

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/134454902#>

The Kelly Raid on Jerilderie. By "One Who Was There." [ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.] XXV. — (Continued).

On the arrival of the coach, Senior Constable Devine went up to the bank manager, and in whispering tones inquired where the money was. He was informed that it was in the boot of the coach, under the mail bags; so he and the constable, both armed, stood by the coach. This was shortly after 9 p.m. There was a crowd of people around, comprising the usual hangers-about on such occasions, and others who probably went there out of curiosity to see how the two bank officials fared after their journey to the city. Mr. Alexander Fulton, of Springfield, and the writer were also present. After greeting the two bankers, Mr. Fulton put his hand into the body of the coach and pulled out a bag. Throwing it across his shoulders, he walked away across the street. Mr. Tarleton, after asking Devine to guard the coach till his return, followed after Mr. Living and the writer, who were walking over to the bank. On arrival there the four walked in. Mr. Fulton threw down the bag, from which the bank's fresh supply of money was taken and placed in the safe and locked up. A messenger was then dispatched across the street with a note to Devine to the effect that the coin was securely under lock and key, and he could discontinue his guard and allow the mails to go on to the post office to be sorted. Devine was at first inclined to be angry at the ruse played, but later on became pacified. Amongst the crowd standing about the coach watching proceedings were several strangers who, by this time, were well-known to be in sympathy with the outlaws, as some of them were amongst the party who had cheered the leader when leaving the Albion Hotel. When this was explained to Devine he was satisfied. After the two bankers had had supper, the four went into the bank sitting room, when Mr. Living brought out the manuscript that Ned Kelly had given him to have printed. A deal of sensational capital was made out of this stuff at the time by various newspapers, some of which were chagrined at not being able to get it for publication. Several of the reports wherein the writers undoubtedly drew on their imagination, were to the effect that the manuscript was voluminous sheets of foolscap, closely written by Byrne, who was supposed to be the litterateur of the party, and that, if compiled, it would fill a large book. Others had it that the contents subsequently appeared in print. There was little truth in any of these statements. The manuscript was on ordinary note paper, and in three different hand-writings at least. Part of it was written in a round school-boy hand, easily read, but the other two writings were harder to decipher and were in a more mature hand. The last mentioned made the reading of them a slower and more difficult task than the first. For orthography and grammar all through, the manuscript certainly had nothing to recommend it, and its composition and spelling were equally bad. As for its great (?) length, as before said, it would not have occupied more than two columns space in long primer in a newspaper. The writer took the manuscript that evening and read it aloud to his three companions, easily within an hour, and that, too, considering the difficulty in making out parts of the writing. As already mentioned, a couple of days after while the contents were still fresh in his memory, he supplied Mr. Gill, the editor of the local paper, with a synopsis of it, which the editor wired to the Melbourne "Argus." It also appeared in Mr. Gill's own paper, the "Jerilderie Herald and Urana Gazette," on the 22nd of February, 1874 (sic). The contents of the manuscript in question principally consisted of a long tirade against the ineptitude and untruthfulness of the Victorian police, who were designated "loafers, scoundrels and black-guards" of the deepest dye. The Victorian Government also came in for its share of vituperation and abuse for employing such men. Kelly called upon all and sundry to be up and resist, and hound down the scoundrels and wipe them off the face of the earth, and so on. Kelly was undoubtedly ambitious, and would seemingly have liked to have been at the head of a hundred followers or so to upset the existing government or bring them to terms. With his ambition

there must also have been a lot of the Don Quixote about him. According to him, he, his family and his relations were the persecuted, and the Government and its officers were the persecutors. To judge by reading between the lines of the manuscript which he was so anxious to have published, one would be inclined to think that the leader of the outlaws was also a bit of a lunatic, or rather, a dreamer, in his own way. One might also conclude that he was a desperate man, driven to desperation by his imaginary wrongs, and was then up in arms against the community, with his back to the wall. To sum up the writings, in the writer's opinion the greater portion of them could only be considered by anyone who read them to be little better than emanations of wild fancies from a disordered brain. Some critics might have been more severe and classed the lot as a pack of rubbish or rot. However, excepting the synopsis already referred to, none of the manuscript has ever appeared in print, nor is it likely now— although it is still in existence we believe— for the simple reason that it would not (except, perhaps, as a curiosity) be given space in the papers. [To be Continued.]