

Extracts from the *Hobart Town Courier* regarding Jubilee Day, Tasmania, 10 August 1853.

Extract from editorial of *The Hobart Town Daily Courier* 18.7.1853 p.2, c.2

Jubilee

The tenth of August ought to be observed not only as a day of national but of family rejoicing. It should also be celebrated as well throughout the country as in the cities. It would be most appropriate to exercise at this auspicious season the hospitalities of the family circle. Parents may gracefully, as well as socially, assemble their children, relatives, and dependants around the domestic hearth and diffuse from every private centre throughout the island a spirit of liberal and festive rejoicing. This, we doubt not, will be done in a very large number of cases, and the day of freedom be thus hereafter fixed in the future remembrance of many a Tasmanian youth, who would be taught to estimate the value of the blessing which Divine Providence has now realised to us. If ever there was an occasion for harmless mirth and heartfelt mutual congratulation, that season will assuredly be the Jubilee Day of Tasmania. We desire to show no predominating triumph, no affectation of superior wisdom, no unkind taunting of those who have differed from us. We ask to be allowed, in the mere exercise of the free rights of opinion, which belong to every one alike, to testify, unmolested, our joyful appreciation of the incalculable advantage with which this colony has at length, after many a severe struggle, been invested.

This day should also be celebrated by acclamation in the cities of Hobart Town and Launceston. We are not insensible to the fact that in Hobart Town such a joyful manifestation is likely to be marred by the discontent of not a few people. Past circumstances render this probability not surprising. The metropolis, much more than any other locality, has benefited by the pecuniary outlay belonging to the convict system. The expenditure contingent on penal establishments has gone, in by far the greatest proportion, to the capital and many people are likely to lament the failure of this source of profit. Nevertheless we have no doubt whatever that a very marked and joyful manifestation will take place even here, in spite of its being, as it always was, the stronghold of convictism. As respects Launceston, we rejoice to believe, from the statements of our northern contemporaries, that the Jubilee Day will be fully, completely, and unanimously marked with exultation. That city had always taken a creditable lead in the expression of public sentiment on this topic, and we doubt not that it will exhibit a like becoming spirit on the present occasion.

[The editorial continues with c.200 words on the universality of the celebrations, bonfires in every town, etc., and that funds are being received.]

Extract from editorial of *The Hobart Town Courier* Wednesday Afternoon 22.6.1853, p. 2, c.3

Jubilee Day

It is satisfactory to see that a move is made to redeem the Colony from the disgraceful charge of apathy which apparently was to be brought against it, in reference to the appointment of a day of rejoicing for the termination of the curse of convictism. Messrs. Chapman and Hopkins are foremost in the arranging of the Jubilee, and, with the cordial assistance of the Committee associated with them, we doubt not that a manifestation will be made on the day appointed in some degree significant as an estimate of the joy which is doubtless felt by the great body of the colonists relative to this matter. We earnestly trust that everything may auspiciously conspire to render this season of rejoicing complete and universal. As the anti-convict movement has ever been one of a religious, moral, and social nature, so the modes of rejoicing proposed by the gentlemen engaged in arranging for the Jubilee are appropriately characterised by the exercise of religion, of charity, and of lively record. As it has been mooted that public services of Thanksgivings to the Almighty should be simultaneously offered up on the morning of the day appointed in all the Churches and Chapels throughout the territory, so we doubt not will this appeal be cordially responded to by all the clergy and ministers of every denomination. No feature of the anti-transportation movement is more remarkable than the unanimity with which the ministers of religion of every persuasion have petitioned, written, and spoken against the national degradation inflicted on this community. And we doubt not that in equally glad union they will lead their congregations gratefully to return thanks to a merciful Providence for the great blessing which He, in His good time, had bestowed to them.

The Jubilee Day will be further characterised by a work of charity. All the children in the various schools in the metropolis will be assembled together in the domain, and will after their sports together be furnished with a comfortable meal. Well may this rising generation be taught to rejoice in this day. They, as native-born children of the soil, exchange an inheritance of shame for an inheritance of indefinite aspiration. Their country's career in the family of nations is no longer fettered and degraded by the callous and impassive elements of England's crime. They may start forwards now in the spirit-stirring race of the age, may plume themselves with free and generous ardour - and henceforward strive, without shame, for the beautiful land of their birth! The rejoicings of the occasion will be appropriately closed by a brilliant display of fireworks. This usual and festive way of manifesting popular joy will doubtless convey delight to thousands of juvenile spectators, and we trust that the pyrotechnic arrangements will be confided to such hands as will not disappoint public expectation.

[The editorial continues for c.150 words with comment of refusal of Corporation functionaries to participate, etc.]