History of Newcastle and the Northern District.

BY H. W. H. HUNTINGTON.

NUMBER XXXVIII.

HOSTILE NATIVES.

Kindness and conciliation will effect wonders, even with the poor uncivilized blacks, in proof of which the writer has adduced several instances. But it is singular that wherever European Christians come in collision with their fellowmen in that savage state they immediately exceed them in savage cruelty. The atrocities of the early settlers are the prototypes of the natives equal unto them. Women are not allowed to join in these ceremonies, which are conducted by the Yirri-yirra-tang, native priests so to speak, whose heads are held sacred or in reverence. The survey party were shooting over the natives' holy places while they were assembling to perform the rites of their tribe. The party were warned by hostile demonstrations to depart, but continuing their depredations, a shower of spears made them retreat. There is no record that any of the whites were speared or natives shot, but Esme Barrallier and Surveyor Grimes were clearly of opinion they had narrowly escaped being speared to death.

A NATIVE'S DUEL IN 1801 IN NEWCASTLE.

Duels in England and Australia were very numerous during the reign of George the Third, and a striking thing is that as society became more polished duels became more frequent. Among the principals of the fatal duel at Leamington, the Duke of York, the Duke of Richmond, and the Marquis of Granby were among them. The duel was fought at a place called Tring in Hertfordshire, ten miles from the town of Tring.

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MUTINY OF THE CONVICTS IN 1801.

The rule of Dr. Mason at Newcastle was short-lived by reason of his harsh and unjust treatment of the convicts, who were in a worse condition than the American or West Indian slaves. It has often been argued that the convicts were better off than the labourers in Great Britain. To make one set of men miserable because others can be found more miserable is no parallel between the cases, for society in Great Britain is like the colours of the rainbow, imperceptibly into each other, and the pauper of to-day may be an employer to-morrow, but in conviction there was no gradation; the dismal lot was invariably the same. The commandant or superintendent had a hundred ways of indirect revenge which no law could retaliate against which nothing