

**AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT**

**BISHOP MATHEW B. HALE**

**Papers, 1849-95**

**Reel M381**

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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mathew Blagden Hale (1811-1895) was born at Alderley, Gloucester, and educated at Lady Berkeley's School, Wotton-under-Edge, and Trinity College, Cambridge. He was ordained priest in 1837 and in the next ten years was curate in a number of parishes in Gloucestershire. He married Sophia Clode in 1840 and they had two daughters. His wife died in 1845.

In 1847 Augustus Short, the first Bishop of Adelaide, invited Hale to be archdeacon and examining chaplain in South Australia. Hale and his daughters arrived in Adelaide in December 1847, where he took charge of St Matthew's Church, Kensington, and St John's Church, Adelaide. In 1848 Short and Hale visited the Western Australia part of the diocese and during the visit Hale met the Molloy Family at the Vasse. He married Sabina Molloy at Busselton on 31 December 1848.

In 1850 Hale obtained a grant to establish a mission where Aborigines from Adelaide could be taught farming and other practical pursuits. He bought the lease of Poonindie run near Port Lincoln. After a time, Hale agreed to accept Aborigines from any part of the colony on the advice of the Protector of Aborigines. By 1856 there were 62 residents at Poonindie and, despite rising costs and crop failures, the mission became self-supporting. It was eventually closed in 1894.

In 1857 Hale was consecrated as the first Bishop of Perth. In the following year he opened a boys' school, known as the Bishop's School, which he funded for several years. (The name of the school was changed from the High School to Hale School in 1929.) He introduced synodical government in the diocese in 1872. In 1875 Hale was installed as Bishop of Brisbane, with a diocese that covered the whole of Queensland. The ardours of travelling eased a little when the diocese of North Queensland was created in 1878. Between 1881 and 1884, as senior bishop, he presided over the General Synod of the Church of England in Australia.

Hale returned to England in 1885, where he continued to support the work of the Anglican Church with the Australian Aborigines. He died in Bristol in 1895.

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### D.M. 130

Select:

4. Diary of Mathew Hale, 1 Jan. -31 Dec. 1851
5. Diary of Mathew Hale, 1 Jan.-29 Aug. 1852 (the last few entries have been altered to 1853)
6. Diary of Mathew Hale, 1-24 Jan. 1855
7. Diary of Mathew Hale, 1 Jan.-11 April 1855 (also 16 Aug.-13 Sept. 1860)
8. Diary of Mathew Hale, 1 Jan.-26 April 1876

The 1851-55 diaries were written when Hale was Archdeacon of Adelaide and many of the entries record his work with the Aboriginal Mission at Poonindie, near Port Lincoln. They refer to his voyages between Adelaide and Port Lincoln, travels in the Eyre Peninsula, the affairs of the Mission Station, Aboriginal families and children, sermons, crops, cattle and sheep, visits to neighbouring stations, church services and attendances, baptisms and marriages, letters written and his reading. He also describes his life in Adelaide, services at St John's Church, lunches at Government House, court cases, visits to schools, meetings of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and meetings of the Diocesan Assembly and the Synod. There are references to the Governor, Sir Henry Young, Bishop Augustus Short, Charles Hawker, George Wollaston, Charles Driver, Gregory and George Hawson, Matthew Moorhouse and Captain John Bishop.

The 1860 entries contained in the second 1855 diary were written when Hale was Bishop of Perth. There are references to Archdeacon James Brown, Anthony Lefroy, Charles Wittenoom and a journey to Pinjarra.

The 1876 diary was written when Hale was Bishop of Brisbane. It mostly describes his travels, including journeys to Ipswich, Toowoomba, Warwick, Stanthorpe, Dalby and Roma. It also refers to confirmations, committee meetings, visitors and Archdeacon Benjamin Glennie.

20. Extracts from a diary, 30 Dec. 1851-9 Jan. 1852, giving an account of the illness and death of Takarnarro, an Aboriginal man at Poonindie. (12 pp)

- 108-11. Archbishop Edward C. Benson (Croydon, UK) to Hale, 1883-84: the election of Alfred Barry as Bishop of Sydney; the Diocesan Synod in Brisbane; the selection of a successor to Hale; the possibility of a translation from an Australian see. (4 letters)
129. Queen Victoria. Letters patent creating the See of Perth and appointing Mathew Hale as Bishop of Perth, n.d. (copy)
130. Act of consecration of Mathew Hale as Bishop of Perth, performed at Lambeth Palace by John Sumner, Archbishop of Canterbury, 25 July 1857.
- 133-66. Correspondence concerning the Poonindie Mission, Port Lincoln, 1850-56.
- Correspondence concerning the affairs of the Aboriginal Mission Station between Hale and the Governor of South Australia, Sir Henry Young, the Colonial Secretaries Charles Sturt and B.T. Finniss, the Surveyor-General George Goyder, Oliver Richardson and others. It includes drafts of Hale's letters.
- 167-74 Drafts of reports by Hale to the South Australian Government concerning the Poonindie Mission, 1853-55. (4 reports)
175. Octavius Hammond. Report on the Poonindie Mission, 19 Sept. 1857. (4pp, Parliamentary Paper)
176. G.W. Hawkes. Account of the present state of the Poonindie Mission, *Observer*, 18 Sept. 1858.
180. George H. Farr and William Hawkes. Official report on the Poonindie Mission, 28 Aug. 1875. (ms, copy)
- 181-84. Report of the Protector of Aborigines, Native School Establishment, Adelaide, for the quarters ending 31 Dec. 1849, 31 March 1850, 30 June 1850 and 31 March 1859. (printed)
- 185-208 Correspondence concerning the Poonindie Mission, Port Lincoln, 1850-54, 1895
- The correspondents include Bishop Augustus Short (Adelaide), Matthew Moorhouse (Adelaide), Charles Driver (Port Lincoln), Capt. John Bishop (Port Lincoln), C. Scott, G.W. Hawkes (Point Pearce) and Tom Adams (Point Pearce).
- 209-14. Press cuttings concerning the Poonindie Mission, 1850-80.
- 245-49. Press cuttings relating to the departure of Hale from Perth, 1875.
250. M.B. Hale. *Reply to friends at Port Lincoln, written at Fremantle, Western Australia*, 16 Feb. 1857. (printed leaflet)
- 253-67. Addresses and newspaper cuttings on the occasion of Hale's departure from Australia, March-May 1885.

277. An address delivered by the Bishop of Perth to the boys of the Bishop's School, Perth, on the occasion of the death of his son, Mathew Edward Hale, aged 10 years, 22 Feb. 1862. (printed, 10pp)
278. M.B. Hale. The Government and the opposition to certain rejected clauses of the Education Bill, 13 Sept. 1871. Reprinted from *The Inquirer*, 20 Sept. 1871.
279. Letter from His Lordship the Bishop of Perth relating to the support of Aboriginal native children, 23 Aug. 1873. (6pp, Parliamentary Paper)
280. M.B. Hale. A paper on the responsibility of the Church of England as regards the Aborigines of Australia ... read at the Church Congress held at Melbourne, Nov. 1882. (8pp, printed)
- 282-83. Extracts from the *Independent Journal* containing two letters from the Bishop of Perth concerning the transportation of convicts to Western Australia, 9 July 1858.

Note: The papers were filmed from right to left on the reel, with the title page appearing at the end of the reel.