

Per J.B. Gribble  
Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 1886  
C134/21  
Bethesda  
Near Perth W.A.  
Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 1886  
My dear Mr. Chesson  
As the mail is to  
leave again tomorrow I  
am just getting you a  
copy or two of news-  
papers. Native matters I don't  
notice so full of all kinds  
of hard and usual life.  
Getting the premises packed  
that I cannot find time  
for full copy. I presume  
you will see by the en-  
closed clipping that the  
work of murder and  
cruelty still proceeds.  
The plain truth is that what  
we hear of these atrocities  
are only as the droppings  
of the great reservoir of in-  
iquity beyond and behind  
the curtain. My own case

which was just postponed  
 from Nov to Dec has again  
 by the trickery of my  
 agents been further postponed  
 to February. My solicitor  
 says that such move-  
 are simply depending upon  
 the benevolence of  
 his own people whom  
 he despises to assist us. I  
 hope the day will soon  
 come when Responsible  
 Government will be adopted  
 and then may we hope  
 to see a better state of  
 things for the natives  
 the matter of the apprehen-  
 sion of a Royal Commission  
 of the most vital  
 importance for without  
 the darkness will conceal  
 the truth.  
 The great object here is to  
 keep inquiries closed up  
 the man Mc Kee charged  
 with murdering natives near  
 Roeburn recently is to be tried  
 in February. When I sup-

The man Catch will also  
be tried. This man Catch  
was formerly a police constable  
and is never known in Perth.  
If I cannot obtain legal  
address here I shall be  
obliged to go to England  
and personally enlighten  
the British public.

I cannot now stay  
write further

I remain

Yours faithfully  
John B. Gribble

J. W. Chesson Esq  
Aborigines Protection  
Society -

P.S. Do all you can to obtain  
the appointment of Mr Duke  
Brookman as Native Protector

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From the Perth Herald <sup>137/22</sup>

Sensational articles from  
time to time appear in our  
Wednesday contemporary upon  
the ill-treatment of our aboriginal  
natives. In another leading article  
in Wednesday's issue, reference is  
made to the case of William Thomas  
an ex-policeman, and a parallel  
drawn between his treatment by  
the Bench, and that of a settler  
residing some miles from Perth.  
It is said that this man  
had two boys in his employ, the  
eldest being about 13 years old,  
both speaking English. They  
ran away after being flogged,  
were pursued, and were driven  
back with a stockwhip & distance.

of 30 miles Arrived at the Station, the elder boy was whipped as he had the second because he lashed to a fence in "embrace" position and then flogged until he had fainted. The second boy was treated in the same manner and after having worn out one lash, he began to put on another when the boy, in his agony, screamed out "Oh, Master, if you want to kill me, cut my throat, but don't cut me to pieces!" The brute, unmoved, continued flogging until the second lash had worn out. News of the horrible deed reached Roebourne, and when the boys were brought in, the Minister admitted that he had not flogged the first boy so much as he had the second because he could not bear it, adding that he had 'lost his temper'. The Magistrate inflicted a fine of £1- for dogging the weaker boy and £5 for the assault upon the boy who could bear it; If these facts are true, and we are bound to give credence to them, we soon know which is not deserving of condemnation, the conduct of the inhuman Monster, who flogged the children or the Magistrate who permitted such blood curdling brutality to be indulged in, at the cost of a paltry fine. We have witnessed a similar case, where two boys

slaves were sentenced to penal  
servitude for flogging natives  
in Africa yet in West Australia  
when so much is said of the  
human treatment of our aborigines  
the conduct of the settlers and  
the Magistrate are not inquired  
into. We consider this a public  
question, involving the character  
of the colony. It has either been  
grossly labelled, or a state of  
affairs is permitted to exist in  
regard to the treatment of our  
aboriginals that demands strict  
inquiry. If our Magistrates can  
treat so lightly such a treat-  
ment, it is time they were at once  
removed from their position, and

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their names struck off the  
roll of Justices of the Peace  
We trust the Government will at  
once clear up the matter. The  
colony should be purged of such  
a foul disgrace, if true, by the  
public condemnation of the culprits  
or if untrue by the prosecution  
of the Journal which has prom-  
ulgated the hideous story, a story  
equal in atrocity and honor  
to any told of the worst days  
of American slavery"

The above case was never noticed  
by the Government - J. Gribble -