOGICAL STUDY

BASED UPON

JOHN GEORGE WINCHESTER WILMOT
(1830-1895)

Prepared for Lady Meriel Wilmot-Wright

by Ken Whitehouse

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INTRODUCTION

a work in progress
text awaited

PART ONE

John George Winchester WILMOT (1830-1895)

The John George Winchester Wilmot who currently is at the core of this research project was first found mentioned in an article published in the Sri Lankan Daily News of 23 April 2012. The source of the information they publish is not known. It says that he was born in England in 1831 and moved to Port Phillip, a settlement which was later to become Victoria, Australia, in 1843. He later went to Ceylon to become a coffee planter. After some years he returned to Australia and initially went to the gold fields. Eventually he became a surveyor, in which capacity he had much to do with the mapping of Victoria. Also, for many years he was the cartoonist of the Melbourne magazine Punch.

He was appointed as the District Surveyor of Benalla, Victoria in 1855 and one of the areas he subsequently surveyed in this capacity was 12 kilometres West-south West of Benalla town itself.



Apparently his team were hungry when they arrived there and so he named the area Baddaginnie, from 'badagini' - meaning 'hungry' in the language of Ceylon, the language he had recently left. In 1862, he surveyed the area around the settlement of 'Nine Creeks', Northwest of Ballarat, in the Wimmera River region of Victoria which the Aborigines called the Watchegatcheca, meaning Wattle Tree and White Cockatoos. The town was gazetted and proclaimed in 1863 with the

new name 'Dimboola', from John George's familiarity with planting in Sri Lanka. It seems that named it thus because of the abundance of fruit trees, including figs, which grew there. There is also a 'Dimbulah' in North Queensland, amidst the goldfields. Historians say the name of this town, founded in 1876, originates from an Aborigine term meaning 'long waterhole'. However, it would be satisfying to think that Wilmot, who had been around the gold fields, might also have had a hand in its naming.

In genealogical terms John George's ancestry has not been fully established. Current members of his known descendants firmly believe that he is from the Eardley-Wilmot line because they are in possession of items which bear the crest of that family and which have been passed down to them through parents, grandparents etc. In-depth research has been undertaken here in the UK and also in Australia, on both the Eardley-Wilmot and the Wilmot families and information found concerning them, as far as it is relevant, is given below. No positive evidence has been found which identifies John George's father but several tantalizing suppositions can be made. The starting place for the search has to be from an entry recording John George's death, found in Victorian (Australia) death records, entry number 1895/8364, which gives his birthplace as Westmoreland (no town or village given), England but fails to name his parents. Another item, from 'The Empire' newspaper dated 24 October 1867 (published in Sydney), found in the archives of the National Library of Australia, records in the Marriages section, the second of his two marriages;

'On 10th September (1867), at the residence of the bride's father, Tebbutt, Victoria, by the Rev A Brazier, John George Winchester, second son of the late E C Wilmot, Windermere, to Hannah Louise, second daughter of William Whittakers Esq, JP'

A similar announcement was also found in the 'Sydney Morning Herald' dated 23 October 1867. However, perhaps the most authoritative information found about him is from each of his two official marriage registration entries and from a notice of his death which was on page six of the Melbourne Argus on Monday 5 August 1895.

First marriage entry

1853/29973 IDE Fanny and WILMOT John George Winchester married at Church of England, St Peter's Melbourne on 28 June 1853 by licence, both of this parish. Witnesses G. Atkinson Melbourne and J. Betts

(It is also known than, ten years later, John commenced divorce proceedings on grounds of Fanny's desertion and adultery after just 3 days of marriage)

Second marriage entry

1867/2259 Hannah Louise WHITTAKERS and John George Winchester WILMOT married on the 11 Sep 1867 at Tubbutt, South Gippsland.. Grooms place of birth London, age 38, father Edward Charles Wilmot, mother Maud Winchester. Bride's residence Tubbutt, age 23, father William Whittakers, mother Louisa (other name illegible), witnesses Wm Whittakers and Marcia Louisa Moore.*

* Place of birth London is at variance with the notice of death shown below which gives it as Winton, Westmoreland.



(image via Google Images)

The homestead in the picture above almost certainly illustrates where Hannah Louise was born and where her marriage to John George took place. It is a painting by Buvelot called 'Snowy River Run' and it shows the homestead which was built in about 1838 by Thomas Moore of Burnima Victoria. He was the bride's maternal grandfather. John George and Hannah Louise lived there after their marriage. John George eventually purchased the painting and it was passed down to his grandson, Chester Wilmot. *(detail taken from the Lot Notes when picture was offered for sale by G W Winchester-Wilmot in London in 2007 through Christies. It was sold at auction for £26,900).*

The Notice of John George's death, published in the Melbourne Argus, read as follows (*sic*)

DEATH OF MR. J. G. W. WILMOT.

It will be learned with deep regret that Mr. J. G. W. Wilmot, of William street, died at his residence, Brighton, on Saturday. Mr. Wilmot has been in indifferent health for some time past, and a few weeks ago suffered a chill which produced painful and fatal complications. He was assiduously attended by Dr. Backhouse, with whom other medical advisers were in consultation, but in spite of their skill he never really improved, gradually becoming worse, expired on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Wilmot, whose Christian names were John George Winchester, was born at Winton, Westmoreland, on September 19, 1830. He was educated in France at a school attended by a number of English boys, among whom were Blanchard Jerrold and Vizetelly the well known publisher. When but a lad, in January, 1843* (he would have been thirteen), he came to Port Phillip, but at the end of that year (when just fourteen) went to Ceylon, where he was engaged on a coffee plantation. There he learned surveying, and gained experience which stood him in good stead when in 1852 he returned to this country. First he followed the life of a digger, but later on commenced practice as a surveyor. The whole of Victoria was his field, and there is scarcely any part of it with which he was not thoroughly acquainted. The Werribee Plains were surveyed by him.*

In 1855 he became district surveyor at Benalla, having charge of the territory between Seymour and Beechworth, He laid out the Sydney road, and ran the telegraph line from Seymour to Benalla It was mainly through his instrumentality that this rich district was opened up for settlement. Subsequently he became district surveyor at Portland, Ararat, and Bairnsdale, but in 1868 he determined to retire from the public service and apply himself to private practice. He left his imprint on the map of Victoria, in which he named a large number of townships and parishes, such as Mangalore, Dookie, Baddaginnie, Miepoll, Stuarton, Glenrowan, Winton, Bessiebelle, Bellaura, Dimboola, and others.

His private work was mainly confined to arbitration, land agency and valuing. As an arbitrator he held the leading position in Melbourne, having been engaged in most of the important cases arising out of railway construction. As a land agent his services were in demand, and as the representative of the holders he took an active part in the classification of land under the Lund Tax Act of 1877. In this he was associated with the late Mr Justice Kerferd, who appeared, under his instructions, for most of the appellants before the special land commission appointed at the time. As a valuer he had wide experience, and since 1884 made nearly all the country valuations for the Master in Equity. In many cases such a degree of confidence was reposed in him that he valued for both executors and the master.

Though he never sought nor desired parliamentary honours, Mr Wilmot was an enthusiastic and energetic constitutionalist. As an organiser he could not be excelled, and he was one of the most active and most persistent members of the splendid party which overthrew Berryism in 1880. Veterans well remember the good work he did between 1877 and 1881 for the vindication of the principle of good government as against class despotism, and it is to such as he that we owe in no small measure the well based Upper House of today. Mr Wilmot's talents as a party worker found expression in many of the cartoons of the day in Punch when "T.C " was a power in the land. He was a member of the council, which held weekly meetings - just such as are held in connection with London Punch - and his colleagues were often indebted to him for points which helped to make the magnificent series of cartoons of the day.

In private life Mr Wilmot was very highly esteemed. Few men were better known in the city, and few will be missed more than he. He was married in 1807 to the second daughter of the late Mr William Whittakers, of Tubbutt Station, Monaro, and latterly of Loy Yang, Gippsland. Mrs Wilmot and several children survive the deceased.

*These points imply that John George was at school in France when quite young and that he went to Australia in 1843 when only thirteen years of age, and then - when fourteen - went to Ceylon. Presumably each of these moves would have been with either his father or some other responsible adult. No evidence has so far been found of a Wilmot family living in France pre-1843.

To further complicate the search for his parents, an entry found by Lady Meriel Wilmot-Wright in the Baptism register for St Pancras, London for July 1830-May 1832 records that a John Giles (*not George*) Winchester Wilmot was born on 16 September 1826 and was baptized some five years later on 27 March 1831 in St Pancras, London. This baptism event, which has been explored in great detail, was registered in his mother's name, Mary Winchester of Steward Street^{*}, with no mention of either the father's name or the child's place of birth. A similar entry can also be found in the Pallots Index. In both of these this child is annotated as illegitimate, although that was not shown on the search result which was provided to Lady Meriel by the Greater London Record Office and History Library in 1983. Given the gap between the stated birth date and the baptism date it is quite possible that the birth occurred somewhere other than St Pancras where the baptism was performed by the Rev A d'Arblay,

apparently at the Church of St John the Evangelist, in Smith Square, Westminster. (Some items of interest are to be found via Google about Rev d'Arbley). It would seem therefore that we would be following a false trail here as it looks most unlikely to have any relevance for us.

**!A search of the National Archive records relating to the aforementioned Steward Street, around the period we are interested, in reveals that it appears to have been a middle class area with a large Jewish element, including a Synagogue, and was in fact in the process of being demolished in the mid 1830s.*

The search for John George's parentage is particularly difficult because official, formal, registration of births and marriages was not required in England until 1 July 1837. Wide ranging searches of local records, Will and probate entries prior to that date which are held by the principal genealogical research organisations have so far all had negative results. One should perhaps not be surprised by the lack of such records prior to 1837, particularly in churches in smaller communities. These are known to have been haphazard in many instances. Also, in particular, illegitimate children were probably not baptised at all.

So for now, from the information currently available to us, we concentrate the search for John George's ancestry by looking for his stated parents, Edward Charles Wilmot, his mother Maud, nee Winchester and his stated birthplace Winton. Lady Meriel's investigative visit to Winton, and the author's enquiries in nearby Windermere, particularly with the Vicar there, the Rev David Wilmot, have proved fruitless. Winton is a very small place indeed. In the *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* in 1870 it is described like this:

WINTON, a township in Kirkby-Stephen parish, Westmoreland; 1½ mile NE of Kirkby-Stephen. Acres, 3,383. Pop., 301. Houses, 59. There is an endowed school.

One more matter to perhaps cause speculation is that the old English name of Winton was in fact Winchester (John George *Winchester* Wilmot).

* * * * *

Before moving on to further speculation regarding his ancestry, see below for a listing of what is so far known about descent from John George Winchester Wilmot.



John George Winchester Wilmot
(photo from ancestry.com)

DESCENT FROM JOHN GEORGE WINCHESTER WILMOT

The information so far found regarding the descendants of John George shows descent from him as follows:

1. John George Winchester WILMOT was born (*according to the notice of his death*) on 19 September 1830 in Winton, Westmoreland. In the official entry of his second marriage, his place of birth is given as London. In another entry his father is said to be 'of Windermere ' (some 20 miles to the west of Winton). John George became a Surveyor. He first married Fanny IDE in 1853 in Melbourne. Apparently after just three days into the marriage she was adulterous and deserted John. Some ten years later he divorced her and went on to marry Hannah Louise WHITTAKERS in 1867 in Victoria. He died on 3 August 1895 in Brighton, Victoria. From information contained in the published

announcement of his second marriage his parents are said to have been Edward Charles WILMOT and his wife Maud, nee WINCHESTER.

Hannah Louise was the second daughter of William WHITTAKERS JP and his wife Louise, nee MOORE, who was born on 11 November 1843 in Gippsland, Victoria. A witness to this marriage was Marcia Moore. Hannah and John had the following children:

- +2 **Reginald William Ernest WILMOT (1869-1949)**
- +3 **Nellie Maude WILMOT (1871-)**
- Kate Winchester WILMOT (1872-)**
- +4 **Mitford Moore Winchester WILMOT (1874-1949)**
- Ivan Goodman Winchester WILMOT (1876-1882)**
- Leila Madeline Winchester WILMOT (1877-)**
- Geoffrey Edwin Winchester WILMOT (1879-1902) died in**
 Mafeking, South Africa.
- Dora Christina WILMOT (1883-)**

Second Generation

2. Reginald William Ernest WILMOT*, son of John George Winchester WILMOT and Hannah Louise WHITTAKERS was born in 1869 in Tebbut. He was a leading sports journalist in Melbourne, Australia in the early 20th century, well known for his writing on cricket and Australian rules football. His writing on football and sport in general were authoritative and displayed wisdom and generosity. Along with his colleague Hugh Buggy, Reginald was believed to have coined the term 'body-line (bowling)' during the 1932/33 Ashes Test cricket series.



Reginald William Ernest Wilmot
(photo via ancestry.com)

He was a student of Melbourne Grammar School and later became heavily involved in the organisation of amateur sport in Melbourne and often used his newspaper columns to promote the value of school sport, particularly as it was played in public schools. He supported amateurism in school sport strongly because, as he commented in an article on professional coaches in 1914, 'the professional very often misses the spirit of sport in his desire to gain'. His strongly held loathing of professional sport carried over to his love of football. In 1915 Wilmot, then the vice-president of the Metropolitan Amateur Football Association, used his position as the Argus's football scribe, "Old Boy", to launch an attack on the mercenary nature of professional football, arguing that professional football did not improve the calibre of man and did nothing to improve the sport and, as such, was of no value to the community.

In July 1935 the Victorian Football League presented Wilmot with a mahogany log box for 46 years service to football as a journalist. Also, writing for *The Argus* in 1935, he was given an award by the AFL for 46 years of journalism. He was inducted to the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 1996 and in 1998 was inducted to the Melbourne Cricket Ground's *Rogues Gallery*. He wrote as for *The Argus* and the *Australasian* from 1902 until the mid 1930 and was also a correspondent for *The Times* and *Observer* and *The Times of Ceylon*. He was also the author of *Defending The Ashes* in 1932/33.

** much of this information is courtesy of Wikipedia and has not been extensively further researched*

Reginald married Jane Marian Augusta TRACY on 23 November 1896 in Sale. Jane was the second daughter of William de Tracy Tracy who was the manager of the Sale Bank and who, initial research indicates, is almost certainly a descendant of an illegitimate son of Henry 1.

Their marriage was reported at some length on 4 December 1847 in 'The Australian', a leading Melbourne newspaper. The article gave a detailed report of the wedding, including a list of the wedding presents, details of the flowers and the dresses and also the full guest list. It is interesting to note from the latter that, although many Eardley-Wilmots were known to be resident in the area, none were named as guests at the wedding; this tends to suggest a lack of connection with that family line.

Reginald died on 29 May 1949 in Parkville, Victoria. Reginald and Jane had the following children:

+5 **Jean Winchester WILMOT (1900-)**
 Nancy Dorothy Winchester WILMOT (1902-1926).
 Reginald William Winchester WILMOT (1911-1954)
 Grace Louisa WILMOT

3. Nellie Maude WILMOT, daughter of John George Winchester WILMOT and Hannah Louise WHITTAKERS, was born in 1871. She married Edwin Robey RUSSELL in South Yarra. Edwin was born in 1870, he died in 1949. He and Nellie had the following children:

Eric RUSSELL (1899-)
George Edwin Peter RUSSELL (1903-1985) died in 1985 in Perth, WA.

4. Mitford Moore Winchester WILMOT, son of John George Winchester WILMOT and Hannah Louise WHITTAKERS, was born in 1874. He was a Farmer. He married Beatrice Charlotte Gidley KING in 1920 in Melbourne. He died on 11 May 1949 in East Prahan, Victoria. He served in WW1 and was a Sergeant in Australian Field Artillery, 4th Infantry (service number 29667).

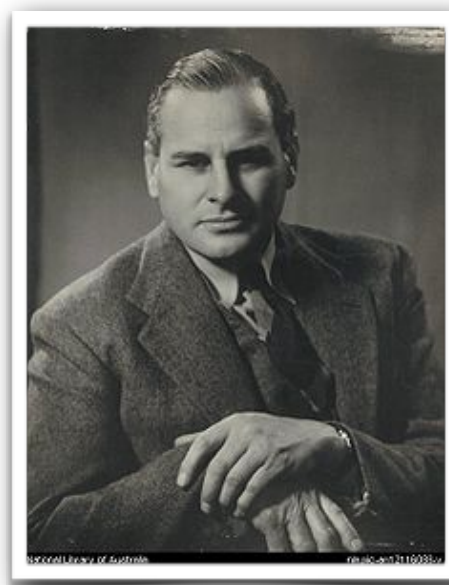
His wife Beatrice was a daughter of Philip Gidley KING and Octavia Charlotte DAWSON (1856-1928). She was born in 1886 in Mafra. She died in January 1982. Much more about her family line at page 29. She and Mitford had one child:

+6

Meriel Antoinette Winchester WILMOT (1920-)

Third Generation

5. Reginald William Winchester WILMOT (*pictured at the end of this section*), son of Reginald William Ernest WILMOT and Jane Marian Augusta TRACY. He was a broadcaster, war correspondent and historian, was born on 21 June 1911 at Brighton, Melbourne, fourth and youngest child of Victorian (Australian) born parents Reginald William Ernest Wilmot, journalist, and his wife Jane Marian, née Tracy. After attending Melbourne Church of England Grammar School which he captained in 1930, Chester entered the University of Melbourne (BA, 1935; LL.B., 1936) and majored in history and politics for his arts degree. He was a member of Melbourne's Inter-Varsity Debating Team in 1932-33 and 1935. As president of the Students' Representative Council next year, he was a close ally of the vice-chancellor (Sir) Raymond Priestley. Wilmot took a leading part in the formation of the National Union of Australian University Students. He also wrote for the Star newspaper and gave talks for the Australian Broadcasting Commission.



(picture via Google Images)

In 1937 Wilmot and his friend Alan Benjamin embarked on an international debating tour, visiting universities in the Philippines, Japan, the United States of America, Canada and Britain. They travelled around Europe and, while in Germany during the Munich crisis (September 1938), Wilmot observed a Nazi Party rally at Nuremberg. Back in Australia in January 1939, he yielded to pressure from his family and next month started work as an articled law clerk. He continued his radio talks and was elected to the council of the University of Melbourne.

After the outbreak of World War II, Wilmot was appointed a correspondent with the ABC's field unit, which sailed for the Middle East in September 1940. He soon proved himself an outstanding broadcaster and reporter, providing masterly descriptions of action and brilliant analyses of strategy.

Recognized as one of the best correspondents in the Middle East, he pioneered interviews at a time when a report read by an announcer was considered sufficient. Wilmot's 'articulate, powerfully spoken accounts' of the soldiers' experiences were often accompanied by the sounds of battle behind his voice. In 1941 he covered the see-sawing campaigns in North Africa and the fighting in Greece and Syria. His story of the battle of Beda Fomm, Libya, was a scoop but he allowed other correspondents to base their accounts on his briefing. He spent several months at Tobruk during the siege then reported the British offensive, Operation Crusader, in which he was slightly wounded on 25 November.

With the entry of Japan into the war, Wilmot returned to Australia and became the ABC's principal war correspondent in the Pacific. On Anzac Day (25th April) 1942 at the chapel of the Collegiate School of St Peter, Adelaide, he married Edith French Irwin, a student. He was sent to Port Moresby to cover the Papuan campaign. In August Wilmot, his friend Damien Parer and a journalist, Osmar White, struggled along the Kokoda Track with the 21st Brigade, Australian Imperial Force, led by Brigadier A. W. Potts. During the brigade's fighting withdrawal, the three newsmen became very critical of the high command for failing to provide Potts and his men with proper equipment, suitably camouflaged uniforms and adequate supplies. Wilmot attempted to broadcast his views but his scripts were censored.

Back in Port Moresby, Wilmot was caught up in the clash between the commander-in-chief, General Sir Thomas Blamey, and the commander of New Guinea Force, Lieutenant General (Sir) Sydney Rowell. When Blamey sacked Rowell, Wilmot protested to Prime Minister John Curtin. His representations failed and in November Blamey cancelled his accreditation as a war correspondent. The stated reason was that Wilmot was undermining the authority of the commander-in-chief by continuing to express in public his suspicions that Blamey had engaged in corrupt conduct in the Middle East. It is more likely, however, that Wilmot was removed from Papua because a report on the campaign that he had written for Rowell (who included it in his dispatch) implied inefficiency on the part of Blamey's headquarters. The ABC supported Wilmot throughout the dispute.

Based in Sydney, Wilmot broadcast regularly for the ABC, published a book, *Tobruk 1941* (1944), and scripted and partly narrated a documentary film, *Sons of the Anzacs* (1943), for the Australian War Memorial. *Tobruk* combined a series of vivid impressions of life during the siege with a description of the campaign based on interviews with participants. Largely due to his efforts, the narrative in *Sons of the Anzacs* accurately complemented the footage of soldiers in action; he had been present when many of the sequences were filmed.

Rumours circulated that Blamey planned to have Wilmot conscripted into the army. Offered a position with the British Broadcasting Corporation's programme, 'War Report', he started work in London in May 1944. He landed in Normandy by glider with the British 6th Airborne Division on D-Day (6 June) and soon became one of the most famous of the correspondents reporting from Europe. After covering many of the major British operations, he recorded the ceremony at Lüneberg on 4 May 1945 in which German forces surrendered to Field Marshal Sir Bernard (Viscount) Montgomery.

Living in England after the war, Wilmot wrote and presented radio and television documentaries dealing with the war and with current affairs. He chaired the first live television coverage of a British general election in 1950. In his book *The Struggle for Europe* (London, 1952), a history of the period 1940-45, he argued that, although the Western Allies had succeeded militarily and freed parts of Europe from one tyranny, they had failed politically and left the eastern states in the grip of another. The book was an instant best seller. Its blend of lucid narrative, close analysis and judicious character studies gave it authority, but its eloquent defence of Montgomery's strategy and of British policy provoked debate. Inevitably, as Wilmot himself conceded, some of his conclusions required revision but his honesty and integrity made the book a classic.

Wilmot was 'a heavy-shouldered man' with a 'strong-boned face and deep-set, restlessly questing eyes'. Intense, argumentative, often dogmatic but never personal in debate, he fearlessly sought the truth. In late 1953 he travelled to Australia to take part in the BBC's round-the-world Christmas Day broadcast which that year was conducted from Sydney. On 10 January 1954 the Comet airliner in which he was flying back to England crashed into the Mediterranean Sea killing all on board. Wilmot's body was not recovered but he is featured on a memorial to the victims of the crash at Porto Azzurro on the Isle of Elba. His wife and their son and two daughters survived him

Jane Morris WILMOT (1943-)

Caroline A WILMOT (1948-)

Geoffrey W W WILMOT (1952-)

Much of this detail in this section is taken from the Australian Dictionary of Biography at the National Centre of Biography, Australian National University,

6. Meriel Antoinette Winchester WILMOT, daughter of Mitford Moore Winchester WILMOT and Beatrice Charlotte Gidley KING (*see her ancestry below*), was born in 1920. She married Sir Roy

Note here that Sir John Eardley Eardley-Wilmot became Governor of Van Diemen's Land - also in 1843 - and, significantly, that he took some of his young son's with him, (see Appendix One) leaving his (second) wife and his other children in England co-incidence? And - clearly there were some distinctly odd aspects about his morals and his competence which led to Sir John's enforced premature departure from his post in Tasmania, see Appendix Two. One can only draw their own conclusions and consider the possibility that perhaps the young John George was an illegitimate son who Sir John had brought with him with his other young sons on taking up his Tasmanian post. Also, in 1831, another Wilmot, Sir Robert John Wilmot-Horton, was appointed Governor of Ceylon and was holding that office when young John George first travelled to that country from Australia. Sir Robert's youngest recorded son was about the same age as John George. Other possible candidates as John George's father could be either of the two elder sons of Sir Robert Wilmot-Horton, Sir Robert Edward or Christopher - see Page 20.

Each individual in the relevant generation bands of both the Wilmot and the Eardley-Wilmot families from which our subject could have originated (see Part Two) has been exhaustively examined by two independent researchers. Their endeavors have so far failed to show any possible link between any of them with either Edward Charles or with John George - but the search continues.

PART TWO

The Search for John George's Ancestry

Returning again to the search for the ancestry of John George and his stated father, Edward Charles, we look at the Wilmot and Eardley-Wilmot generations from which they could possibly have arisen. The earliest of the line that we have so far discovered is Robert WYLMOT:

DESCENT FROM ROBERT WYLMOT

1. Robert WYLMOT was born in Chadesden, Derbyshire. His parentage and his wife's details are not known but he had at least one son

+2 **Sir Nicholas WILMOT (1611-1682)**

Second Generation

2. Sir Nicholas WILMOT, son of Robert WYLMOT was born in 1611. He was a Deputy Recorder of Nottingham. He died on 28 December 1682. He married Dorothy HARPUR who was the daughter of Sir Henry HARPUR. She and Sir Nicholas had the following children:

+3 **Nicholas WILMOT (1639-)**
Robert WILMOT (1641-1722)

Third Generation

3. Robert WILMOT, son of Sir Nicholas WILMOT and Dorothy HARPUR, was born in 1641 in Chadesden, Derbyshire. He died in 1722. He was MP for Derby in 1689. He married Elizabeth EARDLEY, daughter of Edward Eardley of Eardley, Staffordshire, England. They had the following children:

+4 **Robert WILMOT (c1674-1738)**
**John WILMOT the ancestor of the Wilmot-Chetwode line of Woodbrook, Queen's
County, Canada**
+5 **Christopher WILMOT**
+6 **Henry WILMOT**
+7 **Rev Charles WILMOT**

Fourth Generation

4. Robert WILMOT, son of Robert WILMOT and Elizabeth EARDLEY, was born in about 1674 in Osbanton, Derbyshire. He married Ursula MAROWE in 1708. He died in September 1738. Ursula was a daughter of Sir Samuel MAROWE and Anne WHORWOOD. She was born in 1675 and she died in 1745. She and Robert had the following children:

+8 **Sir Robert WILMOT (1708-1772)**
+9 **Sir John EARDLEY-WILMOT (1709-1792)**

5. Christopher WILMOT, son of Robert WILMOT and Elizabeth EARDLEY, married Anne Montague, daughter of Edward MONTAGUE and Elizabeth PELHAM, on 17 January 1714 in Westminster, London.

6. Henry WILMOT, son of Robert WILMOT and Elizabeth EARDLEY, married Catherine DOWSON. They lived in Farnborough, Hampshire, England.

7. Rev Charles WILMOT, son of Robert WILMOT and Elizabeth EARDLEY, married Bridget BLUNDELL, daughter of Benjamin BLUNDELL. He was the Rector at Langley, Derbyshire, England.

Fifth Generation

8. Sir Robert WILMOT, son of Robert WILMOT and Ursula MAROWE, was born in 1708 and died in 1772. In 1730 he became private secretary to William Cavendish, 3rd Duke of Devonshire, Viceroy of Ireland in 1737. He served twelve successive Viceroys until the year of his death in 1772. Robert Wilmot's first marriage was childless. After his wife died in 1769, he married his mistress (name not known), the mother of his illegitimate children whose details, apart from his eldest son (first on the list below) are not known.

In October 1772, the year of his death, he was created the first Baronet, Wilmot of Osmaston. He was granted a special remainder to allow his eldest (illegitimate) son Robert to succeed as the 2nd Baronet.

+10 **Sir Robert Wilmot, 2nd Baronet (c1752-1834)**

DESCENT FROM SIR JOHN EARDLEY-WILMOT (1709-1792)

9. Sir John EARDLEY-WILMOT (*pictured top next page*), son of Robert WILMOT (1674-1738) and Ursula MAROWE (1675-1745), was born on 16 August 1709 in Derby, England. He became a Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. He married Sarah RIVETT on 3 April 1743. He died on 5 February 1792 in London.

Sarah, daughter of Thomas RIVETT (1679-1724) and Elizabeth EATON (1685-1748), was born in 1721. She died on 27 July 1772. She and Sir John had the following children:

+11 **Robert WILMOT**
+12 **John EARDLEY-WILMOT (1750-1815)**
+13 **Maria Marowe WILMOT (-1794)**
 Elizabeth WILMOT (1754-1826)
 one other child - details not known



(Image via Google Images)

Sixth Generation

10. Sir Robert WILMOT, the eldest (illegitimate) son of Sir Robert WILMOT 1st Baronet Osmaston, was born about 1752 and died in 1834. He had been allowed to assume the Baronetcy by special Royal decree. He first married Juliana Elizabeth BYRON on 17 September 1783 in Pirbright. Juliana was a daughter of Admiral BYRON. She was widowed, having been previously married to her cousin the Hon William BYRON who had been MP for Morpeth and by whom she had one son, details not known.

With Sir Robert she had the following child, there may have been others;

+14 **Sir Robert John WILMOT-HORTON (1784-1841)**

Following Juliana's death Sir Robert married Mariana HOWARD, a daughter of Charles HOWARD of Stafford.

11. John EARDLEY-WILMOT, son of Sir John EARDLEY-WILMOT and Sarah RIVETT, was born in 1750 in Derby, England. He was MP for Tiverton (1776-1784) and was also a Barrister. He first married Frances SAINTHILL in 1776. Lived at Berkswell Hall (*pictured below*), Warwickshire. Frances was born in 1759.

Frances and John had the following children:

+15 **Selina Elizabeth EARDLEY-WILMOT (-1868)**
+16 **Jemima Arabella WILMOT (1777-1865)**
 Fanny WILMOT (1780-)
+17 **Emma WILMOT**
+18 **Mary Marowe WILMOT (1781-)**

+19

Sir John Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT (1783-1847)
name not known Sainthill EARDLEY-WILMOT

He later married (forename not known) HASTAM in 1793 but there were no children from this marriage. He died on 23 June 1815.



*Berkswell Hall as it is today.
It is now divided into retirement apartments
(photo via Google Images)*

12. Maria Marowe WILMOT (*pictured right*), daughter of Sir John EARDLEY-WILMOT and Sarah RIVETT, married Baron Sampson (Gideon) EARDLEY on 6 December 1766. She died on 1 March 1794.

Baron Sampson (Gideon) EARDLEY, was a son of Sampson GIDEON. He was born on 10 October 1744 and he died on 25 December 1824. He was a Banker. He was the first & last Baron Eardley of Spalding. Surname was originally Gideon, legally changed it to Eardley in Jul 1729. He had the following children:

+20

Charlotte Elizabeth Gideon EARDLEY (-1820)

+21

Maria Marowe EARDLEY



(Image via Google images)

There was no surviving male issue.

13. Elizabeth WILMOT (*pictured next page*), daughter of Sir John EARDLEY-WILMOT and Sarah RIVETT, was born in 1754. She died on 21 August 1826. She married Maj Gen Sir Thomas BLOMEFIELD (*pictured next page*) who was born in February 1748 and who died on 24 August 1822. He and Elizabeth had the following child:

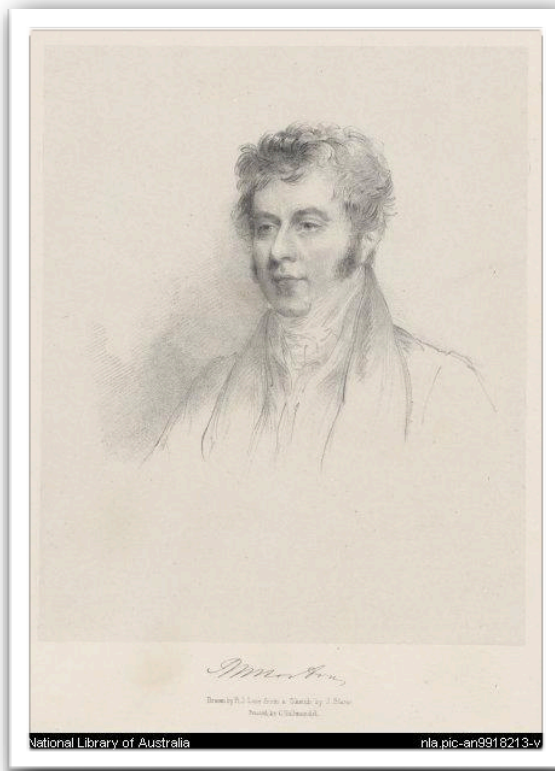
Sir Thomas William BLOMEFIELD



*Maj Gen Blomfield and his wife Elizabeth
(Images via Google Images)*

Seventh Generation

14. Sir Robert John WILMOT-HORTON (*pictured below*), son of Sir Robert WILMOT and Juliana BYRON, was born on 21 December 1784. He married Anne Beatrix HORTON in 1806. He died on 31 May 1841 in Petersham. Read more about him in Appendix Four.



(image via Google Images)

Anne was a daughter of Eusebius HORTON. She was born on 9 April 1788 at Catton Hall, Derbyshire. She died on 4 February 1871 in Croxhall, Derbyshire. She and Sir Robert had the following children:

- +22 **Sir Robert Edward WILMOT-HORTON (1808-1880)**
Christopher WILMOT-HORTON (1809-1864)
Anne Augusta WILMOT-HORTON (about 1810-)
Frederick WILMOT-HORTON (1819-1855)
- +23 **Emily Julia WILMOT-HORTON (1821-1866)**
Sir George Lewis WILMOT-HORTON (1825-1887) *
Harriet Louisa WILMOT-HORTON (1825-)

** Sir George, about whom nothing else is so far known, became the 5th Baronet on the death of his eldest brother who had no male heir. Nothing known about him but presumably the 6th Baronet, Sir Robert Rodney Wilmot (1853-1931), was the son of Sir George. The title became extinct on the death of the 6th Baronet.*

15. Selina Elizabeth EARDLEY-WILMOT, daughter of John EARDLEY-WILMOT and Frances SAINTHILL, married Rev Guy BRYAN on 5 March 1811 in Tottenham, London. She died on 8 October 1868. They had the following child:

Rev Reginald Guy BRYAN (1819-1912)

16. Jemima Arabella WILMOT, daughter of John EARDLEY-WILMOT and Frances SAINTHILL, was born in 1777. She married Sir John HOLT* on 29 March 1813 in Tottenham. She died on 27 November 1865 in Tottenham. Sir John was born in 1780 and he died in 1838. He and Jemima had the following children:

- +24 **Rev Eardley Chauncy HOLT (1818-1890)**
Raymond Blomefield HOLT (1819-)
Agnes HOLT
Harriett HOLT
Arabella HOLT

** It is believed that Sir John and his wife Jemima had a country estate near to Windermere, Westmoreland at the time that John George was born, but a possible connection with him has not been found.*

17. Emma WILMOT, daughter of John EARDLEY-WILMOT and Frances SAINTHILL, married William Burgess HAYNE on 1 May 1823 in Twickenham, London.

18. Mary Marowe WILMOT, daughter of John EARDLEY-WILMOT and Frances SAINTHILL, was born in 1781. She married Sir Gregory EARDLEY-TWISTLETON-FIENNES was born in 1769. He died in 1844. He was the 14th Baron Saye & Sele. They had the following children:

- +25 **Maria EARDLEY-TWISTLETON-FIENNES (1795-1826)**
William EARDLEY-TWISTLETON-FIENNES (1798-1847)

19. Sir John Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT, son of John EARDLEY-WILMOT and Frances SAINTHILL, was born on 21 February 1783 in London. He first married Elizabeth Emma PARRY on

21 May 1808. He was educated at Harrow School. Called to the Bar in 1806. Created a Baronet (of Berkswell Hall) in 1821. Was MP for North Warwickshire from 1832 to Mar 1843.

He married Elizabeth Emma PARRY who was the daughter of Dr Caleb Hillier PARRY. She and Sir John had the following children:

- +26 **Maj Henry Robert EARDLEY-WILMOT (-1852). Killed in action. No offspring.**
- +27 **Sir John Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT (1810-1892)**
- +28 **Maj Gen Frederick Marow EARDLEY-WILMOT (1812-1877)**
- +29 **Elizabeth Emma Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT**
- +30 **Rev Edward Revell EARDLEY-WILMOT MA (1814-1899)**
- +31 **Vice Adm Arthur Parry EARDLEY-WILMOT (1815-1886)**
- +32 **Augustus Hillier EARDLEY-WILMOT (1818-1892)**
- +32 **Selina Matilda Caroline EARDLEY-WILMOT (1818-1902)**

He then married Elizabeth CHESTER on 30 August 1819 in Hatfield, Herts Elizabeth was the daughter of Sir Robert CHESTER and Elizabeth FORD. She and Sir John had the following children:

- +33 **Robert Charles Chester EARDLEY-WILMOT (1822-1910)**
- +34 **Charles Octavius EARDLEY-WILMOT (1824-1886)**
- Dulibella Cecilia EARDLEY-WILMOT**

Sir John (*pictured*) was appointed 6th Lieutenant Governor of Van Dieman's Land (which became Tasmania) 17 Aug 1843-1846. On being appointed he took his younger sons with him and left his wife Elizabeth and his other children in England. His tenure in office as Governor was acrimoniously and prematurely terminated - see Appendix One. He died on 3 February 1847 in Hobart, Van Dieman's Land.



(Image via Google Images)

20. Charlotte Elizabeth Gideon EARDLEY, daughter of Baron Sampson (Gideon) EARDLEY and Maria Marowe WILMOT, married Sir Culling SMITH on 22 September 1792. She died on 15 September 1820. They had the following children:

+35 **Maria Charlotte SMITH**
 Louisa Selina SMITH
 Sir Culling Eardley EARDLEY (1805-1863)

21. Maria Marowe EARDLEY, was a daughter of Baron Sampson (Gideon) EARDLEY and Maria Marowe WILMOT, she married Gregory William EARDLEY-TWISTLETON-FIENNES on 8 September 1794. Gregory who was born on 14 April 1769 and died on 13 November 1833 was the 8th Baron Saye and Sele.

Eighth Generation

22. Sir Robert Edward WILMOT-HORTON, son of Sir Robert John WILMOT-HORTON and Anne Beatrix HORTON, was born on 29 January 1808 and he died on 23 September 1880. He married Margaret KERSTEMAN who was born in 1808 in Brenchley, Kent. She died on 20 June 1893 in Chelsea, London.

23. Emily Julia WILMOT-HORTON, daughter of Sir Robert John WILMOT-HORTON and Anne Beatrix HORTON, was born in 1821. She married Robert CURZON on 27 August 1850. She died on 11 March 1866. Robert was the 14th Lord Zouche of Haryngworth. Emily and Robert had the following child, there may have been others:

Robert Nathaniel Cecil George CURZON (1856-1915)

24. Rev Eardley Chauncy HOLT, son of Sir John HOLT and Jemima Arabella WILMOT, was born in 1818. He died in 1890. He married Elizabeth WALKER and they had the following children:

Eardley Wilmot HOLT (1842-1914)
Blanche HOLT (1847-1928)

25. Maria EARDLEY-TWISTLETON-FIENNES, daughter of Sir Gregory EARDLEY-TWISTLETON-FIENNES and Mary Marowe WILMOT, was born in 1795. She died in 1826.

26. Sir John Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT, son of Sir John Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT and Elizabeth Emma PARRY, was born on 16 November 1810 in Leek Wootton, Warwickshire. He married Eliza Martha WILLIAMS on 27 April 1839 in Leamington Priors, Warwickshire. He died on 1 February 1892.

Sir John succeeded to the title of 2nd Baronet Eardley-Wilmot, of Berkswell Hall, Warwickshire on 3 February 1847. He held the offices of Recorder of Warwick between 1852 and 1874, County Court Judge, Bristol between 1854 and 1863, Deputy Lieutenant, County Court Judge, Marylebone between 1863 and 1871. He was Member of Parliament for South Warwickshire, 1874-1885.

Eliza was the daughter of Sir Robert WILLIAMS and Anne LEWIS. She and Sir John had the following children:

- Col Sir William Assheton EARDLEY-WILMOT (1841-1896)**
married Mary RUSSELL on 12 December 1876
- Selina Anne Mary EARDLEY-WILMOT (-1922)**
She first married Capt St Aubyn Henry PLAYER on 19 April 1876. She next married Challoner Chute ELLIS on 18 November 1886
- Maj Gen Revell EARDLEY-WILMOT CB (1842-1922)**
married Elizabeth TOONE 23 July 1906
- Edward Parry EARDLEY-WILMOT (1843-1898)**
married Justine KLEIN on 4 May 1872
- Lt Frederick Henry EARDLEY-WILMOT (1846-1873)**
Killed in action
- Rear Adm Sir Sydney Marowe EARDLEY-WILMOT (1847-1929)**
married Grace Maude HOARE on 11 October 1877
- Hugh Eden EARDLEY-WILMOT (1850-1926)**
- Emma A E EARDLEY-WILMOT (1851-)**

27. Maj Gen Frederick Marowe EARDLEY-WILMOT, son of Sir John Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT and Elizabeth Emma PARRY, was born on 29 May 1812. He married Frances Augusta PENNINGTON on 19 June 1851. He died on 30 September 1877. Frances and Frederick had the following children:

- Bertha EARDLEY-WILMOT (-1896)**
married George N TODD on 14 November 1878
- Mabel EARDLEY-WILMOT (-1946)**
- Eva EARDLEY-WILMOT (-1959)**
married Rev George Herbert AITKEN on 10 October 1891
- Freda EARDLEY-WILMOT (-1953)**
- Kenred EARDLEY-WILMOT (1853-1932)**
- Lt Col Arthur EARDLEY-WILMOT (1856-1940)**
married Mary Blanche SNEYD-KYNNERSLEY on 2 April 1887
- Col Irton EARDLEY-WILMOT (1859-1936)**
married Florence LEVINGE on 22 October 1885

28. Elizabeth Emma EARDLEY-WILMOT, daughter of Sir John Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT and Elizabeth Emma PARRY, married George Graham BLACKWELL on 13 March 1829 in Berkswell, Warwickshire.

29. Rev Edward Revell EARDLEY-WILMOT MA, son of Sir John Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT and Elizabeth Emma PARRY, was born on 11 February 1814 in Kenilworth, Warwickshire. He was a Canon of Worcester. He first married Frances Anne ELKINS on 4 August 1840 in Stow on the Wold, Gloucestershire. He next married Emma Hutchinson LAMBERT on 8 February 1848 in Kingston, Surrey. He died on 30 May 1899.

Frances and Edward had the following children:

Hubert Frederick EARDLEY-WILMOT (1843-1877)
Edward Snowden EARDLEY-WILMOT (1844-1875)
Francis EARDLEY-WILMOT (1846-1921
married Lucy Mary Emily PRYNNE on 10 August 1874

His second wife, Emma was born in Kenilworth. She and Rev Edward Revell EARDLEY-WILMOT MA had the following children:

Rev Ernest Augustus EARDLEY-WILMOT (1848-1932)
first married Emma Dora HOLLAND on 8 April 1875 in Petworth, Sussex. He
next married Arthurina Jane Arabella BUTCHER on 15 August 1906.
Dr Robert EARDLEY-WILMOT (1849-1935)
married Frances Gwynnee WHITBY on 3 May 1876
Edith Augusta EARDLEY-WILMOT
Louisa Caroline EARDLEY-WILMOT
Maj Henry EARDLEY-WILMOT (1854-)

30. Vice Adm Arthur Parry EARDLEY-WILMOT, son of Sir John Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT and Elizabeth Emma PARRY, was born in April 1815. He married Charlotte Louisa Mackenzie WRIGHT on 28 July 1868 in Marylebone, London. He died on 2 April 1886. Charlotte and Arthur had the following child:

Flora Cecilia EARDLEY-WILMOT (-1907)
married Arthur John Frederick DAWSON on 25 November 1897

31. Augustus Hillier EARDLEY-WILMOT, son of Sir John Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT and Elizabeth Emma PARRY, was born on 12 March 1818. He married Jesse Matilda DUNN in 1845 in Hobart, Tasmania. He died on 9 January 1892.

32. Selina Matilda Caroline EARDLEY-WILMOT, daughter of Sir John Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT and Elizabeth Emma PARRY, was born on 12 March 1818. She first married Wade BROWNE on 11 June 1844. She next married Rev Joseph ABBOTT on 15 December 1859. She died on 20 March 1902.

33. Robert Charles Chester EARDLEY-WILMOT, son of Sir John Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT and Elizabeth CHESTER, was born on 4 June 1822 in Leamington, Warwickshire. He married Jeanie Louisa Stewart DUNN on 4 December 1849. He died on 24 May 1910.

34. Charles Octavius EARDLEY-WILMOT, son of Sir John Eardley EARDLEY-WILMOT and Elizabeth CHESTER, was born on 2 October 1824. He married Sophia Grace DUNN in 1849 in Hobart. He died on 26 July 1886.

35. Sir Culling Eardley EARDLEY, son of Sir Culling SMITH and Charlotte Elizabeth Gideon EARDLEY, was born on 21 April 1805. He married Isabella CARR on 29 February 1832. He died on 21 May 1863. The name Smith was dropped by Royal License.

Isabella and Sir Culling had the following children:

Isabella Maria EARDLEY
Frances Selina EARDLEY
Sir Eardley Gideon Culling EARDLEY (1838-)

Information is also held on further generations. It has not been included here as it is not relevant to the search for the ancestry of Edward Charles WILMOT

* * * * *

Vital clues can sometimes be obtained from the use of forenames and surnames throughout family lineages. The Charles, as in our Edward Charles, is a name not previously seen in the line. The rather unusual forename Mitford is more intriguing. Only two other instances of a Wilmot (not an Eardley-Wilmot) connection to this name has been found. One of these is for an apparently unconnected James Wilmot Bowker who had a daughter named Mary Mitford Bowker. The choice of the forename Meriel, as in Lady Meriel's case, could, of course, be just co-incidence but it is worth noting that one other girl with the forename Meriel has been found amongst Wilmots. She was the youngest child of Francis Edmund William Wilmot (a grandson of Sir Robert Wilmot the 3rd Baronet of Osmaston) and his wife Katherine Norbury. She was born 4 November 1900 and married Ariston St John Diamant, a noted architect, on 8 June 1931.

* * * * *

PART THREE

Ancestry of Beatrice Charlotte Gidley-King

The Descendants of Philip KING (1726-)

1. Philip KING was born in 1726 in Launceston, Cornwall. He was a Draper. He married Utricia GIDLEY c1750. Utricia was the daughter of John GIDLEY. She and Philip had the following child, there may have been others:

+2 **Philip Gidley KING (1758-1808)**

Second Generation

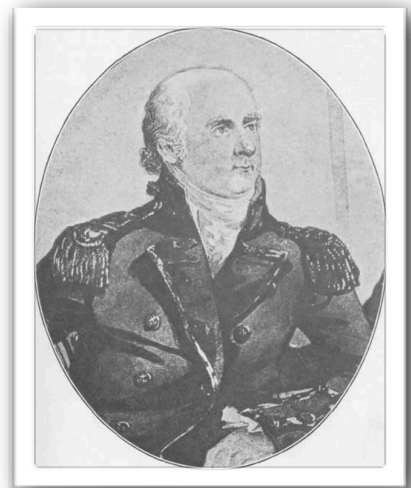
2. Philip Gidley KING (*pictured*), son of Philip KING and Utricia GIDLEY, was born on 23 April 1758 in Launceston, Cornwall. He first married (if indeed they were married) Ann INETT in 1789. Ann was a convict and his mistress while he served on Norfolk Isle between 1788 and 1798. With her he had the following children:

Norfolk KING (1789-1837)
Sydney KING (1790-1840)

His second marriage was to Anna Josepha COOMBES (*pictured*) on 11 March 1791. He died on 3 September 1808 in Tooting, Surrey. He was the first Governor of Norfolk Island and Governor of New South Wales 28 Sep 1800-12 Aug 1806.

Anna was born in Bedford. She and Philip had the following children:

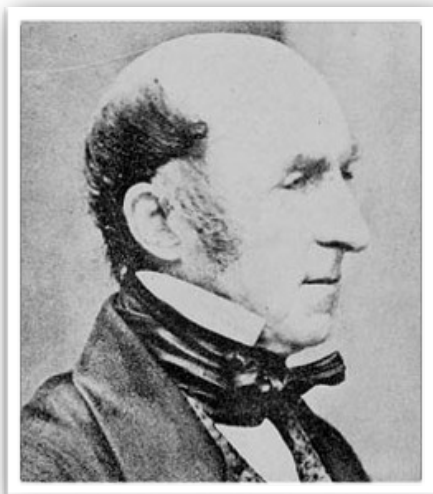
+3 **Rear Admiral Philip Parker KING (1791-1856)**
Anna Maria Gidley KING (1793-1852)
Utricia KING (1795-)
Elizabeth KING (1797-)
Mary KING (1805-1872)



(Both pictures via Google Images)

Third Generation

3. Rear Admiral Philip Parker KING (*pictured next page*), son of Philip Gidley KING and Anna Josepha COOMBES, was born on 13 December 1791 in Norfolk Island. He married Harriet LETHBRIDGE in



(Picture via Google Images)

1817. He died in 1856 in North Sydney. Harriet, daughter of Christopher LETHBRIDGE and Mary COPELAND , died on 19 December 1874 in Ashfield, Sydney.

Harriet and Philip had the following children

- +4 **Philip Gidley KING (1817-1904)**
- +5 **John KING (1820-1895)**
- +6 **Rev Robert Lethbridge KING (1823-1897)**
- +7 **Charles Macarthur KING (1824-1903)**

there were three other children, details not known

Fourth Generation

4. Philip Gidley KING, son of Rear Admiral Philip Parker KING and Harriet LETHBRIDGE, was born on 31 October 1817 in Parramatta. He married Elizabeth MacARTHUR in 1843. He died in 1904. Elizabeth, daughter of Hannibal Hawkins MacARTHUR (1788-1861) and Anna Maria Gidley KING (-1852), was born on 7 May 1815. She died in 1899 in Banksia, Double Bay. She and Philip Gidley KING had the following children:

- +8 **Philip Parker Macarthur KING (1844-1902)**
- George Bartholomew G KING (1846-1910)**
- John L KING**
- +9 **Elizabeth Maria KING (1867-1933)**

5. John KING, son of Rear Admiral Philip Parker KING and Harriet LETHBRIDGE, was born in 1820 and he died on 24 January 1895. He first married Marianne PECK who died on 1 August 1863. She and John had the following children:

- +10 **Philip Gidley KING**
- forename not known KING**

His second wife was Antoinette Stretanus GEYLE and with her he had two other children, details of them not known.

6. Rev Robert Lethbridge KING, son of Rear Admiral Philip Parker KING and Harriet LETHBRIDGE, was born in February 1823 in at sea (en Route to England). He married Honoria A RAYMOND on 30 December 1851 in Liverpool, NSW. He died on 24 July 1897 in Stanmore, NSW. Honoria, daughter of James RAYMOND , died on 13 May 1902. Robert had the following children:

- Robert Gidley KING (1854-1855)**
- Honoria Elizabeth KING (1856-)**
- Robert Raymond KING (1858-)**

- +11 **Aphrasia Catherine KING (1861-)**
Copland KING (1863-)
Rev Cecil John KING (1863-1938)
- +12 **Margaret E R KING (1868-)**
Christopher Watkins KING (1869-1924)
forename not known KING

7. Charles Macarthur KING, son of Rear Admiral Philip Parker KING and Harriet LETHBRIDGE, was born in 1824 in Greenwich, England. He died in 1903 in Sydney. Charles was married and had five children, details not known.

Fifth Generation

8. George Bartholomew G KING, son of Philip Gidley KING and Elizabeth MacARTHUR, was born in 1846. He died in 1910. He married Elizabeth Gray BRODIE who was born in 1847. She died in 1933. She and George had the following children:

- +13 **Arthur Philip Gidley KING (aft1869-1956)**
- +14 **George McArthur A Gidley KING (1870-1932)**
- +15 **Elizabeth Matilda KING (1872-1943)**
Allen Essington George KING (1878-)
Emmaline Blanche Gidley KING (1878-)
Mary Pearl KING (1880-)
Adeline Maud KING (1882-)
William Bartholomew George KING (1885-)
Olive Laura KING (1887-)
Kathleen E B KING (1890-)

9. Elizabeth Maria KING, daughter of Philip Gidley KING and Elizabeth MacARTHUR, was born in 1867 in Parramatta. She married Lt Henry Edward GOLDFINCH RN in 1881. She died in 1933. Henry and Elizabeth had the following children:

- P H M GOLDFINCH**
- G M GOLDFINCH**
- T A M GOLDFINCH**
- Elizabeth GOLDFINCH**

10. Philip Gidley KING was the son of John KING and Marianne PECK. He married Octavia Charlotte DAWSON, daughter of Samuel Robinson DAWSON and Henrietta Maria GARRETT, who was born in 1856. Octavia died in 1928. She and Philip had the following children:

- +16 **Beatrice Charlotte Gidley KING (1886-1982)**
Philip Gidley Leslie KING

11. Rev Cecil John KING, son of Rev Robert Lethbridge KING and Honoria A RAYMOND, was born in 1863. He married Adelaide Maria WHITE in 1900. He died in 1938. Adelaide died in 1945 in Sydney.

12. Christopher Watkins KING, son of Rev Robert Lethbridge KING and Honoria A RAYMOND, was born in 1869. He died in 1924. He married Violet Ruth THOMAS who died in 1929. She and Christopher Watkins KING had the following children:

Copland Gidley KING (-1968)
Ruth R L KING (1906-)

Sixth Generation

13. Arthur Philip Gidley KING, son of George Bartholomew G KING and Elizabeth Gray BRODIE, was born after 1869. He died in 1956. He married Hannah Lavinia M EWING who died in 1968. She and Arthur had the following children:

Arthur Gidley Ewing KING (1900-)
Frances Joyce Gidley KING (1905-1997)

14. George McArthur A Gidley KING, son of George Bartholomew G KING and Elizabeth Gray BRODIE, was born in 1870. He died in 1932. He married Amelia C LLOYD who was born in 1869. She and George had the following children:

George MacArthur Gidley KING (1906-)
Charles MacArthur Gidley KING (aft1895-1976)
Adah MacArthur KING (1908-1979)

15. Elizabeth Matilda KING, daughter of George Bartholomew G KING and Elizabeth Gray BRODIE, was born in 1872. She died in 1943. She married Percy Phipps ABBOTT who was born on 14 May 1869. He died in 1940. He and Elizabeth had the following children:

Douglas W ABBOTT (1903-)
Bruce Gidley ABBOTT
Enid M ABBOTT (1905-)

16. Beatrice Charlotte Gidley KING (*pictured next page*), daughter of Philip Gidley KING and Octavia Charlotte DAWSON (see her ancestry at Part Five), was born in 1886 in Mafra. She married Mitford Moore Winchester WILMOT in 1920 in Melbourne. She died in January 1982.

Mitford, son of John George Winchester WILMOT (1831-1895) and Hannah Louise WHITTAKERS (1843-), was born in 1874. He was a Farmer. He died on 11 May 1949 in East Prahan, Victoria. He had served in WW1 and was a Sergeant in the Australian Field Artillery, 4th Infantry (service number 29667). Mitford and Beatrice had one child:

Meriel Antoinette Winchester WILMOT (1920-)
see item 10 in Part Four



(Image via Google Images)

* * * * *

PART FOUR

Ancestry of Sir Roy Douglas Wright

Descendants of James WRIGHT (1798-1855)

1. James WRIGHT was born in 1798. He died in 1855. He married Margaret PURDIE and they had the following child, there may have been others:

+2 **Thomas WRIGHT (1824-1896)**

Second Generation

2. Thomas WRIGHT, son of James WRIGHT and Margaret PURDIE, was born on 17 August 1824 in Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, Scotland. He married Sarah Hayes HUTCHINSON in 1859 in Port Sorell, Tasmania. He died on 25 August 1896 in Abbotsham, Tasmania. Sarah was born on 13 March 1831 in Liverpool. She died on 4 July 1902 in Tasmania. She and Thomas had the following children:

+3 **Mary WRIGHT (1860-1875)**
 Robert Stuart WRIGHT (1862-1942)
+4 **John Forsyth WRIGHT (1864-1928)**
 James Hubert WRIGHT (1866-1866)
+5 **Janet Miller WRIGHT (1866-)**
 Charles Alfred WRIGHT (1868-)
+6 **Sarah Margaret WRIGHT (1870-)**
 Herbert Ernest WRIGHT (1872-)
+7 **Caroline Alberta WRIGHT (1874-)**

Third Generation

3. Robert Stuart WRIGHT, son of Thomas WRIGHT and Sarah Hayes HUTCHINSON, was born in 1862 in Brighton, Tasmania. He married Mary McPHERSON in Ulverstone, Tasmania. He died on 3 January 1942 in Launceston, Tasmania.

4. John Forsyth WRIGHT, son of Thomas WRIGHT and Sarah Hayes HUTCHINSON, was born on 2 October 1864 in Tasmania. He was a Farmer. He married Emma Maria LEWIS in 1892 in Ulverstone. He died on 12 May 1928. Emma was born on 13 January 1864 in Port Sorell, Tasmania. She died on 27 December 1928 in Ulverstone. She and John Forsyth WRIGHT had the following children:

+8 **John Forsyth WRIGHT (1892-1947)**
 Walter Lewis WRIGHT (1895-1976)
 May (Biddy) WRIGHT
 George Thomas WRIGHT (1897-1962)

Phyllia Maud WRIGHT (1898-)
Claude Robert WRIGHT (1900-)
Sylvia WRIGHT
Dora WRIGHT
 +9 **Sir Reginald Charles WRIGHT (1905-1990)**
 +10 **Sir Roy Douglas WRIGHT (1907-1990)**

5. Janet Miller WRIGHT, daughter of Thomas WRIGHT and Sarah Hayes HUTCHINSON, was born in 1866 in Green Ponds, Tasmania. She married Angus McPHERSON in 1885 in Port Sorell. Angus and Janet had the following children:

Leslie John McPHERSON (1889-1889)
Albert Angus McPHERSON (1890-)
Clarence Thomas McPHERSON (1891-)
Claud Albert McPHERSON (1893-)

6. Sarah Margaret WRIGHT, daughter of Thomas WRIGHT and Sarah Hayes HUTCHINSON, was born in 1870 in Green Ponds. She married a Mr LEWIS (forename not known) and they had the following children:

Sarah Phyllis LEWIS (1892-)
Mabel Caroline LEWIS (1894-)
James Thomas LEWIS (1896-)
Dulcie May LEWIS (1898-)

7. Caroline Alberta WRIGHT, daughter of Thomas WRIGHT and Sarah Hayes HUTCHINSON, was born in 1874 in Green Ponds. She married Douglas Lindsay CRAW in 1897 in Zeehan, Tasmania. Douglas was a son of James CRAW (1838-1878) and Jane STORY (1844-1884). He was born on 1 November 1871 in Launceston.

Fourth Generation

8. John Forsyth WRIGHT, son of John Forsyth WRIGHT and Emma Maria LEWIS, was born on 29 June 1892 in Central Castra, Tasmania. He died on 16 January 1947 in Ulverstone, Tasmania. He was the Member for Darwin in the Tasmanian House of Assembly 1940-41.

9. Sir Reginald Charles WRIGHT, son of John Forsyth WRIGHT and Emma Maria LEWIS, was born on 10 July 1905 in Central Castra. He first married Evelyn Olive ARNETT on 29 November 1930 in Hobart, Van Dieman's Land. His second marriage was to Margaret Letitia Elwin (Letty) STEEN on 19 September 1986 in Brisbane. He died on 10 March 1990 in Central Castra.

With Evelyn, his first wife, he had the following children:

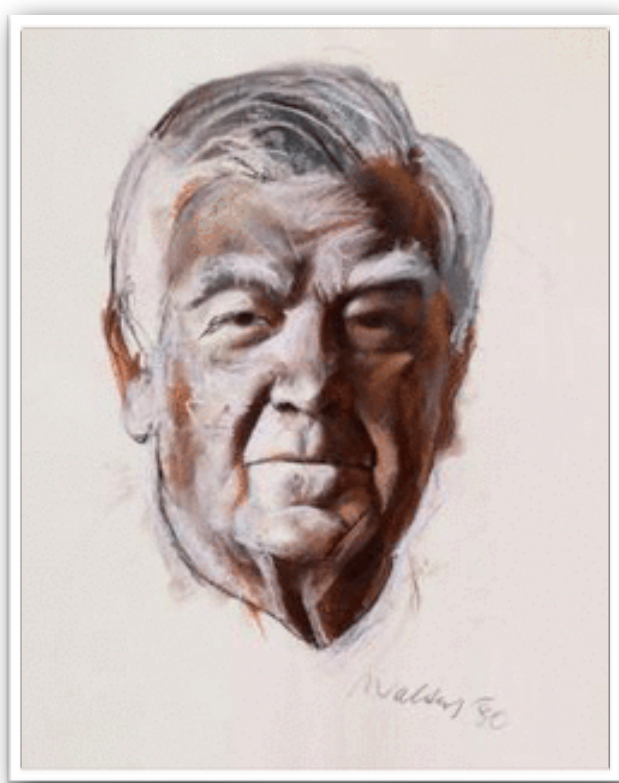
+11 **Christopher WRIGHT QC**
 +12 **Philip WRIGHT**

there were four other children whose details are not known

10. Sir Roy Douglas WRIGHT (*pictured*), son of John Forsyth WRIGHT and Emma Maria LEWIS, was born on 7 August 1907 in Central Castra. His first wife was Julia (Judy) Violet BELL who he married on 24 September 1932 in Camperdown, Victoria. They had the following children:

**Julia (Judy) WRIGHT
Douglas WRIGHT**

After divorce he married Meriel Antoinette Winchester WILMOT (*pictured*) on 22 July 1964 in Kensington, London. He died on 28 February 1990 in Melbourne. Meriel Antoinette Winchester WILMOT, was the daughter of Mitford Moore Winchester WILMOT (1874-1949) and Beatrice Charlotte Gidley KING (1886-1982). She was born in 1920.



(image via Google Images)



Sir Roy's obituary can be seen at Appendix Five.

Fifth Generation

11. Christopher WRIGHT QC was the son of Sir Reginald Charles WRIGHT and Evelyn Olive ARNETT. He was the Solicitor General of Tasmania.

12. Philip WRIGHT was the son of Sir Reginald Charles WRIGHT and Evelyn Olive ARNETT. He was a Magistrate in Hobart, Tasmania.

PART FIVE

Ancestry of Octavia DAWSON

Descent from Lieutenant, later Captain, John BOWEN RN

1. Lieutenant (later Captain) John BOWEN RN (*pictured*) led the first British settlement to Van Diemen's Land in September 1803, at Risdon Cove. He took Martha HAYES as his mistress and they had two children;

+2 **Henrietta BOWEN (1804-)**
 Martha Charlotte BOWEN (1804-)

For more about them read Appendix Three.



Lieutenant, (later Captain) John Bowen RN
(image via Google Images)

Second Generation

2. Martha Charlotte BOWEN, daughter of Capt John BOWEN RN and Martha HAYES, was born in 1804. She married Dr Robert GARRETT and they had the following child, there may have been others:

+3 **Henrietta Maria GARRETT**

Third Generation

3. Henrietta Maria GARRETT, daughter of Dr Robert GARRETT and Martha Charlotte BOWEN, was born in Claremont, Tasmania. She married Samuel Robinson DAWSON and they had the following child, there may have been others:

+4 **Octavia Charlotte DAWSON (1856-1928)**

Read a more about Henrietta's parents in [AppendixThree](#).

Fourth Generation

4. Octavia Charlotte DAWSON, daughter of Samuel Robinson DAWSON and Henrietta Maria GARRETT, was born in 1856. She died in 1928. She married Philip Gidley KING who was a son of John KING (1820-1895) and Marianne PECK (-1863). Philip and Octavia had the following children:

+5 **Beatrice Charlotte Gidley KING (1886-1982)**
Philip Gidley Leslie KING

Fifth Generation

5. Beatrice Charlotte Gidley KING, daughter of Philip Gidley KING and Octavia Charlotte DAWSON, was born in 1886 in Mafra. She married Mitford Moore Winchester WILMOT in 1920 in Melbourne. She died in January 1982. Mitford was a son of John George Winchester WILMOT (1831-1895) and Hannah Louise WHITTAKERS (1843-). He was born in 1874. He was a Farmer. He died on 11 May 1949 in East Prahan, Victoria. Mitford served in WW1 and was a Sergeant in the Australian Field Artillery, 4th Infantry (service number 29667). Mitford and Beatrice had one daughter:

+6 **Meriel Antoinette Winchester WILMOT (1920-)**

Sixth Generation

6. Meriel Antoinette Winchester WILMOT, daughter of Mitford Moore Winchester WILMOT and Beatrice Charlotte Gidley KING, was born in 1920. She married Sir Roy Douglas WRIGHT on 22 July 1964 in Kensington, London.

Appendix One

The item below has been extracted from the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Citation is;

Michael Roe, 'Eardley-Wilmot, Sir John Eardley (1783–1847)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University (<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/eardley-wilmot-sir-john-eardley-2015/text2471>)

Eardley-Wilmot, Sir John Eardley (1783–1847), by Michael Roe

Sir John Eardley Eardley-Wilmot (1783-1847), lieutenant-governor, was born on 21 February 1783 in London, the son of John Eardley-Wilmot and his wife Frances, née Sainthill. His grandfather was chief justice of common pleas, his father a master in chancery. Through this background, rather than as a result of personal achievement, Wilmot was created a baronet in 1821. He was called to the Bar in 1806 and was chairman of the Warwickshire Quarter Sessions from 1830 to 1843. He published *An Abridgment of Blackstone's Commentaries ...* (1822) and *A Letter to the Magistrates of England* (1827), and received an honorary D.C.L. from Oxford (1829). The *Letter* urged various reforms in the criminal law, especially as it affected juveniles. A fellow of the Royal, Linnean, and Antiquaries' Societies, Wilmot had wide if not deep intellectual interests. He married twice: in 1808 Elizabeth Emma Parry (d.1818; six sons, two daughters), and in 1819 Elizabeth Chester (d.1869; two sons, two daughters).

Wilmot represented North Warwickshire in the House of Commons from 1832 to 1843. He first supported the Whig government, but became attached to Stanley's embryonic third party. This group united around opposition to the government's interference with the revenues of the established Church in Ireland. His biggest coup in parliament was to carry a motion for the end of negro apprenticeship. He continued working for law and prison reforms, urged the need for widespread grammar schools with a commonsense syllabus, and reiterated the importance of the squire-magistrate in the social scheme. Altogether, he justified his self-description as an 'independent country Gentleman', 'A Conservative ... who had left Toryism, and who desired to preserve a constitutional and a rational reform' (*Parl. Deb.*, (3), 42, 1215). When, with all these qualifications, and especially his interest in criminal law, Wilmot was appointed lieutenant-governor of Van Diemen's Land, *The Times* criticized the appointment, which indeed had a taint of jobbery. Stanley, who was then secretary of state for the colonies, said that he chose Wilmot to administer the probation system because of his interest in juvenile delinquency; that he had recently called the baronet 'a muddle-brained blockhead' (Morrell, *Colonial Policy*, 389) made his decision strange and culpable. Wilmot later denied having sought the position, but probably its endowments determined him to accept. His three youngest sons, Augustus Hillier, Robert Charles Chester, and Charles Octavius, went with him to Van Diemen's Land, each receiving a public office; Lady Wilmot stayed in England.

When Wilmot arrived at Hobart Town in August 1843, colonial affairs were dominated by the probation system of convict discipline and by economic depression. Probation aspired to new standards of scientific and effective punishment. Early in their sentence convicts would remain in gangs, preferably employed so as to defray their upkeep; later they would enter the labour market as wage-earners. Settled colonists thus reaped no benefit of cheap assigned labour, and therefore abhorred the new system. They objected most to paying all local police and judicial expenses, insisting that these largely arose from Britain's use of the island as a convict dump and hence should be met by the British Treasury. Feeling against Whitehall rose very high.

The trade depression, which since 1841 had brought most colonists close to insolvency, added fuel to such flames. Everyone grudged, even should they possess, the money to pay taxation. All sources of public revenue, especially land sales, withered; by 1844 the colony was virtually bankrupt. There was market for neither the produce nor the labour of pass-holders.

Wilmot was in a dilemma. Government must go on, but colonists and British government alike refused to pay. In his dispatches he generally took the colonists' side, arguing that police and judicial costs were Britain's responsibility. In 1844 he suggested that the 1842 Act, which set £1 an acre as the minimum land price, be not applied in Van Diemen's Land, that ex-convicts be granted small holdings, and that gentlemen settlers receive larger estates, virtually by grant. He encouraged Major (Sir) Sydney Cotton to plan irrigation works, and urged their execution upon Whitehall. Several dispatches attacked Britain's differential duties against colonial corn. Wilmot advised that conditionally-pardoned convicts should have free movement throughout Australia, not merely Van Diemen's Land. The immediate financial problem he met by drawing upon the funds supplied directly from Britain for convict and military needs.

Wilmot's efforts bore some fruit. In 1845 the British government did suspend the 1842 Act and liberalize conditional pardons. More important, in 1846 the Colonial Office at last persuaded the Treasury to accept responsibility for two-thirds of the police and judicial costs. Meanwhile Wilmot had pared the expenses of local government very low. Ultimately he could, and did claim that his term saw the lifting of the grim depression. Nevertheless he became desperately unpopular.

The Colonial Office found Wilmot slap-dash in administrative procedures, too lenient in creating new jobs and granting leave of absence, arbitrary in his judgments, careless of referring major issues to Whitehall, cursory in describing local affairs. Whatever Wilmot's virtues, he was guilty on every count. Between March 1844 and February 1846 dispatches brought him twenty-seven separate rebukes. In particular, the Colonial Office deplored his neglect to explain the working of probation. In Whitehall's view this was a crucial matter, but Wilmot did little more than add covering notes to the returns of the convict comptroller-general, Matthew Forster. As these were generally more statistical than descriptive, and Forster was unlikely to admit grave faults within his department, Wilmot's failure to exercise independent criticism was the more unfortunate.

Relations between Wilmot and most colonists had also become very sour. Sympathetic to their plight, he nevertheless had to bear the odium of representing Whitehall. His response was increasing

acerbity. A climax came with the August and October 1845 sittings of the Legislative Council. Private members expressed their hostility to probation and its costs by obstructing all financial measures. The Patriotic Six finally resigned their seats, and closed the session in confusion. Wilmot declared their actions 'radical, in fact Jacobinical' and argued his case to the Colonial Office with unusual heat.

The near-unanimity of feeling against Whitehall caused factions within colonial society and politics to be less active than in earlier years, but Wilmot nevertheless entered their toils. Soon after arrival he founded the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land: a worthy venture, but an affront to a society already established by Franklin. Much more important were disputes arising from religious feeling. Throughout his term Wilmot disputed with Bishop Francis Nixon on the relative powers of church and state, especially with chaplains employed in the convict department. They also differed over education, the bishop wanting state aid for denominational schools while Wilmot maintained the British and Foreign Schools Society plan. Non-Anglicans supported him, giving the administration what backing it had from local interests.

Further troubles accrued to Wilmot from tales of his licentious behaviour that carried to New South Wales and to England. After their publication in the *London Naval and Military Gazette*, October 1845, leading colonists signed a repudiation. The validity of the charges remains doubtful. Sir John Pedder certainly declared them false in a letter to Sir George Arthur, 18 February 1846, but George Boyes, another signatory to the repudiation, appeared to accept their truth in his diary.

All these elements of discord coalesced in the one dramatic event of Wilmot's career, his recall. In 1845 W. E. Gladstone replaced Stanley at the Colonial Office and soon studied Wilmot's faults and critics. He and James Stephen became increasingly disturbed by the apparent failure of probation, and in particular by reports of homosexual practices among convicts. In their eyes such behaviour was utterly abominable. Wilmot himself had indicated its existence; the evidence, though often vague, leaves little doubt. The Colonial Office decided that Forster should give way to someone more energetic, and John Hampton received the post. Meanwhile Gladstone, while accepting that Wilmot was justified in denying Nixon control over convict chaplains, showed his High Anglican sympathies in supporting denominational education and in reversing a particularly stringent application of the colony's Church Acts against Nixon. Spokesmen of colonial interests received a friendly hearing at Downing Street; they made propaganda of the convicts' supposed homosexual behaviour, and of Wilmot's alleged amours.

During April 1846 Whitehall received details of the constitutional crisis of six months earlier. Stephen was little impressed by Wilmot's apologia: did not his own earlier dispatches justify the colonists? But, the under-secretary now argued, the real blame for colonial ills lay with the imperial authorities: with the Treasury for so long refusing to meet police and judicial costs, with the Colonial Office for not forcing that issue earlier, and with the government generally for channelling convicts into the probation system. With dubious logic, Stephen then suggested that the solution was to recall Wilmot for reasons other than the constitutional crisis. Gladstone accepted this advice, the ground decided upon being neglect of the convict system. Wilmot was immediately to hand the government to Charles La Trobe, the superintendent at Port Phillip.

A dispatch of 30 April 1846 carried the news to Wilmot. Simultaneously Gladstone wrote a private letter telling him that the rumours concerning his private life rendered him ineligible for further employment in colonial service. Gladstone had learned of Wilmot's alleged misdeeds primarily through the correspondence of Nixon with their mutual friend, Edward Coleridge. The dismissal certainly derived in part from Gladstone's lingering belief that the government should uphold the Church of England with all possible strength.

The dispatch reached Hobart in September, the private letter in October. Wilmot at once made the latter known, and asked the Executive Council to appoint a committee of inquiry. This reported that charges so vague were beyond investigation, but denied their import. Wilmot's own letters of this period became passionate as he declared himself 'The Victim of the most extraordinary conspiracy that ever succeeded in defaming the character of a Public Servant'. He demanded redress, and stayed in the colony to gather rebutting evidence. Soon he became ill, and died of no diagnosed disease on 3 February 1847.

Friends and family maintained Wilmot's cause. The issue was brought against Gladstone in the Oxford University election of 1847; for support he appealed to Nixon, who clung to an earlier public statement so worded as to uphold Wilmot. Both Gladstone and his successor, Earl Grey, recanted the personal allegations, while maintaining the validity of the recall. The colonial press discussed the episode with heat, using it as a weapon in their squabbles. Feeling for Wilmot gathered weight, the *Colonial Times*, 9 February 1847, even declaring him 'murdered'. Citizens of Hobart subscribed to a Gothic mausoleum for Wilmot; erected in 1850, it still stands in St David's Park.

A portrait by an unknown artist is held by Wilmot's descendants, and he is among those depicted in R. B. Haydon's 'The Anti-Slavery Convention, 1840' in the National Portrait Gallery. Wilmot's sons remained in the colony for various periods. All married daughters of John Dunn of Hobart, and descendants have since lived in Tasmania. The second baronet maintained his father's interest in public affairs.

Wilmot's was a tragic story. Through many years, manner and inheritance won him greater reward than his abilities merited. At the end, he was set a vast, probably insuperable task. Under this strain, his paternalism and sense of duty took the shape of autocracy; his open-mindedness, of vacuity; his urbanity, of indolence. Thus he lay open to his enemies' attacks.

(Extract from Hansard, Commons Sitting, Debate on 7 June 1847 (Vol 93 cc189-229))

DEBATE CONCERNING THE LATE SIR EARDLEY WILMOT

MR. SPOONER appealed to the learned Lord for precedence; and consent having been given, he returned thanks for the courtesy, and proceeded to say that the subject he was about to bring under the notice of the House had excited deep interest and sympathy. He should make his statement as short as was consistent with clearness, and should avoid making any charge, attack, or accusation upon any person. His only object was, to clear the character of a gentleman who for many years had represented the Northern Division of Warwickshire with great credit to himself and benefit to the public service. He had been also for many years chairman of the quarter-sessions in Warwickshire, and had enjoyed the full confidence, support, and approbation of the magistrates who had acted with him. Although that person was now beyond the reach of human applause or sympathy, there yet remained a mourning widow and an afflicted family, for whose sake he (Mr. Spooner) asked the attention of the House. He trusted to be able to show, by a simple statement of facts, that a charge which had been made was unfounded. The mystery of the despatch in which that charge had been made, had given rise to many surmises which wore wholly without foundation. To his dying hour he (the late Sir Eardley Wilmot) had never known the particulars of the charge made against him, or who were the persons who, behind his back, had reported that which he (Mr. Spooner) had no hesitation in saying would prove to be a most unfounded calumny. But the charge had at length reached the ears of the family of the late lamented Sir Eardley Wilmot. His family were at last put in possession of it; and as a knowledge of it was essential to the proper understanding of this most deplorable case, he (Mr. Spooner) would read it to the House. It was that of "living in terms of scarcely concealed concubinage with some of the females who were received as guests at the Government house." A charge more unfounded—a charge baser or more destitute of the slightest colour of truth—was never alleged against any man. He would briefly state the facts of the case. Three gentlemen came to this country from Van Diemen's Land, and shortly after their arrival had communication with the Colonial Office. Two of them laid no restriction on the publication of their names. The third did impose such a restriction, and to him he was not at liberty further to allude. Indeed, he might as well state, that he (Mr. Spooner) had not permission to mention the names of the other two, any more than that of the gentleman in question. He was not prepared to say that the names were wrongly withheld; for although the Government were in possession of them, they were given, so to speak, incog.; and, for himself, had he permission, he would not mention the names, for by so doing he would justly lay himself open to the imputation of having made unfounded charges without affording opportunity for refuting them. Under these circumstances, he would entirely refrain from giving names at all. Suffice it to say, that, after their charge had been made, the late Secretary for the Colonies (Mr. Gladstone) sent a public despatch to Sir Eardley Wilmot, in which no allusion whatsoever was made to the charge affecting his (Sir Eardley Wilmot's) private character. With that despatch he (Mr. Spooner) had nothing whatsoever to do. If he were to utter a

single word of complaint against the decision at which the authorities of the Colonial Office had arrived with respect to Sir Eardley Wilmot's removal from the administration of the affairs of Van Diemen's Land, he would be acting in direct opposition to the wishes of that lamented gentleman's family. It was their feeling, that with the public conduct of Sir Eardley Wilmot they were not at all concerned. They felt that they would not be at all justified in arraigning the decision of the Colonial Office, so far as that decision was grounded upon public grounds; and in this feeling he entirely concurred. The Colonial Department had high and important duties to perform. On their shoulders rested a vast responsibility; and he was quite willing to admit that nothing but an occurrence of a very singular and unparalleled description could justify any interference with the discretion they might think fit to exercise with respect to appointments and removals. The private despatch, therefore, and not the public one, was that to which he was desirous of directing the attention of the House. Most of the hon. Gentlemen present were familiar with the correspondence between the Secretary of State and Sir Eardley Wilmot, relative to the recall of the latter; but as some of them were not, it was necessary, for the clear and general comprehension of the case, that he should read some extracts from it. The first document to which he would take leave to call their attention, was the secret despatch from Mr. Secretary Gladstone to Sir E. Wilmot, which arrived concomitantly with the public despatch, and which, like it, was dated 30th April, 1846. It was to the following effect:—

"Downing Street, April 30, 1846.

"Sir,

I have now to discharge a duty still more painful and delicate than that of addressing you in a public despatch, to communicate to you your recall from the administration of affairs in Van Diemen's Land. Adverting to the fact that this recall rests upon the allegation of a failure on your part with respect to special and peculiar duties only, which attach to the care of a penal colony, but not to that of colonies in general, you may feel some surprise at the circumstance that I have made no allusion to the possibility of your employment during the remainder of the ordinary term of six years. I should have felt authorized to express a willingness to consider of any favourable opportunity which might offer itself for such employment, had it not been for the circumstance that certain rumours have reached me from a variety of quarters relating to your private life, to the nature of which it is perhaps unnecessary that I should at present particularly allude. Had these rumours been slight, and without presumptions of credibility, I might warrantably and gladly have passed them by. Had they, on the other hand, taken the form of charges or of information's supported by the names of the parties tendering it, it would have been my absolute duty, independently of any other reason for interference with your tenure of office, to refer the matter to you, and at once to call upon you for your exculpation. But they occupy an intermediate position. Presuming that I have been justified in refraining from bringing them under your notice up to the present time, I feel that it would be impossible to recommend your resumption of active duties under the Crown in any other colony until they are satisfactorily disposed of. To found proceedings upon them against a person holding office, appeared to me a very questionable matter; but I think it quite unquestionable that they must be taken into view when reappointment is the matter at issue. I know not what your views and wishes on that subject

may be. I should not have entered wantonly and needlessly on such a topic as that to which I now refer. My reason for doing so, without waiting for any request from you for re-employment, is, that I think that some favourable intimation on that head would have been your due had no obstacle intervened; and I have therefore found myself bound to account for the omission from my despatch of this day of any such intimation.—I have, &c.

(Signed) "W. E. GLADSTONE."

The House would observe, that the charges alluded to in the above communication were simply alluded to. They were not specified, nor was any information given as to the sources from which they originated. They were vaguely hinted at as "certain rumours which had reached the Secretary of State from a variety of quarters." There was nothing distinct, definite, or specific—nothing tangible to guide or assist the late Governor of Van Diemen's Land in undertaking the task of vindicating his character. There was no index pointing specifically to the charge, and to the quarter from which it emanated. He was left to deal as best he might with charges of whose very import he was ignorant, as well as of the quarters from which they emanated; and he was given to understand that on his success in satisfactorily disposing of such accusations, depended his chance of being recommended for the resumption of active duties under the Crown. He (Mr. Spooner) was well aware that Mr. Gladstone was also in a painful and embarrassing position. He was well aware that the information on which that Gentleman acted came from quarters which carried such authority with them that he could not help believing it and acting on it. This he did not hesitate to admit; but Mr. Gladstone had been called to act upon that information under a shackle which ought not to have been imposed. The blame and the odium were to be attributed to the persons who assailed the character of an absent man, without being prepared at once to give up all their authorities—to those who put the Government in a position which compelled them to act, and yet withheld that information which should serve as a justification of their conduct. However, the despatch being a secret one, and known only to Sir Eardley Wilmot himself, it was competent for that gentleman to have said nothing about it until he returned to England, and then to have made such a defence of his character to the Home Government as would have freed him from all imputations, and reinstated him in his position in society. In taking a different course—that of referring the whole question to the consideration of his Executive Council—he was warranted by the precedent of Sir George Arthur, who, when similar charges were preferred against him, adopted that very proceeding. But even if a precedent were wanting, the course was the very one of all others which an honest man convinced of his own innocence was bound to take. Sir Eardley felt that; and accordingly he assembled his Council, and laid before them the secret despatch, and left the whole matter in their hands, to be decided upon by them in the manner they might think most consonant with truth and justice. Before he adopted this step, however, and during the time the matter was under discussion by the Home Government, a paragraph appeared in the Naval and Military Gazette, in which was stated the substance of the charges against Sir E. Wilmot. That paragraph fell under the notice of Sir John L. Pedder, Chief Justice of the colony, and other distinguished functionaries, who felt so indignant at the perusal of it, that, unasked, and of their own unsolicited accord, they wrote the following letter to the late Governor:—

“Newlands, 21st March, 1846.

Dear Sir,

I beg to transmit to your Excellency a copy of a letter to the editor of the Naval and Military Gazette, being the contradiction which the gentlemen whose signatures it bears have thought themselves called upon to give to the cruel slander therein referred to. Having taken this step without your Excellency's knowledge, we cannot but earnestly hope that you will not see any reason to disapprove of it.

I have, &c. ” “(Signed)"J. L. PEDDER. ”

“Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land,” “March 19, 1846.

Sir

In your Gazette, No. 666, of the 11th October, 1845, p. 652, 3rd column, under the head 'Australia,' occurs the following passage, purporting to be written by your correspondent at Melbourne:—' Van Diemen's Land is in a bad state. The men in the bush are almost their own masters, and crimes the most horrible are of daily occurrence. All the females have left the bush, and have taken refuge in the towns, and oven there are subject to every kind of insult. Sir Eardley sots a bad example himself. No people of any standing will now enter Government House, except on business. No ladies can.' We do not feel ourselves called upon to take any notice of so much of this statement as relates to the convicts in this colony; but we deem it to be a duty which we we to Sir Eardley Wilmot, to ourselves, and indeed to the society in this place, to declare, in the most distinct terms, that the latter part of the statement in question is totally (and here most notoriously) false. Ever since Sir Eardley Wilmot assumed the Government, down to the present day, we, and the families of such of us as are married men, the families of the other Government officers, and of the principal inhabitants of the colony, have had the honour (for so we account it) of being frequent visitors at Government House. We have only to add, that we beg your insertion of this contradiction of your correspondent's statement in the Naval and Military Gazette at the earliest opportunity. —We have, &c. ”

(Signed) "JOHN LEWIS PEDDER, Chief Justice.

J. E. BICHENO, Colonial Secretary.

P. ERASER, Colonial Treasurer.

E. BURGESS, Chief Police Magistrate.

T. HORNE, Attorney General.

T. W. BOYES, Colonial Auditor.

JOSEPH HONK, Chairman of Sessions.

ROBERT POWER, Surveyor General.

ALBAN C. STONER, Crown Solicitor.

V. FLEMING, Solicitor General.

After that letter, what became of the statement that the rumours affecting the late Governor's private character were matters of notoriety in the colony? That document exposed the utter fallacy of the assertion, and proved that it was in all respects egregiously untrue. But that was not the strongest of the links which went to form the chain of Sir E. Wilnot's justification. The next paper he would trouble the House with was the late Governor's reply to Mr. Gladstone's letter, dated 5th October, 1846:—

“Hobart Town, Oct. 5, 1846.

Sir,

I have this day received, by the ship Java, the original despatch of my recall, dated April 30th, No. 104, accompanied by your letter of the same date marked 'Secret.' If anything could lessen or remove the pain with which I received, on the 24th September last, the duplicate despatch of the 30th April, it is your letter marked 'Secret;' because, being wholly guiltless of any impropriety or irregularity in my 'private life,' and believing that the 'rumours' to which you allude, invented by my opponents, and treated with contempt by me and the whole of this colony, are what have lowered me in your opinion, and induced you to pause in offering me re-employment under the Crown, I am confident you will do me justice, and rescue me from the double loss of character and of office, thus occasioned by the grossest falsehoods that ever oppressed an English gentleman. It is impossible for me to grapple with charges, of the nature and extent of which I am ignorant. I can do no more at present, in answer to your letter, than give a general denial to general imputations. Were the accusations specific, I could meet them at once, and show their utter falsehood. But, placed in the un-English position of a man charged with unknown acts of impropriety, injurious to his character and destructive of his interests, without any knowledge as to who are his accusers, or as to what are the accusations, I most earnestly and solemnly adjure you to specify immediately the dates, places, persons, and circumstances to which the 'rumours' against my private character apply, that I may be placed in the same position before the public as is the meanest criminal when standing before a jury of his country. From my first landing in this country, the system of detraction and calumny which assailed the characters of my predecessors has been pursued against me. With them, it was confined to this colony; with me it is unknown in this colony, but has been worked incessantly at Melbourne, Sydney, and London. I can say with pride and with truth, that the breath of slander against me here has not prevailed, but when attempted, has been received with universal denial and disgust. A paragraph appeared in the Naval and Military Gazette, London, in August, 1845, purporting to be a letter written from Melbourne, asserting that my conduct was so bad that no ladies could visit Government House. I treated this letter with scorn; but, unknown to me, the most intelligent and highest in this colony addressed a letter to the editor of the Naval and Military Gazette, designating the accusation as a 'notorious falsehood,' and vindicating themselves as well as myself from the find calumny. This letter I transmitted to Lord Stanley in April last. You will not have received it till long after your letter to me of the 30th April last; but I trust that the reading of it will dispel the effect of the 'rumours' to which you allude; and as it is your duty, so I believe it will be your wish, to do me justice. I herewith transmit a copy of the letter to the editor of the Gazette. But in order that my whole conduct may undergo a thorough and rigid

inquiry, I felt it incumbent on me, for my own sake, as well as for the honour of Her Majesty's Government, to lay your letter of the 30th April before the Executive Council, calling upon them to investigate my conduct. I herewith transmit the resolution of the Executive Council, to inquire and to report, and when the report is made, I will immediately transmit it also. Thus far I have addressed you, Sir, on what affects my honour and character; I trust you will now allow me to say a word on what deeply affects my interests. I resigned my seat in Parliament for one of the most important counties in England, for which, in support of constitutional principles, I stood three contested elections, and greatly impaired my fortune. I resigned the chair of the quarter-sessions of my county, to which I had been unanimously elected by the magistracy, and which I held for twenty years with unblemished character, and, I may say, with some distinction. I separated myself from my wife and family to undertake a difficult and irksome office in another hemisphere. I calculated that six years of a sufficient income would remove all my difficulties; and thus, having endured three years of toil, I am, at twenty days' notice, relieved of the administration of the affairs of the colony, and deprived of income; and not only deprived of income, but proscribed from restoration to office under the Crown, until 'rumours,' of the nature of which I am ignorant, and to which I have not yet been called upon to answer, have been satisfactorily explained. To embark immediately for England, with your letter before me, would be risking the defence of my character, and of my restoration to office, on the same unfounded basis on which I have been deprived of both; for it is clear that in England I could only meet the unauthenticated and anonymous 'rumours' against my private life by my own personal and unauthenticated contradiction; whereas it is in this colony alone that evidence must be found either to prove or disprove their falsehood. It is my intention, therefore, to wait with patience and in privacy, until I hear from you again; believing that when you receive the public demonstrations in my favour, which I transmit to you, and the report of the Executive Council, you will at once restore me to Her Majesty's favour, and that I shall receive from you an immediate appointment in some other colony, where my services may be useful, and to which I can proceed from this island, without encountering the long voyage to England. But, Sir, I ask something more from Her Majesty's Government than restitution to office; something of a more decisive character than a prolonged banishment from my family and home, in order to wipe off the injury that as an English gentleman I have sustained, in having my character injured by a Minister of the Crown from anonymous 'rumours' to which I had no opportunity of replying. I ask for a personal mark of distinction, such as the Civil Order of the Bath, or of St. Michael, that the world may see that Her Gracious Majesty will not suffer the lowest of Her subjects to be treated with injustice.

I am, &c. (Signed) "E. EARDLEY WILMOT."

That letter was worthy of the late Sir Eardley Wilmot. It was the letter of an honest man, who in the proud consciousness of his perfect innocence felt that his position was impregnable. It was the letter of an honest and injured man, and he was sure that it had already produced on the House the conviction that the charge against the late Governor was slanderous and in all respects untrue. Having laid the charge before the Executive Council, their first proceeding was to appoint a Committee to investigate it and report thereon. The report of that Committee was before the House. The Committee was most anxious to investigate the matter to the utmost; but in the absence of all specific information—nay more, in complete darkness as to the very nature and character of the matter that was to be investigated

—how could they set an inquiry on foot at all, or how was it to be expected that their labours should terminate in any satisfactory result? In the Minute of the Council by whom the Committee were appointed there occurred the following passage:—

“A calumnious paragraph too, appeared in the Naval and Military Gazette of October, 1845; but without his Excellency's previous knowledge or participation was immediately refuted by gentlemen, including the Members of the Council of the highest character and consideration in the community. His Excellency forwarded a copy of that document to the Secretary of State. The Bishop of Tasmania, who will shortly be in England, and who, however opposed to his Excellency's Government on public grounds, can bear testimony as to the conduct of his Excellency in the colony; so also will Bishop Wilson. But still, it is quite possible, that neither of these prelates may have ever even heard of the rumours referred to by Mr. Gladstone, and therefore it is that his Excellency is so anxious that here, on the very spot, the Council should institute every inquiry which the terms of Mr. Gladstone's letter. may by possibility appear to them to suggest or justify, so that the truth may be thoroughly sifted, and the rumours themselves—or at the least so many of them as can be traced to exist—be disposed of to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State.” The Council concluded their Minute by stating, that having deliberated on the nature of his Excellency's communication, they were unanimously of opinion that the most expedient course would be to refer the whole question to a Committee. The Committee was accordingly appointed, as previously stated, and their report was before the House. He would trouble the House with a few extracts from it:— *“His Excellency Sir Eardley Wilmot having, in accordance with the opinion of the Members of the Executive Council, requested the undersigned to sit as a Committee, to inquire into the truth of certain rumours mentioned in a letter marked 'secret,' and bearing date 30th of April, 1846, from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, as affecting his (Sir Eardley Wilmot's) private life, to the nature of which the Secretary of State deemed it unnecessary more particularly to allude, but the effect of which has been to render it impossible for the Secretary of State to recommend his resumption of active duties under the Crown in any other colony until they are satisfactorily disposed of: The Committee, agreeably to this request, met, and having before them the authority to assemble of the administrator of the Government, and also the above-mentioned letter of the right hon. the Secretary of State, and also a letter of Sir Eardley Wilmot's to the clerk of the councils, of the 15th of October; and having maturely deliberated on these documents, they are unanimously of opinion, that the satisfactory investigation of the rumours in question is altogether impracticable; because—1. It is not stated in what these rumours consist; and the Committee are thus met, in limine, with the difficulty of having no definite object on which to direct their inquiries. 2. Because, in this state of things, the only means by which definite objects could be raised for inquiry would be by opening the doors of the committee room, and calling publicly on all those who have charges to prefer against Sir Eardley Wilmot to come forward with them—a course which the committee believe to be wholly unprecedented, and which, if taken, would not only fail to attain the end proposed by the inquiry (namely, to satisfy the Secretary of State with respect to the rumours which have reached him), but would be fraught with great public mischief, and great injustice to Sir Eardley Wilmot and private persons.”* Having enumerated the other considerations which rendered a satisfactory investigation impossible, the report concluded with the following statement:— *“While the committee are thus of opinion that the investigation proposed is for these reasons impracticable, they deem it due to Sir Eardley Wilmot to certify in the most explicit terms that, as far as their own observation has gone*

during the private and official intercourse which they have personally had with him since his arrival in this colony, nothing has ever transpired which would justify the allegation that he has been guilty of the violation of the decencies of private life."

(Signed)

"C. R. CUMBERLAND, Lieut.-Colonel commanding Troops, sworn in Member of Executive Council, Oct. 19, 1846.

J. L. PEDDER, Chief Justice.

J. E. BICUENO, Colonial Secretary.

P. ERASER, Colonial Treasurer.

F. BURGESS, Chief Police Magistrate.

J LILLIE, Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Hobart Town."

Really a declaration of that description, and emanating from men of such exalted position, and of such unsullied character, might in itself be deemed sufficient vindication of Sir Eardley Wilmot's reputation. But his vindication did not end there, for he had the pleasure to transmit to Mr. Gladstone an address which was presented to him on the part of some of the most distinguished inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land, in the following terms:

“TO SIR JOHN EARDLEY WILMOT, BARONET.

“We, the undersigned inhabitants of Van Die-men's Land, having heard that your recall has been influenced by reports injurious to your moral character during your administration of the government of this colony, deem it to be a duty which we owe to truth and justice to express our unqualified contradiction of those reports; and we feel the more imperatively called upon to do so from the fact of many of us having differed in opinion upon various measures of your government. Upon the occasion of your retirement into private life, we have to assure you that you carry with you our best wishes for your future welfare.”

That Address was signed by the Members of the Legislative Council, the clergy of all persuasions, the Solicitor General, the Surveyor General, the Comptroller General, the Crown Solicitor, the magistrates of the colony, all the most respectable traders of Hobart Town, and all the officials, with but one or two exceptions—which exceptions could be satisfactorily accounted for. It bore in all about 350 signatures.

When the Secretary of State received the first communication informing him of the fact of that resolution being then agreed to, and apprising him that he might expect to receive, through an official channel, a copy of the address with the signatures affixed, he wrote to the late Governor the following letter:

“Hagley, Stourbridge, March, 9, 1847.

Sir,

I have received from Lord Grey a copy of your letter of the 5th of October, addressed to me as Secretary of State, in which you adjure me to specify immediately the dates, places, persons, and circumstances to which the rumours against your private life, forming the occasion of my letter marked 'secret,' and dated 30th of April, 1846, apply. The persons who made known to me the existence of such rumours, did not profess to support their credit by any statements of particulars of the kind to which you refer, but to found them upon general notoriety. It is not, therefore, in my power to convey to you what I have not received. Those, however, who appeal to no notoriety afford by that appeal the means of putting their allegations to the test.” That would no doubt be true in a case where the alleged notoriety had actual existence; but that was not the fact in the present case. The charges themselves were false, and equally so was the allegation that they had obtained notoriety. “In your letter, of the 30th October, to Earl Grey, of which his Lordship has likewise been so good as to send me a copy, you transmit a resolution, expressing, in terms necessarily vague, but sufficient for their purpose, the most unqualified contradiction of those reports, injurious to your moral character, which had been the subject of my communication to you. The framers of the document evidently understood their general nature; and you acquaint Lord Grey that it is signed by all the leading and influential inhabitants of the capital of the colony and its neighbourhood, with a few exceptions, which exceptions may be explained on political grounds, and including 'members of council, magistrates, merchants, and clergy of all denominations;' and further, that the resolution would be transmitted by the next ship for England. I lament, so far as the case before me is concerned, that I am no longer in a condition to try the issue, which, in the execution of a public duty, I was the instrument of raising. It will not rest with me, as you are aware, to say whether the resolution described by you, when it appears, will be sufficient to neutralise charges purporting to convey matter of public notoriety. I must say, however, that had I continued to hold the seals of the Colonial Office, I should have thought a public attestation of this kind, if so signed as to correspond with your description, an appropriate and sufficient answer to accusations which, as they did not specify particulars, could not be open to the ordinary methods of confutation. From such accusations you would be entitled, under such circumstances, to full acquittal; and it can scarcely be necessary for me to say with how much avidity I should have been prepared to recognise a just occasion of withdrawing the reference I had made; a reference which caused me the deepest pain, and which nothing but the most imperative considerations would have extorted from me. The effect which a confutation by public and general testimony of the accusations against you would have had upon my estimate of your claim to continuance of public employment is, I think, sufficiently described in my secret letter. I observe it is stated in the resolution, that the parties signing it had heard that your recall had been influenced by reports bearing upon your private character. It is right that I should entirely disavow having been moved by any such considerations in the advice which I thought it my duty to give. Your recall arose exclusively out of the causes detailed in my public despatch. If I discharged a repulsive duty in referring to matters of private life and obligation, when I addressed you in April last, as Secretary of State, it does far more violence to my feelings to recur to the subject now, when I also am in a station altogether private, and yet find myself addressing, on matters of the utmost delicacy, and entirely beyond my cognizance, one whose years and station I am bound unfeignedly to respect, and over whom in no particular can I claim any

superiority. Permit me to express the hope that the office I have had to discharge, repugnant alike to your feelings and my own, has not been rendered additionally and needlessly offensive to you by any wanton obtrusiveness or inconsiderate language on my part. (Signed) "W. E. GLADSTONE."

That letter contained a full and explicit declaration, on the part of Mr. Gladstone, that if the document whose arrival he was awaiting should turn out to be worded and signed as described, he should consider that such a public attestation ought to be regarded as amounting to a complete and entire acquittal of Sir E. Wilmot. The document referred to did arrive. Mr. Gladstone found that it faithfully corresponded with the description given of it; and he thereupon wrote a letter, which was expressed in the handsomest terms—a letter which was highly creditable to himself and exceedingly satisfactory to the family of the deceased gentleman. It was dated the 31st of May, 1847, and addressed to the present Sir Eardley Wilmot, the son of the late Baronet. In this communication Mr. Gladstone observed— “I find no difficulty in stating my conviction, that in my opinion the refutation which the address from the inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land supplies to the charges against the late Sir E. Wilmot is more than sufficient to remove whatever prejudice they were calculated to raise against him.” A charge had been made, as he had before stated to the House, and that charge had been met by the authorities to whose names he had referred in the manner he had described; and Sir E. Wilmot had, at the hands of the right hon. Gentleman (Mr. Gladstone), and at the hands of the public, and he (Mr. Spooner) trusted he would have at the hands of the House, a full and fair acquittal from those disgraceful charges —charges unfounded and unjustified. He had another letter on his behalf, from one whose name he was perfectly sure would be well received in that House—he alluded to the present Bishop of Tasmania. It was addressed by him to Mr. H. Chester, who had written a letter to his Lordship, which called forth this reply. The following was the letter of Mr. Chester. He says, after referring to the removal of Sir E. Wilmot, and the expression of opinion in the colony in his favour—

“There is one signature which, in the estimation of English churchmen, would afford most valuable testimony to the character of Sir E. Wilmot, namely, the signature of the Bishop of Tasmania, which does not appear in Sir E. Wilmot's favour. I am aware that your Lordship was not in the colony when the letter of recall was received; but as the whole of the correspondence has been published in England, and has given great pain to his wife and family, I am sure you will allow me, as Lady Wilmot's brother, but without her knowledge, to ask you to testify whether the rumours which reached the Secretary of State were publicly notorious and were well-founded. If your Lordship's testimony shall be unhappily unfavourable to Sir E. Wilmot, I shall be totally silent respecting it; but if, happily, your verdict shall be favourable, I should hope that I might make it public without any loss of time.”

To that letter Mr. Chester received the following answer:—

“As I am ignorant of the extent and nature of the reports, I cannot give them an unquestionable contradiction; but, as an act of justice, I convey to you the testimony I have borne, in Sidney, at the Colonial Office, and in every society where the subject was brought forward, namely, restricted as was my intercourse with Sir Eardley Wilmot, I can yet

positively declare of my own knowledge that injurious statements respecting his morals and habits have been made with an air of confidence which have been proved to be utterly groundless. Charges of immorality may have been whispered; but not one, according to my knowledge, has been proved. Mine is not the statement of an intimate friend or acquaintance, but of one who wishes to act on the principles of Christian duty."

That was the statement of the Bishop of Tasmania; and he (Mr. Spooner) had similar testimony in a letter put into his hand that morning. That letter was from Bishop Wilson, Roman Catholic Bishop of Hobart Town:—

"6, Manchester Street, Manchester Square,

June 5.

Dear Sir—I have heard with heartfelt sorrow of the death of our late lamented Lieutenant Governor, Sir Eardley Wilmot. I have also heard with much pain of the wicked efforts of some persons, whose names are not known, to blight the character of your deceased parent. Permit me to say, that if any testimony I can bear to the moral character of the late Sir Eardley Wilmot will afford comfort to his afflicted family on this melancholy occasion, it will be most gratifying to me. I had the honour of knowing the late Sir Eardley Wilmot most intimately for about two years and a half. During that time I was in the habit of joining his social parties, and also of calling upon him on business at all hours—I may truly say, 'in season and out of season;' for he never refused to admit me — and I can affirm, without hesitation, that I never saw the slightest reason to suspect any immorality; and that I never heard a word from him, or from any one in his presence, that could offend the most delicate ear. With deep condolence,

*I have the honour to be, dear Sir, your faithful and humble servant," "X R. W. WILSON,"
"Catholic Bishop of Hobart Town."*

"To J. Eardley Wilmot, Esq."

There was also a letter from a gentleman who holds the office in Van Diemen's Land of Colonial Treasurer, addressed to the present Sir Eardley Wilmot, and to which he (Mr. Spooner) also called the attention of the House:—

"Imperial Hotel, Covent Garden,"

"June 7, 1847.

Dear Sir Eardley

In reply to the request conveyed to me from you, I believe I need only refer you to the correspondence relating to the recall of the late Sir E. Wilmot, recently published for Parliament. You will find there my name appended to two separate documents, both exonerating Sir E. Wilmot from imputations against this moral character. I have pleasure in

adding, that I know of nothing which would induce me to give a less favourable opinion now. Indeed, I may say, that I scarcely met a respectable person in Van Diemen's Land, who admitted their belief in such idle rumours as were afloat in the colony while I was there. The gross calumnies which I find have reached this country would not have been listened to for a moment in Van Diemen's Land. Yours very truly," P. FRASER."

So far as regarded the imputations against the character of Sir Eardley Wilmot, he (Mr. Spooner) had discharged the painful task he had undertaken; and he hoped that his statement would have the effect of producing on the minds of hon. Members of the House the impression that Sir Eardley Wilmot had been most seriously injured and scandalously traduced. He looked with full confidence that the House would receive from the Colleagues of the right hon. Gentleman (Mr. Gladstone) an expression of their acquiescence and concurrence in the views which the late Secretary of State for the Colonies had expressed in the letter to which he had called their attention; but while he was completely content with what he had said, so far as the charges against, and the vindication of, the late Sir E. Wilmot went, he wished to address a few words to his hon. Friend opposite, the present Under Secretary of State for the Colonies. He must say he thought that the late Governor of Van Diemen's Land had a clear right to complain, and that the present Baronet had likewise a right to complain of the way in which their letters had been received. He next called attention to two letters from the present Sir Eardley Wilmot to the right hon. Earl Grey, which produced an answer from his hon. Friend opposite, in which he stated —”

“I am directed by Lord Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th of April, in which you call attention to the terms of the despatch from Van Diemen's Land, and "which was addressed to Mr. Gladstone. In reply, I am directed to inform you, that, being ignorant of the grounds on which the despatch was written, it is impossible for his Lordship to express any opinion about it.”

Now, the noble Lord was not appealed to for any opinion as to whether Sir Eardley Wilmot was rightly or wrongly dismissed. He was called upon to say whether he would feel justified in joining in the declaration which he (Mr. Spooner) had read from Mr. Gladstone, and thus afford a full and complete vindication of the character of Sir E. Wilmot. He (Mr. Spooner) thought it was due to the memory of one who had suffered so much as Sir E. Wilmot had done to do this. He thought it was due to his afflicted family and to the public that justice should be done. He thought the noble Lord would have shown a more English feeling if he had condescended to express his conviction that the charge was unfounded. A petition from Sir Eardley Wilmot had been presented to the Queen, through Earl Grey, setting forth the facts which he (Mr. Spooner) had already stated, and humbly praying that Her Majesty would give such order and direction as would enable the petitioner at once to meet the charges contained in the Secretary of State's letters, and to prove the falsehood thereof. That was the prayer which had been refused—the prayer that those means which he sought for should be granted, had not

been acceded to. He also prayed that Her Most Gracious Majesty would confer such mark of favour upon him as would show that Her Majesty would not allow such an act of injustice to be done without making reparation; but that prayer was not granted. He had cleared his character; but he asked the aid of the Colonial Office to be able completely to carry out that object; and he thought the answer of Earl Grey was cold and severe, in reply to a heartrending application, and a most constitutional request. He stated in that answer, that he had received his letter and memorial, and had laid them before the Queen, who was pleased to receive them very graciously; but he was not able to advise Her Majesty to accede to the request contained in them. That was the answer of one who had stood forward in his public character as the zealous defender of the constitutional rights and interests of the subject. When an injured individual applied to him for the means of vindicating his character, he was met with that, which he (Mr. Spooner) must call, most repulsive answer. The House had now the faces before them; and he (Mr. Spooner) relied upon them as affording a complete vindication of the memory of Sir Eardley Wilmot. He relied also upon them as a means of consolation to his afflicted family, for whose sorrow, under the heavy visitation with which Providence had been pleased to visit them, he felt the most lively interest, and the deepest sympathy.

LORD BROOKE said, after the speech of the hon. Member for Birmingham—and he could have trusted the vindication of Sir Eardley Wilmot to that speech, without adding a word—he was anxious, as one of the Members of the county which Sir Eardley had so long represented, that his (Lord Brooke's) name should at least appear as confirming the statements of his hon. Friend. He agreed that the recall of a Colonial Governor upon public grounds rested with the Colonial Office, and he should be unwilling to interfere with its discretion; but where private accusations were brought upon anonymous grounds, and unfounded charges were made upon such grounds, affecting the future prosperity and well-being of those against whom they were leveled, it was most natural that the individuals should desire that their character should be cleared from the charges. He understood that the late Secretary of State did not deny that Sir Eardley Wilmot had a right to defend himself from the charges, and that he would have been most willing to acquit him; and he, therefore, most strongly and anxiously requested the representative of the Colonial Secretary in this House, that he would, at least if he went so far as to adopt the accusations of the late Secretary —["No, no; he does not."] From the answer which his hon. Friend had read from the Colonial Secretary, it would appear that he did, to a certain extent, adopt them, as he had declined to recommend Her Majesty to reinstate Sir E. Wilmot. He was anxious to hear from the noble Earl at least that acquittal which his predecessor in office was ready to give.

MR. DUGDALE perfectly agreed with the sentiments of his noble Friend and the hon. Member for Birmingham; and as he had had the honour of being for many years the colleague of Sir E. Wilmot, he could not help saying a few words. Sir E. Wilmot had filled the high office of chairman of the quarter-sessions in the district which he represented; and he (Mr. Dugdale) had much pleasure in stating that he discharged that office with the greatest satisfaction to all parties. With his hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, he had no hesitation in saying that all the charges which had been brought against Sir E. Wilmot were entirely false, and that the documents which had been brought that evening under the

notice of the House contradicted in the most ample manner the calumnious reports as to his private character. He thanked the House for the kindness which they had shown towards his hon. Friend in allowing him to bring forward the subject that evening. That kindness would be duly appreciated by, and be most consolatory to, the family and friends of the late Sir E. Wilmot.

SIR R. PEEL I stand in the same relation towards the late Sir E. Wilmot as the noble Lord and my hon. Friend. I was perfectly acquainted with him for several years, and I was one of his constituents; I had, therefore, an opportunity of knowing the manner in which he discharged his duty as representative of the county of Warwick, and of ascertaining that he acquired the good opinion of those he represented. I well recollect the occasion when my noble Friend (Lord Stanley), who then filled the office of Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, in selecting a person properly qualified to fill the post of Governor of Van Diemen's Land, which was a matter of no small difficulty, considering the peculiar circumstances of that colony, was urged to appoint a military officer instead of a civil Governor; but my noble Friend's solo motive for selecting Sir Eardley Wilmot for the post of Governor was my noble Friend's opinion, that, from Sir Eardley Wilmot's experience in the administration of the law as chairman of the quarter-sessions for the county of Warwick, and as county Member, he had had peculiar means of acquiring almost daily experience in all that relates to the administration of criminal justice; and he was recommended to the office by the unanimous voices of the magistrates — the general concurrence of the whole bench. No Member of this House will undervalue the importance in such an office of experience in the administration of the criminal law; and that was the solo motive which influenced my noble Friend in making the selection for this office. With regard to the grounds — the public grounds — for the removal of Sir E. Wilmot from the administration of affairs in the colony, my hon. Friend has most properly abstained from entering into a discussion of them. It is not for this House to control the discretion of the Crown in this respect. But it was distinctly admitted by my right hon. Friend the late Secretary of State for the Colonies, in writing to Sir E. Wilmot, that he did not intend to withdraw him from the colony on account of any public misconduct or public neglect that would justify his withdrawal from a colony in ordinary circumstances; but in the peculiar circumstances of that colony, in consequence of the communications he had received thence, he thought himself justified in recalling Sir Eardley, and appointing another person to that office. But there was a distinct admission on the part of my right hon. Friend, that there was nothing which, on public grounds, would prevent the re-appointment of Sir Eardley to some other colony; and, looking to the public conduct of Sir E. Wilmot, in the discharge of his ordinary functions of Governor, I think my right hon. Friend would have been fully justified in recommending his re-employment in a similar capacity in another place. But I think my right hon. Friend (Mr. Gladstone) was placed in a peculiar and painful position with relation to this matter. Three persons connected with the colony communicated certain information, confirming the rumours which had reached this country as to the private conduct of Sir E. Wilmot. These three persons, who were of unexceptionable character, informed my right hon. Friend that the private life of Sir E. Wilmot was such as, in their opinion, was not compatible with a proper discharge of his duty as a public officer. Public rumour being thus confirmed, my right hon. Friend was justified in giving his advice to the Crown to remove Sir E. Wilmot from the government of that colony. But though he thought Sir E. Wilmot disqualified to fill

the post of Governor in that particular colony, there was nothing in his public conduct which justified his removal. At the same time my right hon. Friend felt that it was not inconsistent with his duty, after receiving this information from these three persons, to desire some refutation of the charges affecting the private character of Sir Eardley which had reached the Colonial Office. Would my right hon. Friend have been justified in withholding these charges from Sir Eardley Wilmot? Was it not right that he should know that there were those impressions with respect to his private character? My right hon. Friend, therefore, in a secret despatch, communicated to Sir Eardley Wilmot the reasons which had influenced him, and the information from these respectable persons, which had given confirmation to the rumours respecting his private conduct. One of these persons was living within the limits of the United Kingdom; and application was made to this gentleman to sanction the use of his name; but this he declined. With respect to the two other persons, they were not in England. Now, I agree generally in the statement made by my hon. Friend (Mr. Spooner). It is my duty to state that my right hon. Friend feels the strongest conviction that the information he received was totally and entirely erroneous. I am enabled to give the most complete and explicit admission on his part, that the charges he received affecting the private character of Sir Eardley Wilmot are without foundation, and totally and entirely erroneous. My hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham has ably vindicated the character of Sir Eardley Wilmot against these charges. He has commented upon the nature of the charges, and the conduct of those who made them. On my own part, I also do not hesitate to express my own opinion that the charges preferred against Sir E. Wilmot must be considered as being totally and entirely without foundation. I should have felt it to be my duty, as connected with the Government of which my right hon. Friend (Mr. Gladstone) was a Member, to have said thus much; but I am further induced to do so by my own feelings of personal regard towards Sir E. Wilmot, and my anxiety to show that I share in the sympathy expressed by my hon. Friend towards the widow and family who have sustained so severe a loss. I concur with him in thinking that the immediate representative of the title of Sir E. Wilmot—I mean his son—has shown qualities which entitle him to our strongest sympathy in the painful position in which he has been placed by Providence. I have felt it to be my duty, though I consider that my hon. Friend has stated the facts of the case most correctly, to do this act of justice to the memory of Sir E. Wilmot, and both on my own part and on that of my right hon. Friend to make him all the reparation in our power.

LORD J. RUSSELL I do not wonder that the right hon. Baronet the Member for Tamworth should be anxious to render a reparation to the memory of Sir Eardley Wilmot; and I think that the House must be satisfied, both by the letter of Mr. Gladstone and the declaration of the right hon. Baronet, that there is enough to show the force which the charges had upon the mind of Mr. Gladstone at the time they were brought under his notice; and the right hon. Baronet has said, that, notwithstanding the impression which the charges made, he as well as Mr. Gladstone are now convinced that the charges are entirely erroneous; that although those charges affected only the private character of Sir Eardley Wilmot, they were unfounded. Such being the case, I should not have felt it necessary to say a single word upon the subject, had it not been that the hon. Member for Birmingham has thought fit to animadvert upon the conduct of my noble Friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies. In order to form a judgment as to the accusations against Sir Eardley Wilmot, one thing was necessary, and that

was to have the evidence in support of them. Now, with respect to all these matters, my noble Friend was entirely ignorant. He was informed that accusations had been preferred affecting the private character of Sir E. Wilmot. What they were he was not informed, and as to who had brought them he was not informed. How, then, could my noble Friend have pretended to give any opinion upon the subject, or add any weight to what had been done either in the colony or in this country to vindicate the character of Sir Eardley Wilmot, if my noble Friend believed the charges to be without foundation? He was without any means of judging; the only thing he knew was, that certain charges against Sir Eardley had been brought under the notice of Mr. Gladstone. It does not appear that Mr. Gladstone, though he sent a despatch to Sir Eardley respecting these charges, deemed it necessary to record that despatch in the Colonial Office—so that this despatch, described as "confidential and secret," is really no more than a private letter from Mr. Gladstone. But, the noble Lord (Lord Brooke) has stated that my noble Friend must have adopted the charges, because he did not deem it his duty to advise the Crown to re-appoint Sir Eardley Wilmot to some other colony. I must say, that in my opinion, it was not the duty of my noble Friend to give this testimony to the public conduct of Sir Eardley Wilmot before he had refuted the charges made against his private character. It was his duty and his privilege to select persons whom he thought the fittest in every respect for the government of colonies. Lord Stanley thought Sir Eardley Wilmot peculiarly qualified for the government of Van Diemen's Land, and recommended him to Her Majesty for the appointment. My noble Friend was not to be told, because charges had been brought against the private character of that Governor, which had been acted upon by his predecessor, this amounted to a recommendation that another colonial government should be provided for Sir Eardley Wilmot. My noble Friend was not bound by any such recommendation. As to the proceeding of Mr. Gladstone, and the course taken by him, it is not for me to pass any judgment or express any opinion upon them. These are most painful duties for a Secretary of State to perform. If he entertains charges against a governor, he is assailed with imputations, and often causes animosities and quarrels in the colony. At the same time, there are cases in which a Secretary of State is bound to listen to such charges. Whether Mr. Gladstone did right or wrong in receiving these statements as matter of accusation it is not for me to say; he knew the persons who brought the charges, and whether the charges were entitled to general belief, and he ought at least to have been aware of the credit to be given to the authority of the persons who brought them. It turns out that one of them is not willing that even his name should be mentioned; his testimony, therefore, is not entitled to much respect, and I think we may presume that the charges are wholly false and unfounded. However, Sir, to act on such information is a question which depends upon the discretion of the Secretary of State for the time being; and I only hope that the hon. Gentleman who has brought forward this question, and those who are the Friends of the late Sir E. Wilmot, will consider that whatever opinions may be entertained by those who hold office, or have held office, or by the country in general, with respect to certain political measures of the late Sir E. Wilmot, as Governor of Van Diemen's Land, that all those charges respecting his private conduct have been swept to the winds, and that his son will rest satisfied, so far as regards the present discussion, that the moral reputation of his father has been entirely vindicated.

MR. SPOONER, in explanation, stated that when Sir E. Wilmot applied to the Colonial Office in order to obtain those facilities for rebutting the charges that had been made against him, and which that

Office could afford, Earl Grey declined to render him the assistance which would have enabled him to clear his character.

MR. V. SMITH was of opinion that from what had transpired in the course of the present discussion every hon. Member must feel that the character of the late Sir E. Wilmot had been perfectly vindicated; and under the painful circumstances which had occurred, it must be very consolatory to the feelings of his widow and family that testimony had been borne by all parties to the character of their lamented relative. He regretted, however, that the noble Lord the Member for South Warwickshire (Lord Brooke) should have said anything that savoured of a party attack on the noble Lord at the head of the Colonial Office, while he entirely omitted alluding to the late Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Gladstone), with whom all the fault rested. Great caution ought to be observed by a Secretary of State for the Colonies when dealing with the characters of official men who were four months' voyage from the spot where an accusation against them might have been made. It was the duty of the Secretary of State to protect such persons to the very last moment. The right hon. Gentleman opposite (Sir E. Peel) had informed the House for the first time that three persons laid information before Mr. Gladstone, or at least before the Colonial Office, on the subject of the conduct of Sir E. Wilmot; but it did not appear that Mr. Gladstone had any personal communication with those parties; on the contrary, it would seem that he derived his information from some subordinates in his department. On this information Mr. Gladstone acted. He would venture to read three sentences from Mr. Gladstone's letter to Sir E. Wilmot. Mr. Gladstone said— "Had these rumours been slight, and without presumptions of credibility, I might warrantably and gladly have passed them by." Now, he must say, that he should hope, for the sake of human nature, that the presumptions of incredibility were very considerable when the character of a man of high station was attacked by mere rumours. But Mr. Gladstone proceeded to say, that— "Had these rumours taken the form of charges, or of information supported by the names of the parties tendering it;"—" (Here Mr. Gladstone stated in so many words that the names of his informants were not known; but the right hon. Baronet (Sir R. Peel) had told the House that he knew the names of two of the three parties who were the informants, but that the third party had refused to give up his name)— "—"it would have been my absolute duty, independently of any other reason for interference with your tenure of office, to refer the matter to you, and at once call upon you for your exculpation. But they occupy an intermediate position." He must say that, in common parlance, the phrase of "rumours, holding an intermediate position," was to him somewhat unintelligible. He did not mean to cavil with Mr. Gladstone's conduct; but this was frittering a man's character away in a most intolerable manner. He had heard of a good, a bad, or an indifferent character; but he had never heard of an intermediate character, and he really did not know what it was. The letter proceeded— "Presuming that I have been justified in refraining from bringing them under your notice up to the present time, I feel that it would be impossible to recommend your resumption of active duties under the Crown in any other colony until they are satisfactorily disposed of." Under what circumstances was this letter despatched? A public letter had previously gone out to recall Sir Eardley Wilmot; therefore there was no necessity to do anything until that gentleman came home, when he would have been able to meet the accusation. He felt that this letter was not such as became the person filling the high station occupied by Mr. Gladstone. If such proceedings as this letter were to be continued, he did not know

anything that would tend more to prevent public men accepting colonial appointments. He perfectly agreed with Sir Eardley Wilmot as to his being placed in the un-English position of a man charged with unknown acts of impropriety, injurious to his character and destructive of his interests— without any knowledge as to who were his accusers, or as to what were the accusations. He was perfectly willing to admit that since that time Mr. Gladstone had done all in his power to allay the irritation which had been excited. Every one who knew anything personally of Mr. Gladstone was well aware of the kindness of his disposition, and of the pain which these proceedings must have given him. The hon. Member for Birmingham, in the course of his speech, had chosen to bring a charge against Earl Grey, and said that Sir Eardley Wilmot's family had a serious matter to bring against that noble Lord. If this was the case, it was their duty to bring it forward at once. It was quite unnecessary for him to say anything in defence of Earl Grey after what had fallen from the noble Lord at the head of the Government. With Earl Grey he had no political connexion; but he entertained the highest regard for his character, and felt bound to protest against such a charge as had been made against him.

MR. NEWDEGATE observed, that he had no personal acquaintance with Sir E. Wilmot, but, being connected with the county of Warwick, he felt bound to say that he considered the character of that gentleman to have been most amply vindicated. One further act of redress, however, remained still to be rendered, and he trusted it would not be withheld. In the Colonial Office it might be supposed rested the taint of these charges. Now, he did trust that the representative of that Office in the House of Commons would give an assurance to the House that if any such false documents remained there, they should either be given up or destroyed. He would only make one further remark—he thought it most unfortunate that Earl Grey should not have pursued a nobler course than he considered it fit to do; but the noble Lord at the head of Her Majesty's Government had made amends, by avowing—on good reasons—his total disbelief of the scandalous charges alleged against an hon. Gentleman who was now deceased.

SIR J. GRAHAM I had hoped, after the speech of my right hon. Friend late at the head of Her Majesty's Government, and after the speech of the noble Lord at the head of the present Administration, that this discussion would have been permitted to have closed in a manner which I believe would have been perfectly satisfactory to all parties. ["Hear!"] Some hon. Gentlemen opposite who cheer, perhaps do not stand on this occasion precisely in the same relation with the late Sir Eardley Wilmot as I do. For a long time I had the pleasure, I will not say of being on terms of friendship, but of intimate acquaintance, such as exists between Members of this House, with Sir E. Wilmot. I knew him for many years, and always entertained great respect for his character and general conduct as a Member of this House; and if there be any responsibility to be shared by any Member of the same Government by whom Sir E. Wilmot was appointed Governor of Van Diemen's Land, then, certainly, I am prepared to share that responsibility with my noble Friend, Lord Stanley. I consulted with my noble Friend before the appointment was made, and I entirely concurred in the propriety of the appointment. My relation, therefore, with Sir E. Wilmot is somewhat different from that of hon. Gentlemen opposite. First, with respect to the moral conduct of Sir E. Wilmot, I am satisfied that on all sides of this House it will be admitted that, by the explanation which has been given by the hon.

Member for Birmingham — derived from the most authentic sources, and from Van Diemen's Land itself—every vestige of a taint of a suspicion affecting the moral character of Sir E. Wilmot has been entirely removed. Then, with respect to another topic which has been introduced into this debate, namely, the conduct of Earl Grey in this matter, I must say that I entirely differ from the hon. Member for Birmingham; I think the explanation given by the noble Lord (Lord John Russell) as to Earl Grey's conduct is full and entirely satisfactory, and especially upon this ground —being the ground mentioned by the hon. Member for North Warwickshire (Mr. Newdegate)—that in the Colonial Office there was no trace whatever of any proof or statement of an official nature upon which the private letter of Mr. Gladstone was founded. And if I am not very much mistaken, after I shall sit down, the hon. Gentleman opposite (Mr. Hawes) will give the House an assurance that there is no record of any statement whatever upon the subject of those charges in the Colonial Office. Therefore, neither with respect to the conduct of Sir Eardley Wilmot himself, nor with respect to the conduct of the present Colonial Secretary, is there any question remaining. Then comes the question as to the conduct of my right hon. Friend Mr. Gladstone. That certainly is a subject for explanation. In the course of the present discussion it has been said, negatively indeed, but in a manner almost amounting to an affirmation, that the secret letter addressed to Sir Eardley Wilmot was needlessly and wantonly written by Mr. Gladstone. It has been also said that the accusations were insinuated, and were anonymous. They were neither insinuated nor anonymous. ["Name!"] Allow me: the accusations were positive—the parties who communicated them did not give them anonymously, but presented themselves at the Colonial Office; and, as it has been stated by my right hon. Friend (Sir R. Peel), two of those individuals are now in Van Diemen's Land; one occupying a high official situation, and the other, though not holding an official situation, yet holding a position of the highest respectability, is a person of unblemished character. With respect to the third person, he also did hold an official situation; he made the accusation, and when called upon to allow his name to be used, he shrunk from the avowal. My right hon. Friend Mr. Gladstone has admitted that, with respect to that individual, the whole of the allegations against Sir Eardley Wilmot as preferred by him must be discharged; but with respect to the other two individuals, the accusations were so direct and positive, and were made in a manner all but official—certainly, if not official, yet were made so authoritatively—that no Secretary of State would be warranted in overlooking them; and although he did not rest the removal of Sir Eardley Wilmot from the public service upon those charges, yet he would not have been acting with candour and good faith towards that gentleman if he had not stated to him that such information had reached him. Now, what is the accusation against Mr. Gladstone? It is not contended that upon public official grounds he might not have removed Sir Eardley Wilmot from the government of Van Diemen's Land under the circumstances in which that colony was placed. If that is conceded, then the defence of Mr. Gladstone is this, that not thinking it expedient to retain Sir Eardley Wilmot as the Governor of Van Diemen's Land— while sending out a public despatch for his recall, he was most anxious to break the heaviness of that recall, by having it in his power to recommend Sir Eardley Wilmot to another appointment, if Sir Eardley could find it possible to remove the imputations cast on his private character, a statement of which had reached Mr. Gladstone, and to which, therefore, he felt it his duty to call Sir Eardley Wilmot's attention, in order that he might give to these allegations a direct negative. Mr. Gladstone, with a view to enable himself, if he considered Sir Eardley Wilmot qualified for a future appointment,

to nominate him to one, gave Sir Eardley Wilmot an opportunity to contradict the accusations which had been made against him. I am of opinion that my right hon. Friend was misinformed, and that the accusations were unfounded; but I am decidedly of opinion that if the transaction were to happen again—viewing the matter as it stood when Mr. Gladstone wrote the official despatch to Sir Eardley Wilmot—and looking at the position of Sir Eardley—that the kindest course Mr. Gladstone could take would be the course which he did take, that of writing a private letter, and of affording Sir Eardley Wilmot an opportunity of refuting charges affecting his private character, which, if unremoved, would have disqualified him from holding service under the Crown, but which, if removed, as happily they have been removed, would have entitled him to a reappointment. I have thus stated my view of the case. If my right hon. Friend erred, it was not from any unkind motive towards the party charged. With respect to the duty of the Government at home towards persons holding official situations in distant colonies, I admit that the utmost tenderness and consideration should be shown on the part of the Executive towards them. They are peculiarly open to groundless accusations, owing to the distance to which they are removed from the mother country depriving them of the opportunity of defending themselves. I am quite sure that my right hon. Friend Mr. Gladstone cannot be charged generally with having omitted that duty. An instance occurred during his tenure of office, as Colonial Secretary, when it became his duty to contend very strenuously with a powerful party, who preferred an accusation against a Colonial Governor. In that case my right hon. Friend evinced every readiness to maintain the servant of the Crown, who was not present to vindicate himself. Generally, I do say, that it is the duty of the Executive Government to be very slow in believing accusations against parties who cannot be present to defend themselves. But in the present case I do not consider these charges to have been founded upon mere public rumour. They rested upon grounds quite distinct, and specifically stated by credible parties. The official despatch to Sir Eardley Wilmot most certainly rests upon public grounds—not now to be entered into. I am sure the House will not expect those public grounds to be now argued. The utmost fault which can be imputed to my right hon. Friend Mr. Gladstone is, that he wrote a private letter which afforded Sir Eardley Wilmot an opportunity of explaining circumstances, which, if left unexplained, would have disqualified him from holding any future public appointment. I am sure it would have been considered inconsistent with the candour of a generous mind to have withheld from Sir Eardley Wilmot the opportunity of giving that explanation. The general character of my right hon. Friend must be admitted to be unblemished in every respect, and his kindness of heart cannot be doubted; and I trust that those who may feel they have reason to complain of the course he pursued, will be persuaded that his conduct was not dictated by any ungenerous feeling towards Sir Eardley Wilmot; and that the House will admit that he has acted neither unfaithfully nor uncandidly towards him in his discharge of a painful but imperative public duty.

MR. HAWES did not consider it necessary, after the speech of his noble Friend (Lord J. Russell), to detain the House with any lengthened observations. He must, however, state, in answer to the hon. Member for North Warwickshire (Mr. Newdegate), that there was no trace whatever among the records of the Colonial Office of there having been, on any occasion, any communication made either by words written directly, or by implication, tending to cast any imputation upon the character of Sir Eardley Wilmot. There was no official record whatever of any of these charges. The hon. Member for

Birmingham had rather inaccurately stated what passed between Earl Grey and the present Sir E. Wilmot. What the latter wished was, that Earl Grey, in consequence of documents forwarded from Van Diemen's Land, should state that he was convinced that all the accusations against his father were unfounded; but the noble Lord stated that he knew nothing of the grounds on which Mr. Gladstone's letter was written, and, therefore, was unable to make any statement on the subject. The noble Lord had no cognizance of any accusations; and the secret letter of Mr. Gladstone was only known to the Colonial Office on its being received from Van Die-men's Land in a despatch from Sir E. Wilmot himself. Earl Grey also informed the present Sir E. Wilmot that one reason which prevented him from making any statement to him on the subject was, that he should be obliged to make some statement on the subject in public. For his own part, he considered that the documents transmitted from the colony, accompanied by the personal declarations of those who had been there, entirely removed from his mind every trace of these accusations. He did not wish to cast any reproach or censure on Mr. Gladstone; but he could not say that he thought that Mr. Gladstone was quite justified in the course he had taken. This was all he wished to say on the subject.

SIR C. DOUGLAS said, he had reason to believe that what had passed in the present debate would be perfectly satisfactory to the family of Sir E. Wilmot.

MR. CURTEIS had every reason to believe that Mr. Gladstone, in what he had done, had committed an error in judgment, and that he did not mean any unkindness; but there were three other persons who had not been handled as they deserved, and he would not be restrained from expressing his opinion on their conduct. He did not envy the feelings of the three gentlemen who had originated this calumny against Sir E. Wilmot. They had the satisfaction — if it was a satisfaction to them—of having hunted an innocent man to the grave; for if they had not directly caused the death of Sir Eardley Wilmot, at any rate it must be a satisfaction to them to know that they had caused him sorrow and misery in his dying moments. He said those three persons—gentlemen he would not rate them, whatever might be the rank in society which they had filled— had been proved to have circulated a base, foul, and cowardly calumny; and he thought Mr. Gladstone had erred in judgment in not giving up their names. He thought the hon. Member for Birmingham would have acted more discreetly if he had not at the close of his speech attacked the present head of the Colonial Office, as it was a strong provocation to his side of the House to make a party attack upon Mr. Gladstone, who was, to say the least, as much open to attack as the noble Earl who at present filled that high office.

MR. BORTHWICK would not allow the subject to pass without making one remark. However satisfactorily this discussion might and must be to the feelings of the surviving relatives of Sir Eardley Wilmot, to his mind it was in every part unsatisfactory, and he believed it would be found unsatisfactory to the House and to the country, except for this, that it was now proved that Sir Eardley Wilmot had been ungenerously treated and unjustly accused. He thought the noble Lord at the head of the Administration had satisfactorily answered the complaints of the hon. Member for Birmingham, when he stated that the records on which these accusations were founded did not remain in the

Colonial Office—that the present Minister for the Colonies was ignorant of the names of those who had brought the accusation against the Governor—that he did not know what the accusation was—that he had no knowledge whatever of this most melancholy and disgraceful case, except of that part which was contained in the papers in the shape of public despatches. If this were true, then the request made to Earl Grey that he should examine or refute the calumnies alluded to, was a request with which he could not comply, because he had not the means of complying, whatever might be his inclination. The true state of the case was this: a functionary administering the law in a distant colony in the name of Her Majesty was recalled by the Government that appointed him to the office; and his recall was accompanied with certain complaints made against his conduct. These complaints were stated by the right hon. Secretary for the Colonies to be sufficient to induce him to decline recommending the Governor, as was usually done on such occasions, to a new office; and then his successor was called upon to rebut charges of which he had no knowledge whatever. The right hon. Baronet the Member for Tam-worth said—and he was followed in this by the right hon. Baronet the Member for Dorchester—that the grounds on which Sir Eardley Wilmot was recalled had nothing to do with the statements contained in the secret letter. But it was stated in the documents that though the grounds stated in the public despatch were sufficient for his recall, they would not have prevented his being appointed to some other colonial government. The statements contained in the secret despatch did prevent his appointment to some other situation; and, therefore, was it not certain that they were bound *à fortiori* to recall him on the grounds stated in the secret despatch? The right hon. Baronet said that the charges were not anonymous. What was the description given of these charges by the right hon. Gentleman himself in his secret letter? He said, "Had these rumours been slight, and without a preemption of credibility, I might have warrantably passed them by—had they, on the other hand, been put in the form of charges, or information supported by the names of the parties tendering it, it would have become my absolute duty to refer the matter to you, and to call upon you for exculpation; but they occupy an intermediate position." Now, could any man, whether in or out of the House, comprehend the meaning of this statement? He was not surprised that the right hon. Baronet said the charges were not anonymous. He might with equal justice have said that they were neither anonymous nor not anonymous. It now appeared that all parties were sorry this charge had ever been made; but he wished to bring this fact prominently before the House, that if the statement contained in the letter of the son of Sir Eardley Wilmot were true, then a public servant had been allowed to sink into the grave under the weight and pressure of a cruel and false calumny which had been made to the Colonial Minister of the country—which had been listened to by him—which was made by persons who, it appeared, were present in *propria persona*, and yet that their names were refused to be given up to Sir Eardley Wilmot. On that point he wished to call the attention of the right hon. Members for Dorchester and Tamworth to look at the comparative evil which had happened. The Governor's character was in the attitude of being blackened and destroyed for ever; three persons had come to the Colonial Office and made certain statements to the Minister destructive of the character of the Governor; and yet, because they were fearful of the public sanction of their names being-given to a statement which they knew would be destructive to the man's character, their names were withheld from the public. The Governor was sacrificed, and the calumniators were protected. He thought the hon. Member for Birmingham had done well in not referring to the public despatch of Mr. Gladstone, not only for the reasons he had

himself given, and the reasons which the right hon. Member for Tamworth had given, but also because it was impossible to extract, even from that document, a clear statement which the mind of any Member in the House could grasp, of the cause why Sir Eardley Wilmot was removed. He had only to add, that he had no acquaintance with Sir Eardley Wilmot; but he felt he should not be doing his duty if he did not say that the Government had protected the calumniators and sacrificed the Governor.

MR. HORSMAN said, that the hon. Member for Birmingham had brought forward this case, not only with great ability, but with complete success. It certainly was a most painful case to be discussed in that House; but as regarded the feelings of those most deeply interested in the discussion, nothing could be more completely satisfactory than the manner in which Sir E. Wilmot's honour had been vindicated, and the charges against him withdrawn. But the House had been told by the hon. Member for Birmingham that the whole of these charges had originated in three gentleman going to the Colonial Office, and making the statements on their authority. The right hon. Baronet the Member for Dorchester had since told the House that one of those gentlemen held a high official appointment in the colonies. Bearing this in mind, and recollecting the words of Sir E. Wilmot himself, who stated that he was the victim of the most extraordinary conspiracy that ever succeeded in defaming the character of a public servant, he wished to know whether the hon. Member for Birmingham had furnished the Government with the name of this informant; and, also, whether the Colonial Office had taken any steps, or were about to take any steps, to communicate with one who was said to hold a high official appointment in the colonies, with the view of affording him an opportunity of explaining how he became a party to accusations now so universally condemned? As regarded the conduct of Mr. Gladstone, the discussion assumed a personal character, and this he was particularly anxious to avoid. Believing Mr. Gladstone to be actuated by the kindest and most conscientious motives, yet he could not but feel that in accompanying the public despatch with the secret letter which had been alluded to, Mr. Gladstone's conduct was rash, indefensible, and unjust. He should liked to have heard, at the close of Mr. Gladstone's letter to the present Sir E. Wilmot, a frank acknowledgment that he had been guilty of one of those indiscretions which no man was exempt from. Whatever might be the respect of hon. Members for Mr. Gladstone, and whatever his desire to avoid everything of a mere personal nature, yet he thought that public duty called on them, whenever they felt that a public man had been unjustly and grievously treated, not to allow any private consideration to prevent them from declaring that such person had been the victim of great injustice.

MR. SPOONER said, that the hon. Gentleman had asked him whether he had communicated to the Colonial Office the individual's name, which was at present unknown. All he could say was, that he did not now, and never did, know the name.

CAPTAIN GLADSTONE felt it only necessary, after the complete explanation which had been given of the whole affair, to say a very few words on this, in many respects, painful subject. The hon. Gentleman who had just sat down had expressed his regret that the late Secretary for the Colonies did not, at the end of his letter to the present Sir R. Wilmot, avow that he had committed a great indiscretion in writing the private letter to the late Sir E. Wilmot. Now, he was sure that the same sense

of justice which induced the late Secretary for the Colonies to state to the present Sir E. Wilmot that his father's private character was perfectly cleared, and that if he had retained the seals of office, he would have felt it his duty to recommend Sir E. Wilmot for re-employment, would have made him confess that he had committed an error or indiscretion, if he had felt that he had committed one. The House perhaps hardly sufficiently saw that the course pursued by the late Secretary for the Colonies was one of kindness, and nothing but kindness, to Sir E. Wilmot. The easiest course for the Colonial Secretary to adopt would have been to take no notice of the reports that had been alluded to, but to allow Sir E. Wilmot to return, and he would then, if spared, have been disqualified for re-employment. But the Colonial Secretary knew the sacrifices which, in a pecuniary sense, Sir E. Wilmot made in going out, and did not wish to place him in that position. The right hon. Gentleman the member for Northampton (Mr. V. Smith) said that the Secretary for the Colonies ought not to have made any intimation to Sir E. Wilmot of the reasons which prevented him from recommending that gentleman for re-employment under the Crown; but what would have been his feelings if his life had been spared, and he had returned home without hearing those reasons? He would have said, "You have placed me in a false position; you wait till my return before you make this charge, and it is not in my power here to clear myself of it." He (Captain Gladstone) might say, he believed, on the part of his right hon. relative, that he deeply regretted—he must regret—that those charges ever were made; at the same time, his justification in his (Captain Gladstone's) mind, rested entirely on the evidence, and the nature of the charges, and the parties by whom they were made. If his right hon. relative wrote his letter on insufficient ground, then, certainly, he was guilty of worse than indiscretion; but, if not, he took the only course he could take. He was under the disadvantage, and so were those who defended him, of not being able to give the names. [An Hon. MEMBER: Why not?] The circumstances had been most accurately described by the right hon. Baronet (Sir. J. Graham); and in the position in which the Secretary for the Colonies was placed, he could have pursued no other course than that which he took. That right hon. Gentleman rejoiced greatly that the character of Sir E. Wilmot was cleared, and would rejoice to find that it was cleared in a manner satisfactory to the members of that House and to the feelings of his family.

MR. ROEBUCK was anxious for the character of England, and wanted to know whether this was the sort of treatment to which the governors of her colonies were to be subject. The hon. and gallant Captain said, "If you knew the parties who made the accusation, you would understand the position of my right hon. relative;" why had not his right hon. relative stated those names long ago? He had no notion of official reserve when an honest man was to be sacrificed. Were the charges made by these persons true? No; the hon. and gallant Member's "right hon. relative." had declared that they were not true. These respectable names, then, had been vouchers for a falsehood. A gentleman had gone out to represent the Sovereign of England—to govern a distant colony in very difficult circumstances—and had performed his duty to the best of his ability. Behind his back some respectable gentlemen addressed the hon. and gallant Member's "right hon. relative," and that "right hon. relative" dismissed the Governor, without inquiry, and without once saying what the charge was; for "my right hon. relative" had the faculty of mystifying everything he touched, and covering his meaning with a multitude of sentences, and wrapping it in a mass of involuted, and convoluted, and involved

phraseology. What was the charge? No one knew. Nothing was so easy, in public or in private, as to put forward dark and mysterious statements against a man, not venturing to avow what you accuse him of. He (Mr. Roebuck) had to charge "my right hon. relative" with doing a dishonourable act in doing that. He had not the courage to make the accusation, though he did dismiss an honest man from the public employment. If he were a relation of Sir E. Wilmot, he would pursue "my right hon. relative" for the rest of his life. He deserved it. England required that those who represented her in all parts of the globe, should not thus be treated. He knew nothing of Sir E. Wilmot, except as a Member of that House, and spoke of him simply as a Governor sent out to manage a distant colony; and he wanted to press for something like responsibility in the colonial administration. What said the hon. and gallant Captain? "If you only knew what the accusations were, and the gentlemen who made them, you would feel and own the difficulty of the position of my right hon. relative." [Captain GLADSTONE: I said nothing about the accusations; I said merely, "If you were aware who were the parties that made the accusations."] Why, it must be assumed that the accusation was a grave one, or else the right hon. Secretary had no business to dismiss Sir E. Wilmot. But why did not the House know who these parties were? Was there anything in the character of the Gentleman who lately held the seals of the Colonial Office to shield him at all? What business had he to dismiss a person on such an accusation? [An Hon. MEMBER on one of the Opposition benches: He did not.] Then he dismissed him on no accusation. All that the hon. and gallant Member said was, "If you knew the names of the parties making the accusation, you would understand the feelings and the position of my right hon. relative." But what would be the feelings of the people of England? A Governor was performing his duty in his distant colony, when certain parties went to the Colonial Office, and made a calumnious and false accusation against him; and without further ado, or any open charge, or any chance given to him of defence, that gentleman was dismissed. So far the facts were agreed on. [An Hon. MEMBER: NO, no.] No! Why, he was dismissed upon that accusation. ["No, no!"] Then what was he dismissed for? The Secretary for the Colonies said, that he believed him incapable of governing the colony he was sent to, and that, having removed him in consequence of that inability, he could not recommend him to further official employment, because certain charges of immoral conduct were brought against him. But he (Mr. Roebuck) did not believe that version of the case; he believed it was wished to dismiss Sir E. Wilmot, and that those accusations were in the Colonial Office at the time of his dismissal. He charged that upon the late Secretary for the Colonies, and asserted that Sir E. Wilmot was not dismissed from inability to govern the colony, but was dismissed in consequence of those insinuations and calumnies which were uttered against him in the Colonial Office. Did the late Colonial Secretary-want to get out of that? Let him give the House the accusations, with the dates thereof, and prove that they were subsequent to the dismissal. But he could not do that; and, not doing that, he (Mr. Roebuck) charged the late Colonial Secretary with dismissing Sir E. Wilmot on a pretence that he was unequal to the performance of his office; whereas it was his own prudish feelings, his own notion of what was acceptable to what he called the moral feeling of the people of England, that led to the dismissal, under the plea that he was unfit for his office; and then, having been pushed out, he was told, "Oh! there are reasons; I could, if I would, suggest reasons for your dismissal." He charged that upon the late Colonial Secretary, and all persons connected with him; and they could only get out of it by giving the accusation, with the dates; never mind the names. But, if the dates were honestly given, the date of the

accusation, which had been proved to be a calumny, would he found to precede the dismissal. Why did he (Mr. Roebuck) dwell upon this? He had no particular feeling for Sir E. Wilmot, except as a gentleman who went out to administer a colonial government; and anybody who saw anything of the mode in which our colonial administration was mismanaged by Lord Stanley and Mr. Gladstone must be heartily anxious that neither of them should ever meddle with it again. No sooner did they stretch forth their hand to anything connected with it, than mischief immediately followed, and every direful consequence of mischievous interference resulting from ignorance or presumption. Our colonial empire extended all over the globe; and in every part of the globe we could see ignorance leading the way, audacity following—audacity only equalled by ignorance—and mischief the consequence of both. He sympathized with the family of the gentleman who had unfortunately fallen a victim—but not a solitary victim; there were hundreds now pining away, the victims of our colonial misrule. Sir E. Wilmot was noticed because he happened to occupy a high station. He pointed his finger at the case, as illustrating the mischief of an irresponsible Colonial Administration.

MR. G. W. HOPE had no intention to go into the general discussion; but the hon. and learned Gentleman (Mr. Roebuck) had made statements relative to the grounds of the recall of Sir E. Wilmot, which that hon. and learned Gentleman could not have made if he had been in the House during the whole of this discussion. He honestly believed that the public grounds specified were sufficient to justify that recall, and they were wholly irrespective of the charge with regard to his moral character. The hon. and learned Member really could not have read the papers without seeing that the recall was wholly irrespective of any charges against Sir E. Wilmot's private character, and that it proceeded only upon public grounds—grounds which were reviewed by Earl Grey, and held to be sufficient. [Mr. ROEBUCK: What are the dates?] He was ignorant of the dates. Sir E. Wilmot was recalled upon sufficient public grounds; and those grounds had been reviewed by a separate independent authority. [Mr. ROEBUCK: That is not sufficient.] Why, Earl Grey had no prejudice in favour of Mr. Gladstone; Earl Grey reviewed the grounds, and his statement was—"I consider the public grounds sufficient; I do not know what are the private grounds upon which you are accused. He was not at the Colonial Office at the time in question, but must say that he believed Mr. Gladstone wrote his letter in a spirit of fairness. Statements had been made to Mr. Gladstone; and that right hon. Gentleman considered it due to Sir E. Wilmot, that though his recall had not turned upon them, they should be made known to him, that he might have an opportunity of refuting those calumnies, as they had turned out to be. He honestly believed it was done in a spirit of perfect fairness and perfect justice.

MR. B. ESCOTT considered the really important question to be that which had been introduced by the hon. and learned Member for Bath, and which the hon. Member who had just sat down had declined to notice, contenting himself with a denial of the imputed cause of dismissal. He must distinctly charge Mr. Gladstone with having dismissed Sir E. Wilmot on the ground referred to in that secret despatch. The papers themselves showed it. The hon. Member (Mr. Hope) said he could not give dates, and, so far as he was concerned, had left the House ignorant as to when the intelligence first reached Mr. Gladstone; but the despatch itself dismissing Sir E. Wilmot gave a date. It was dated April 30, 1846; and the private despatch referring to the anonymous calumny bore the same date. Did the

hon. Member mean to say that those accusations were not received before the 30th, when Mr. Gladstone sat down to write his despatch? Of course he had seen them, and thought of them before that. His own letter proved it. There was one part of the case which he wished the Under Secretary of the Colonies had not passed over so cavalierly. The question which arose was, whether the colonies were in future to be governed on the principles laid down in this secret despatch? A department of the Government was found to listen to anonymous accusations. If the defence of Mr. Gladstone was an honest one, why were not the names of his informants given? Had not the House of Commons a right to know what was the authority which had led Mr. Gladstone to entertain charges against an honest man who had been hunted to death? The men who misled Mr. Gladstone could have done no harm unless Mr. Gladstone had adopted their statements. The noble Lord the First Lord of the Treasury, when Colonial Secretary, had stated that the colonies were to be governed by the recognised principles of justice in the mother country. Were the principles, then, stated in Mr. Gladstone's secret despatch to be the principles on which colonial government was in future to be conducted?

SIR W. JAMES would not allow such language to be used in reference to his right hon. Friend (Mr. Gladstone), as had been employed by the hon. and learned Members for Bath and Winchester. They had spoken of his right hon. Friend's conduct as dishonest and calumnious; but he would assert that his right hon. Friend had given ample reasons for Sir E. Wilmot's recall, in the fact that he was not sufficiently acquainted with the convict system, and that his management had not in consequence been successful. But in saying this, did he (Sir W. James) rely upon his own opinion alone? No; there was the opinion of the present Secretary of State for the Colonies—an opinion which stood high with many Members of the House; and it was, that Mr. Gladstone had ample grounds for the recall of Sir E. Wilmot. The hon. Member for Birmingham, in stating the case, had very properly and discreetly mentioned that the recall had taken place on public grounds, and that the charges preferred against Sir E. Wilmot's private character had nothing to do with it; and yet the two hon. and learned Gentlemen the Members for Bath and Winchester came forward at the eleventh hour, and asserted that Sir E. Wilmot had been dismissed for private reasons alone, and founded upon that assertion grave charges against Mr. Gladstone, who was not present to answer for himself. Such assertions, however, were altogether untenable, and were contradicted by the statements of the late Premier, and his Colleague the Secretary for the Home Department.

MR. M. MILNES hoped he should not allow his friendship for Mr. Gladstone to qualify his opinion; and, looking impartially at his conduct, he did think that his hon. and learned Friends the Members for Bath and Winchester had attributed to his right hon. Friend motives which he believed had never actuated him, and sentiments which his right hon. Friend had never entertained. He believed that the motive in which the private and confidential letter—for it was private and confidential—originated, was simply to inform Sir E. Wilmot that there were rumours abroad regarding his character—that these rumours had come to England—and the probability was they would reach the Colonial Secretary and other Ministers in a still stronger shape; but if he succeeded in dispelling those rumours, there was no reason why he should not receive another appointment. The recall was solely on public grounds. That Sir E. Wilmot, excellent man as he may have been, should not be competent to deal with one of

the most difficult propositions ever submitted to a Colonial Governor, namely, that of governing a penal colony in a time of transition from one system to another, was no great slur on his character, either as a man or as a governor. He believed that Mr. Gladstone thought Sir E. Wilmot was not competent to discharge the difficult duties which devolved upon him; and it was solely for that reason that the right hon. Gentleman resolved to recall him. Then came the rumours; and he begged to inform the House that these rumours were not confined to the ear of the Colonial Secretary, but prevailed in private society in this country; and certainly it was most important for Sir E. Wilmot that they should be negatived, and it was an act of kindness in Mr. Gladstone to that gentleman to give him an opportunity of accomplishing that object. Had Mr. Gladstone confined himself to the public question alone, what would have been the condition of Sir E. Wilmot? He would have been deemed incompetent to remain in the governorship of the colony, and, in addition, the rumours which had reached this country against him would have continued; and had he reached this country in ignorance of their existence, he would have been deprived of the means of negating them. It was to Mr. Gladstone, then, that Sir E. Wilmot was indebted for the opportunity of making his defence, and of setting his character right with the public. Those persons knew little of Mr. Gladstone who imagined that in discharging an unpleasant public duty he was capable of doing anything calculated unnecessarily to wound the feelings of the individual. He believed he had Mr. Gladstone's authority for saying that it was his intention, had he remained a Colonial Minister, and if Sir E. Wilmot had cleared himself, to have appointed him to some other situation. There was no doubt that had Sir E. Wilmot lived, and had Mr. Gladstone continued in office, he would have been placed in a position better fitted to his peculiar talents, and that he would have had reason to look with satisfaction, rather than with regret, upon what had occurred. He felt, with the hon. and learned Member for Winchester, that the public offices should not be made the depositories of calumnies of the kind in question. He did feel how necessary it was for Ministers of State to check at the outset such calumnies, and such injurious reflections upon the private character of individuals as might result in depriving this country of the services of some of its best officers. It was very possible, nay, very probable, that many very competent men might not be precisely the most guarded and careful in their habits of life, and that it might be very possible to trump up cases of calumny against men who in distant parts were performing the most difficult duties in the most creditable manner. He thought that what had occurred in the case now under consideration should teach the Colonial Office caution as to how they ventured to deprive the country of the services of really active and useful men, because of objections stated to their private character by some individual, actuated perhaps by a desire to see those places filled by persons more congenial to their dispositions. He trusted the Colonial Office would take a lesson from what had occurred, and that the friends of Sir E. Wilmot would really believe that Mr. Gladstone had acted from the most noble and the most generous motives.

SIR R. H. INGLIS regretted the turn which the debate had taken during the past hour. The discussion commenced more in sorrow than in anger. His hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham deprecated in the opening speech all reference to the public grounds upon which Sir E. Wilmot was recalled, nor did he raise that question at all. His object was to defend the private character of Sir E. Wilmot from the attack made upon it in a secret despatch of the same date as the public one. The defence made by his

hon. Friend was complete; and certainly the more so when followed, as it had been, by the late Prime Minister and the late Secretary for the Home Department, and by others who had borne equally strong testimony to the validity of the defence which the accused party had made, and who had expressed such deep sympathy with the family of the deceased. He could not but hope that the discussion would now come to a close, and that the House would enter upon the other important business which awaited consideration.

from - <http://www.heritageaustralia.com.au/magazine.php?article=418>

Lt Bowen and MARTHA HAYES: first lady of Risdon Cove by Reg. A. Watson

Martha Hayes, whose descendants still live in Tasmania, was lover to Lt John Bowen RN, the young officer who led the first British settlement to Van Diemen's Land in September 1803, at Risdon Cove. Martha had two children to Bowen, but while he was later to leave the colony, she stayed. Eventually she became a respected and reasonably prosperous settler. Her daughter, Henrietta, was the first white child born in Tasmania.

By all accounts Martha was indeed a beauty. A visiting Irishman, Joseph Holt, in late 1805, described her as the "*prettiest violet that I saw growing at the Derwent*"

Little is known of Martha's life before her arrival at Risdon Cove in September 1803. We know she was born in 1789, the only child of James Quinn and Mary Maria (nee De Knight) who later married Henry Hayes. Martha was named after her aunt, Martha De Knight.

Mary and Henry Hayes were arrested in May 1801 for receiving stolen goods, including a trunk and other valuables worth one thousand pounds. They were running a public house called *The Bell* beforehand and had previously owned some sort of second hand clothes and rag business. Martha's step-father, Henry, was acquitted but Mary, believed to be the dominant of the two, was found guilty and sentenced to 14 years transportation.

While it was undoubtedly a difficult voyage, conditions aboard the naval ship on which she was transported, H.M.S. *Glatton*, were better than on ordinary convict transport ships. The authorities were concerned "to prevent the infectious sickness which has on former occasions proved so fatal to them on their passage to that part of the world.

On board was the young Lt John Bowen RN. Although not clearly proven, it is likely that young Martha, who was just 13 years old, accompanied her mother on the voyage. Martha, of course, was free and could consort with others much more easily than her mother, and it is probable that Martha met Bowen aboard the vessel and struck up a very friendly relationship with him. After their arrival in Sydney, Mary was assigned as a servant to a settler while Martha went to live with Bowen. Mary received a free pardon in 1810, having served nine years of her fourteen-year sentence.

Bowen was believed to be 22 years old at the time and it was not unusual for officers, and indeed Governors, to have mistresses. They were quite open about their relationships, as testified by Governor William Sorell in his relationship with Eliza Cox Kent, not to mention David Collins with Mrs Powers.

When Bowen sailed to establish the settlement at Risdon Cove, Martha accompanied him, first living in a tent, then a wooden hut. A convict, Joseph Parnell, who had been transported after the 1798 United Ireland rising, had been chosen as a servant to John (Bowen) and Martha and it is believed he became quite attached to the young lady.

John (Bowen) began building a new house some half-a-mile up the valley in a commanding position overlooking their old hut and the Parade Ground. The foundation ruins can be found today, now located on private land (TALC owned), forgotten and neglected.

Meanwhile, Martha's step-father Henry, being a free man, followed his wife and journeyed to Port Phillip. There he met with Thomas Hayes and his wife Elizabeth. It is believed Thomas and Henry were brothers, but the connection is not conclusively proven - if not brothers, then perhaps cousins.

John (Bowen) had returned to Sydney, but Governor King, angry with him for deserting the settlement, promptly ordered him to return. He did so, taking with him Martha's mother, Mary and Thomas Hayes. The voyage was difficult, but they arrived in Hobart on 10th March 1804. Thomas was given a grant of 100 acres at New Town creek, which he called "Project Farm".

Later that month, Martha gave birth to John's (Bowen) daughter Henrietta, probably named after her father, Henry. Rev. Knopwood recorded in his diary on 29th March, while visiting Bowen; "*Gov Bowen's young friend was confined to her bed.*" Bowen arranged for Martha to be declared a settler, thus allowing her to receive a grant of land and government rations.

Martha now had the company of her parents, as well as Thomas and Elizabeth Hayes and their two sons. Bowen, however, left the colony for good, asking Knopwood to take a special interest in her welfare. He sailed away on the *Ocean* leaving behind Martha and their daughter Henrietta. A second daughter, Martha Charlotte, was born on 3rd April 1805 after her father had left. They never saw each other, even though both daughters took great pride in their descent from Bowen. Knopwood christened them in August 1805 on a wet winter's day.

Knopwood, true to his word, did keep an 'eye' on Martha and so did others. She soon received the attention of her neighbour, Andrew Whitehead, and Knopwood married them in 1811, Martha using the surname Hayes.

Andrew was a convict who had come out with David Collins when 18 years old. He was appointed to take charge of the government farm at Cornelian Bay. It was not his first marriage, his first wife, Elizabeth having died in 1809. Andrew and Martha enjoyed a social life and their home became a central point of the small New Town community. Governor Lachlan Macquarie from NSW visited their farm and stated of Whitehead that he was "a respectable farmer".

It is believed that the first racetrack in Tasmania was established at their farm in 1813. In that year they received more land at New Town and were accustomed to receive visits from Knopwood.

Whitehead, however, was involved in a scandal the following year, whilst smuggling liquor from the vessel, *Argo* to Cornelian Bay, to be carried to his farm. Governor Davy, who followed David Collins, sentenced Whitehead to a few days “house arrest” as punishment - smuggling was not a serious crime in the new colony.

As Knopwood became older, Martha took great pride in looking after his welfare. There was obviously a close connection between them. In 1813 Knopwood gave both Bowen girls a bible. Martha had two children to Andrew, Mary born 1813 and Andrew 1820. Her first two daughters retained the name Bowen.

Sadly, Henrietta died in June 1823, unmarried, at the age of 19. The *Hobart Town Gazette* recorded: “DIED – On Saturday night of last, much beloved and respected, Miss Henrietta Bowen, daughter of John Bowen Esq., Captain in the Royal Navy. Her suffering she bore in piety and with resignation and departed this life sincerely lamented by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance.” (Sat. 21 June 1823).

Martha Charlotte married surgeon, Dr Robert Garrett in 1823. The *Gazette* recorded: “MARRIED. – By special licence, by the Rev. William Bedford, Colonial Chaplain, on Thursday morning last, at St David’s Church, Robert Garrett, Esq., Assistant Surgeon on the Civil Establishment at this Settlement, to Miss M.C. Bowen, daughter of Captain John Bowen, of the Royal Navy.” (Sat. 6th December 1823).

Martha Charlotte’s father had not forgotten her and sent some silver plate as a wedding gift. Her mother Martha received a 50-acre grant on land bordering the area in the Glenorchy Municipality now known as Prince of Wales Bay. Bowen saw to it that a hut was built for her here.

No doubt Martha Hayes had retained some of her early beauty, for in January 1836 after Andrew’s death four years earlier, when she was 50 years old, she married again, this time to Bernard Williamson, a Police Clerk at Brighton, who was but twenty years of age. Even so, she outlived her husband when he died in early 1871. Martha briefly lived at her son-in-law’s farm, “Lea Farm”, at Browns River, in the Kingborough Municipality, but on May 15th 1871 she too died and is probably buried at St David’s Park, Hobart.

Citation details

'Horton, Sir Robert Wilmot (1784–1841)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/horton-sir-robert-wilmot-2199/text2841>.

Horton, Sir Robert Wilmot (1784–1841)

Sir Robert Wilmot Horton (1784-1841), politician, public servant and pamphleteer, was born on 21 September 1784, the only son of Sir Robert Wilmot, baronet of Osmaston, Derbyshire, England, and his first wife Juliana Elizabeth, née Byron. He was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, (B.A., 1806; M.A., 1815). On 1 September 1806 he married Anne Beatrix, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Eusebius Horton of Catton, Derbyshire, and on 8 May 1823 Wilmot assumed by royal licence the surname of Horton in compliance with his father-in-law's will.

As a popular man about town, Wilmot was known as 'the first punster of the age, addicted to good shooting, good eating and écarté'. He became a fellow of the Royal Society and pursued his various activities with great ability and boundless, if undisciplined, energy. In 1818-30 as representative of Newcastle under Lyme in the House of Commons he won repute as an animated debater. In December 1821 he was appointed parliamentary under-secretary in the Colonial Department at a salary of £2000. With small encouragement from Bathurst, Wilmot reorganized the office for economy and uniformity. Among other reforms he divided the empire into geographical areas with a senior clerk responsible for the conduct of policy in each area. His retirement of several ageing clerks led to some confusion, but he recruited twice as many able young men when funds improved. With much assistance from James Stephen he improved the system of record keeping in the department and revised the general instructions to colonial governors, a task which had been neglected for nearly thirty years. He had a prominent part in the constitutional changes in New South Wales in 1823 and in the granting of charters to the Australian Agricultural Co., the Van Diemen's Land Co. and the Canada Co. He also exercised his patronage of behalf of John Macarthur junior, and carried on a voluminous private correspondence with leading colonial officials such as Francis Forbes. In 1825 he secured the appointment of a second under-secretary, R. W. Hay, with whom he divided the affairs of empire. This arrangement allowed Horton to devote more time to the subject of pauper emigration.

Horton's deepest concern was for the distressed victims of economic change in the United Kingdom and he hoped to turn this curse of the mother country into a blessing for the colonies. In 1823 and 1825 he was largely responsible for securing parliamentary grants for two experiments in Irish pauper emigration to Canada. He moved successfully for a select committee on emigration and as its chairman in 1826-27 propounded a plan whereby married paupers with families might surrender their legal rights to parish maintenance in exchange for assisted passages, grants of colonial land and the provision of houses, stock and equipment, the costs being paid from loans raised on parish rates in Britain. The plan was embodied in a bill which was dropped when Horton left the Colonial Office in

1828, but in parliament, press and pamphlets he continued to advocate assisted emigration and settlement. His writing had much influence on Edward Gibbon Wakefield, whose scheme for emigration financed by colonial land revenue was partially adopted by the Whig government, but which led to the alienation of vast areas of land, the colonies' greatest asset, in exchange for a small and inefficient supply of British labour, without cost to the mother country.

In 1827 Horton was appointed to the Privy Council; in 1831 he was knighted and appointed governor of Ceylon. In his absence systematic colonizers ridiculed him as an impractical dreamer, but he continued to produce pamphlets in answer to Wakefield, opposing the creation of an artificially fixed price for colonial land, and insisting with great vision that the cost of assisted emigration and settlement should be paid by the British government. On his father's death in July 1834 Horton succeeded to the baronetcy. He left Ceylon in 1837 and returned to England, where he died on 31 May 1841 at Sudbrooke Park, Petersham, survived by his widow, four sons and two of his three daughters.

Appendix Five

Citation

Ross Hohnen, 'Wright, Sir Roy Douglas (Pansy) (1907–1990)', *Obituaries Australia*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/wright-sir-roy-douglas-pansy-1068/text1069>

Wright, Sir Roy Douglas (Pansy) (1907–1990) by Ross Hohnen

Roy Douglas Wright, AK, DSc (Melb and ANU), Hon. LLD (ANU and Melb)., was indeed a man of vision and action, who contributed uniquely to the creation of the John Curtin School of Medical Research and, over thirty years of service, much more generally to the University's development.

Tasmanian born in 1907, Wright was Professor of Physiology in the University of Melbourne 1939-71; subsequently Medical Director of the Peter MacCallum Clinic 1971-76, and recently for the ten previous years, Chancellor of the University of Melbourne.

He was a foundation member of the Interim Council of this University, and its Honorary Secretary until August 1947 when the first Registrar was appointed; member of Council until 1976, member of the Finance, Statutes, and other Committees touching upon every aspect of the University's development, with a watchful eye for any suggestion of injustice and an alert interest in the University's legislation. A man difficult adequately to portray: with his distinctive drawl and use of the vernacular, reflective and deliberate of speech and manner, of simple but persistent logic, creative in the conception of great social institutions as well as in his field of science, creative not just in dreams alone, but in the assiduous follow-through; sociable without pretence, raconteur about whom, himself, anecdotes are countless, a man who passes now into legend.

Many threads led to the Government's decision to set up the ANU, but Pansy's role was singular. It is timely, in his memory, to record how this connection came about.

Much concern and thought were given in 1944, with Australia still at War, but no longer under threat of invasion, to the post-war period. Sir Howard Florey put forward a proposal for a national medical research institute. Separately, an interdepartmental committee under the chairmanship of Dr E. Ronald Walker made far reaching proposals concerning the Commonwealth's role in higher education; it also proposed to the Government that immediate steps be taken to set up a National University of Canberra, focusing on postgraduate studies and research in government, international relations, particularly Pacific affairs, and Australian history and literature, as well as offering undergraduate teaching.

Wright was a vital catalyst between Sir Howard Florey (in whose laboratory at Oxford he had worked in 1937-38) and General Blamey, commander of the Allied Land Forces, South West Pacific Area, in giving shape and impetus to Florey's proposal for a national medical research institute, which Blamey took to the Prime Minister, Mr John Curtin. At this time, he was a member of the Australian

Army Directorate of Research. This unusual, sometimes controversial, group of talented and innovative people with close access to Blamey also had cross communication with H. C. Coombs and his colleagues in the Department of Post War Reconstruction, who were already greatly exercised with the challenges to be met, post war, both of social adaptation and reconstruction, and in scientific progress. Australians, without ready access to training in the requisite skills and disciplines, would need to take their places in a world in which war had generated great advances in scientific knowledge, where there would be close interaction with other political and social systems, and particularly, a new appreciation of Australia's place in South East Asia.

With the benefit of these cross links to PWR, Wright was again catalyst, this time in the much wider design of the concept of the University which received enthusiastic Government approval in mid-1955 and which, in the 1946 enactment, incorporated, not only the John Curtin School of Medical Research, but the schools of physical sciences, social sciences, and Pacific studies.

To prepare the way for the new University, advisory groups had been set up for each of the intended schools, - Wright, of course, being a member of the committee concerned with medical research, together with Dr F. M. Burnett, (Hall Institute), Dr F. McCallum, (Director-General of Health), Sir Alan Newton, College of Surgeons, and Professor H. K. Ward (Bacteriology, University of Sydney). He was also a foundation member of the Interim Council set up to bring the new University into being.

It was fortunate in the immediate post war years that key Australian civil servants and scholars interested in the national university project were frequently in Britain, and able, readily, to establish close links with expatriates from Australia and New Zealand, among whom they engendered considerable interest and excitement for the new initiative. From these talks, Oliphant, and Hancock with Florey and Firth emerged as advisers to whom the Interim Council hoped to look to establish the first four schools.

Excitement there was, but also a developing realism and questioning on the part of the advisers. Each of them was engaged in work in postwar Britain of considerable importance. To move back to Australia meant an unquantifiable hiatus in this work. It would mean much heart searching over decisions to be made, involving not only themselves and their families, but their close collaborative colleagues. And what assurances could the Interim Council give about all manner of personal and work-related matters, finance, housing, budgets, buildings and facilities, the University's structure and organisation, control of funds, the making of appointments, statutes, the powers of Directors, and the all important one, to them, of who was to be their leader if they came, the first Vice-Chancellor?

Wright and Coombs were very much personal points of contact and confidence between the advisers and the Interim Council; and in March 1947, on Oliphant's advice, Wright was asked to go to England to consult on these troublesome matters. His report identified the 'time/ageing' factor, - that at the very best it would be four or five years before facilities could be provided in Canberra, during which time science and people might change greatly; following his report, the advisers were constituted as an Academic Advisory Committee to co-operate with the Interim Council in the whole process of constituting and establishing the University. From this plan stemmed the early appointment of staff,

among them Professors Fenner and Albert, to work pro tem in host laboratories, and schemes for unbonded scholarships and fellowships in the areas of interest of the four schools so that students denied further study and training in Australia or overseas by the war, could further their careers.

From it, too, came a plan for the four Advisers to come to Canberra early in 1948. This objective was two fold: to consult with the Interim Council, and, importantly to meet with, and expose their plans for the research schools to, a wide circle representative of the various disciplines, brought together in Canberra over easter of that year, and to discuss the possible interplay of relationships with the established institutions. In the area of medical research, these discussions in which Wright played an important part, were especially helpful in modifying some sense of insecurity in the allocation of Commonwealth grants.

In 1976, Wright honoured the University by submitting his scientific papers published in the previous decade for examination in the normal way for the degree of Doctor of Science. In preparing the wording of the degree certificate to be presented on his admission to that degree (and because the Statute required that candidates have a substantial connection with the University) we decided on the following preamble, which may now serve as our memorial of him. It uses an unusual and not very elegant word, nonetheless agreed among us as including not only the concept of an idea, but of the carrying out of that idea: -

Roy Douglas Wright closely identified with the origination of the University and a member of its governing authority since the University's foundation

More details are held about some of the individuals listed in this document and also about more recent generations of some of the lineages dealt with here. Anyone wishing to enquire about these is invited to do so through the contact link given below.

About RudkinData

Set up originally in 2003, RudkinData's primary interest is in the general research of the Rudkin surname but with it's main focus being on the descendants of the Project's primary individual, Ralf de Carleton (circa 1195-1271), and their families. With collaborators from around the world the findings have been quite significant. From the results a three volume Chronicle of the family has been produced and many requests for individual ancestral reports have been satisfied. Full details of the Project;'s activities can be found at www.rudkindata.co.uk

RudkinData also accepts requests for research into other family lines and with the production of Family History publications relating to them. Details of one such investigation can be found at www.heronshistory.com.

Other projects which are also currently on-going are in respect of the Lee, Coxhead and McKemmish families. Their websites, which are currently being developed, can be seen (when active) at www.lee-mckemmish.weebly.com

RudkinData was also invited to research the history of the ancient and prominent nomadic Stoics Cricket Club and to produce a website and a publication for it. These were developed following genealogical principles and details can be found at www.stoicschistory.weebly.com



For more information on RudkinData contact Ken Whitehouse (pictured) [here](#)



All that is contained in this paper is entered in good faith and is drawn from the best information available at the time of writing the paper.

It would be greatly appreciated if any reader who has additional, or contradictory, detail would supply it to the Project through the link given below so that suitable changes, where necessary, can be made.

Please head any contact submission you make with name 'WILMOT'

<http://www.rudkindata.co.uk/contact-us.html>

