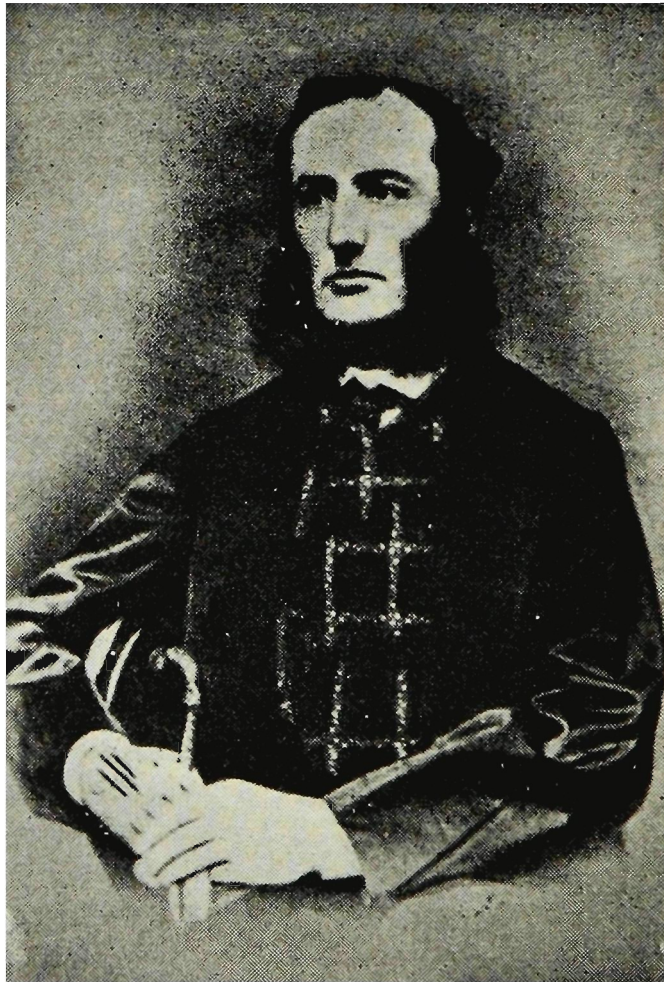


## ABRAM ORPEN MORIARTY — COLONIAL ADMINISTRATOR

[By J. T. MAHER]

(Read before a Meeting of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland on February 23, 1961.)

In May, 1918, when practically the whole of the civilised world was either directly or indirectly engaged in that catastrophe commonly referred to as the Great War, when Australians and, among them, Queenslanders were fighting on every battlefield, there died in Goulburn, New South Wales, a man aged 88 years.



Abram Orpen Moriarty

His death was the termination of a long and distinguished life, of which the major part had been honourably spent in the service of the Crown. His name was Abram Orpen Moriarty, former holder of many senior Crown offices in New South Wales, former Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, former

Quartermaster of the First Regiment of the Volunteer Corps, and sometime first Clerk of the Executive Council and first Under Colonial Secretary of the Colony of Queensland.

We may wonder whether, in the concluding four years of his life, when the daily topic of the press and of conversation was the War, and when occasionally in the news of the day appeared the name of a Queensland battalion or a Queensland soldier, his memories ever strayed to a far off period of 59 years before, when he was one of the gallant and gifted band of young administrators who had acted as constitutional midwives at the birth of that same lusty colonial infant of Queensland. We would like perhaps to think that he did, and that, in his memories of a long and distinguished career, Moriarty gave some thought to his associations with the birth pangs of the Queen of the North.

I made reference to the fact that he was one of a body of men who, although charged with the high responsibility of establishing a new Colony, were nevertheless of comparatively junior age at the time. This has always been, I think, one of the interesting sidelights of Separation. In December, 1859, Bowen was 38 years of age, Herbert was 28, and Moriarty, Bowen's right-hand man, 29. Of course this pattern had been started by some of the various Moreton Bay Penal Settlement Commandants (for example Logan was either 30 or 34 on his assumption of office in March, 1826) and continued with Wickham, who was 44 on his arrival in Brisbane in 1842.

It might be remarked here that Bowen, while a young man, was not the youngest Governor Queensland has had. At their respective dates of taking office, Lord Chelmsford was something like 37 years and four months of age and Lord Lamington 35 years and eight months.

### **The Moriarty Family**

Abram Orpen Moriarty was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1830. His father was Commander Merion Marshall, Royal Navy, who himself had an interesting life and career. He, Merion Marshall Moriarty, was born in Ireland in 1794 and entered the Royal Navy at the tender, though not unusual, age of 13 in 1807. He survived the perils of the times — the Napoleonic

Wars — and the rigours of the Navy till 1815, when he retired on half pay and studied medicine. He took his degree as a physician and then, because of ill-health, reverted to sea-life and the Navy. This must have had the desired therapeutic effect because he lived to complete man's allotted span of life. He had married a Miss Ann Orpen, hence the origin of our subject's second Christian name. Abram preferred to sign himself A. Orpen Moriarty and obviously had a high regard for his mother's family name. It is interesting to note that the name "Orpen" comes up again in that of Arthur Orpen Herbert, Under Secretary, Department of Lands and Works from 1862 to 1866 and Under Secretary, Department of Public Works, Mines, etc., from 1866 to 1876 and subsequently Under-Secretary for Railways.

In 1843, the Moriarty family arrived in New South Wales, Merion Marshall having been appointed Portmaster at Sydney. They came through Sydney Heads in the ship "**St. George**" from London on January 23, 1843. The family party comprised Lieutenant — as he then was — M. M. Moriarty, his lady, five children and five servants. It is not on record whether the number of domestics was subsequently equated to that of children should there have been any further additions to the family! However, apparently one of the elder children, Cherie, either did not migrate to New South Wales or if she did, returned to Ireland within the next ten years. In 1853 she was killed in a railway collision near Dublin, being the wife of a gentleman named Knapp. In the "**Annual Register**" of 1853 there is a report of this particular accident under the heading "Dreadful Railway Catastrophe in Ireland." Some 16 people were killed, and in fact Mr. Knapp is mentioned by name in the report — he survived the accident. Railway casualties were numerous in those days, even though England had only one railway in 1825 and two in 1830. In the one year of 1853 there were some 305 people killed in some 103 accidents.

But to return to the Moriarty family —

Moriarty senior was Portmaster, Sydney, from 1843 to 1857, and this was a most interesting period in the history of the Harbour. As a young man, Abram Moriarty would have seen arrive in Sydney the first of the clipper ships to come to Australia — the barque "**Phoenician**" on July 21, 1849. In his father's time as

Portmaster, the first steamship to travel from England to Sydney, the P. & O. mail steamer "Chusan" arrived on August 3, 1852, and of course, on August 20, 1857, occurred the wreck of the "Dunbar." To complete Moriarty senior's story, it is worthy of mention that in 1860 he entered the New South Wales Legislative Assembly as Member for Braidwood and died in Sydney in January, 1864.

### The Early Years

Abram Moriarty was aged 13 on his arrival in Australia and apparently continued his schooling in the next three years till 1846, when, possibly through his father's connections, possibly by examination, he entered the New South Wales Civil Service and commenced duty as a Temporary Clerk in the Office of the Colonial Secretary on January 10, 1846. His salary was the remarkably good one of £91/5/- per annum. Without going into the economics of the relative times, it may be remarked that about 20 years ago in Queensland the commencing salary for junior clerk in the State Public Service was a pound or two per annum less than that.

Moriarty's administrative ability must have shown out early, as his promotion was extremely rapid. We may wonder whether, in his early Civil Service years, he assiduously pursued his studies further, since it hardly seems likely that Bowen, in later years, would have had as his private secretary a hack public servant with little schooling. Bowen's pedantry was notorious and, as Bernays reminds us, he was wont to use more than a modicum of classical references and allusions in his writings and every-day correspondence.

From his temporary position in 1846, Moriarty progressed rapidly through the positions of Clerk of the Third Class and Clerk of the Second Class to the comparatively senior position of Chief Clerk in the Office of the Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands, which office had been set up on January 1, 1849. In 1856, at the comparatively junior Public Service age of 26, he was in receipt of a salary of £515 per annum. If we reflect a little on this figure, we will readily recall when such a salary was well above average in Queensland prior to 1939. Either Civil Servants were splendidly remunerated in those days — possibly as a result of the rush of manpower to the Victorian gold-

fields which commenced in 1851 — or else Moriarty was showing the necessary qualifications for an able colonial administrator.

A further promotion followed, at the age of 27, to the position of Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Districts of New England and McLeay. He was also Police Magistrate, Armidale.

However, in 1856, at the age of 26, Abram Orpen Moriarty took unto himself a wife. On April 24 of that year he married Harriet Christina Powell, daughter of Nathaniel Stephen Powell, Gentleman, of Bungendore, New South Wales. Miss Powell had been born in the Colony and was aged 18 at the time of her marriage, which took place at St. Phillip's Church of England, Bungendore. This little town, by the way, is situated not far from the present-day site of Canberra. Now, as you know, Canberra has, if not the highest, then one of the highest birth-rates of any locality in Australia. This combination of the Civil Service and the Molonglo air was evidently just as effective in those days, for the Moriartys eventually had no fewer than 13 children, of whom eight were surviving at the time of Moriarty's death 62 years later. Abram and his wife celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary in 1916 and she lived on to the good age of 85, dying on December 29, 1923.

When one realises that both Moriarty and his wife were alive well within the lifetime of many people in this audience, it forcibly brings home the fact that this State of ours is still a very young place historically, and also makes one appreciate that the vast expansion and development which has taken place in such a short period of time is very largely the result of the basic work performed by these early Colonists of the calibre of Moriarty and his contemporaries.

Then, in 1858, this remarkable young man preceded his father into the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, becoming Member for New England and Macleay. Presumably he resigned his Government posts. He was in Parliament during the second Premiership of Sir Charles Cowper, who rejoiced in the popular nickname of "Slippery Charlie." However, his Parliamentary life was short-lived for on November 8, 1858, he became Clerk of the New South Wales Executive Council, and it was probably whilst occupying this position that he came under the notice of the Governor, Sir William Denison, who subsequently

recommended him to Sir George Bowen. As Clerk of the New South Wales Executive Council, Moriarty gained experience which was to stand him in good stead the following year in Queensland, for it was on November 30, 1859, that he resigned as Clerk of the New South Wales Executive Council and 12 days later that he was appointed first Clerk of the Executive Council of Queensland.

### Arrival in Queensland

We do not know when his first meeting with Bowen took place, but nevertheless Moriarty took his place with the Vice-Regal party when it sailed from Sydney on H.M.S. "Cordelia" and duly transferred to the "Breadalbane" for the passage to the landing place in the Botanic Gardens on that hot, dusty day of December 10, 1859.

It was he, of course, who read Bowen's Proclamation from the balcony of that first Government House.

In this regard, a close comparison of such examples of his handwriting as are extant and the calligraphy of the original Proclamation (which is the property of the Premier and Chief Secretary's Department) reveals that it was Moriarty himself who penned that vital document. In effect, he literally wrote out the birth certificate of Queensland.

We may wonder where he resided during his tenure of office in Brisbane. It does not appear that Mrs. Moriarty ever joined her husband in Queensland, and, indeed, this separation may have been the main reason for his short stay in the Colony. So it is probable that, assuming he did not have quarters at or near Government House, he lodged at one of the 13 hotels then gracing Brisbane.

At any rate, he was soon to business. If for nothing else, Moriarty's name would always have a foremost place in Queensland history, for in the Government Gazette, No. 1 of Vol. 1, of December 10, 1859, his is the first appointment listed after those of Herbert as Colonial Secretary and Ratcliffe Pring as Attorney-General. This was as Acting Private Secretary to Governor Bowen.

On December 12, he was appointed Clerk of the Executive Council. His appointment was the first Act of the Executive Council of Queensland—the first piece of business transacted or performed by Bowen,

Her Majesty's representative, as President of the Council. By permission, I quote Minute No. 1 for the year 1859 from the records of the Executive Council:

“Minute No. 59/1. Minutes of the Executive Council of Queensland.

At Government House, Brisbane, Monday 12th December, 1859. His Excellency the Governor being present, the Honourable Robert George Wyndham Herbert Esq. and the Honourable Ratcliffe Pring Esq., who have respectively been appointed Members of the Executive Council by Instruments bearing even date herewith are introduced and take the usual oaths and their seats accordingly.

The Council upon the invitation of His Excellency the Governor advise that Abram Orpen Moriarty Esq., be appointed Clerk of the Executive Council with salary at the rate of £300 per annum, to take effect from 1st December, 1859.

The usual oaths, as Clerk of the Executive Council are then administered to Mr. Moriarty by His Excellency and the Council adjourns till Wednesday next, the 14th instant.

(Signed) A. Orpen Moriarty  
Clerk of the Council.”

It is probably a little late now to question the legality of paying the salary of the Clerk of the Executive Council of Queensland from December 1, 1859 when that office did not, and could not, exist till at least Queensland came into existence on December 10, but perhaps stranger things than that have happened in the past in public administration. On December 15 Abram was appointed Under Colonial Secretary. Both of these appointments were gazetted in Gazette No. 2 of December 17, 1859. Why these three appointments were spread over five days is uncertain — perhaps Bowen was finding there was a dearth of administrative talent in the Colony and that Moriarty was readily at hand. Nine days later, the Gazette recorded the formation of “a Board for the purpose of opening Tenders for Runs of Crown Lands beyond the settled districts,” such Board to consist of the Colonial Treasurer, the Surveyor-General and the Clerk of the Executive Council. So Moriarty received yet another position, his fourth in 13 days. However, his recompense was soon officially and publicly at hand, when,

on the very appropriate date of Christmas Eve, the Government Gazette set out the Colony's first Civil List as follows:—

Governor	£2,500
Private Secretary	£300
Colonial Secretary	£700
Treasurer	£700
Judge	£1,200
Public Worship	£1,000
	<hr/>
	£6,400
	<hr/>

His list of positions was not yet complete, for the Gazette of January 21, 1860, records his appointment to the Board of Examiners for the Civil Service, to which he was to act also as Secretary. Nevertheless, it must not be imagined that it was all work and no play for such a senior Government official. On December 17, 1859, it had been approved that the hours of business for the Civil Service would be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Definitely those were the "good old days."

### Clerk of the Executive Council

It might not be inappropriate if I devote a few words to a description of the Executive Council — that constitutional administrative body to which Moriarty was appointed Clerk. The Letters Patent constituting the office of Governor prescribe that "there shall be an Executive Council for the State" and lay down who shall be the members thereof.

Members of the Council need not necessarily be members of Cabinet but invariably, in practice, are. They are required of course to take, amongst other oaths, an oath of secrecy regarding Council proceedings and a similar Oath is taken by the Clerk.

The Governor's Royal Instructions prescribe that "the Executive Council shall not proceed to the despatch of business unless duly summoned by authority of the Governor." At least two other members, excluding the Governor or other presiding officer, must "be present and assisting throughout the whole of the meetings."

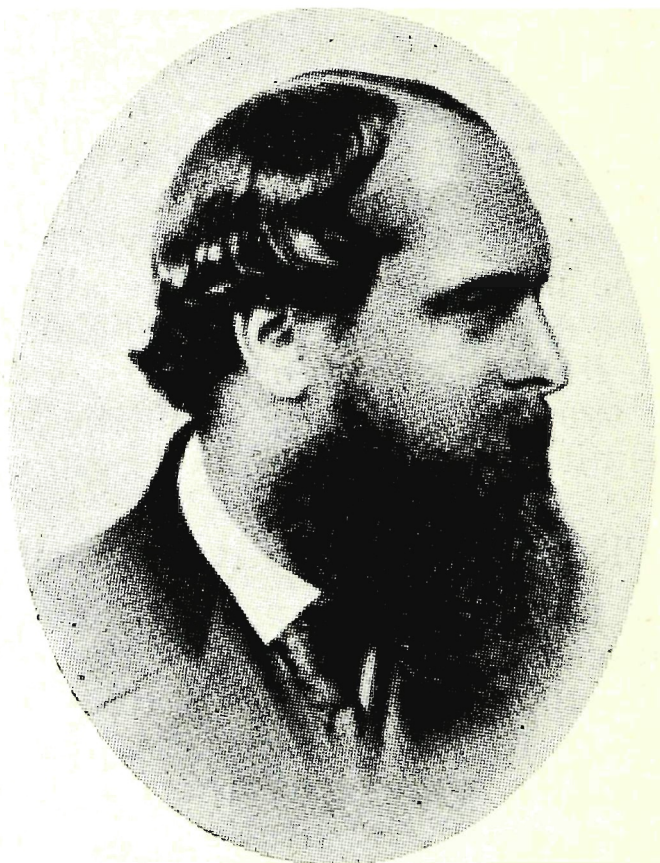
Proceedings of the Council are confined to formal approval and signature by the Governor of such instrument as are required by the Royal prerogative or by



legislation to be issued by the Governor in Council. These include Orders in Council, proclamations, regulations, commissions, pardons, notices, and similar instruments of an official nature.

Insofar as Moriarty's position of Under Colonial Secretary was concerned, this office was the forerunner of the position of Under Secretary, Premier and Chief Secretary's Department of to-day.

Apparently Abram soon settled down to the business of administration, for, in his by now well known despatch of February 2, 1860, to the Duke of New-



R. G. W. Herbert

castle, Secretary of State for the Colonies, Bowen commented in paragraph 14 —

“In accordance with the aforesaid principles, I have promoted to the office of Clerk of the Executive Council and Under Colonial Secretary, Mr. Abram Orpen Moriarty, a gentleman who has filled with distinction several important posts in the undivided colony, and who was strongly recommended to me by Sir William Denison and other competent authorities. It is convenient for the despatch of public business that the permanent offices of Clerk of the Executive Council and Under Colonial Secretary should be held by the same individual; and it is essential that the individual selected should be a

man of Mr. Moriarty's ability and experience seeing that Executive Councils may be expected to succeed each other in Australia at least as rapidly as Ministries have succeeded each other of late years in the Mother Country."

This last remark was based on the fact that, between February, 1852 and June, 1858, there had been no fewer than five Prime Ministers of England — The Earl of Derby, the Earl of Aberdeen, Viscount Palmerston, again the Earl of Derby and again Viscount Palmerston.

Bowen's fears in this respect were not borne out immediately, as Herbert's first Ministry lasted from 1860 to 1866. But they were confirmed in that year, which contained the first Herbert Ministry, the first Macalister Ministry, the second Herbert Ministry and the second Macalister Ministry.

On the subject of the Executive Council of Queensland, it is interesting to note that Queensland has had only nine Clerks of that body in its century of existence. Of those nine some four are still alive. There have been Acting Clerks from time to time, of course, but the permanent holders of that office, with their respective dates of swearing in, have been —

Abram Orpen Moriarty	— 12/12/1859
John Bramston	— 10/12/1860
Arthur Wilcox Manning	— 30/4/1861
Albert Victor Drury, I.S.O.	— 4/1/1867
Edward Henry Abell	— 2/7/1904
George William Watson	— 17/12/1917
Reginald Basil McAllister	— 23/12/1941
Thomas Gilbert Hope	— 19/8/1943
David John Muir, C.M.G.	— 24/6/1948
Reginald Basil McAllister	— 10/1/1952

Some well-known names appear in that list. Of these, some I have already mentioned. Of the others, it will be observed that the Clerk with the longest period of service was A. V. Drury, some 37 years from 1867 to 1904. Mr. G. W. Watson, who was Clerk for 24 years, subsequently became Deputy Co-ordinator General of Public Works and retired from the Public Service some years ago. Mr. T. G. Hope is now Chairman of the Queensland Meat Industry Board, Mr. D. J. Muir,<sup>(1)</sup> has been Agent-General for Queensland in London for some 10 years and Mr. R. B. McAllister,

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(1) Now Sir David Muir, C.M.G.

the present Clerk of the Executive Council, is also Assistant Under Secretary, Premier and Chief Secretary's Department.

Another interesting sidelight gleaned from early Executive Council records is that while we know the first Government House was Dr. Hobbs' residence, it may not be generally realised that the good doctor's charge to the Crown for its lease of the dwelling was not a moderate one. £350 per annum was a fairly substantial rental in those days and moreover it was required to be paid in advance.

In any case, Government House was lacking in one respect, for another of the Executive Council's early approvals was for the construction thereof of that very necessary adjunct, a fowl-run.

### Bowen's Pedantry

I made earlier reference to Bowen's pedantry and Moriarty would quickly have become accustomed to it. Perhaps an appropriate example of this was in Bowen's dealings with the Executive Council. As most of you know, it is customary for that august body to meet one set day each week to transact its business. However, occasion frequently demands that Executive Council approval be obtained on or by a particular time or day and the business is duly completed there and then. Such meetings or sittings of the Council are referred to as "Flying Sittings." Bowen decreed that such a meeting should be designated as a "Seduta Volante," an Italian expression. As such, abbreviated over the years to "S.V's." were these Sittings referred to.

As often is the case, time obscured the origin of the practice, and in 1883 someone apparently wondered what "S.V." or "Seduta Volante" was all about. Enquiry elicited the following information from London:—

Colonial Office.  
28th June, 1883.

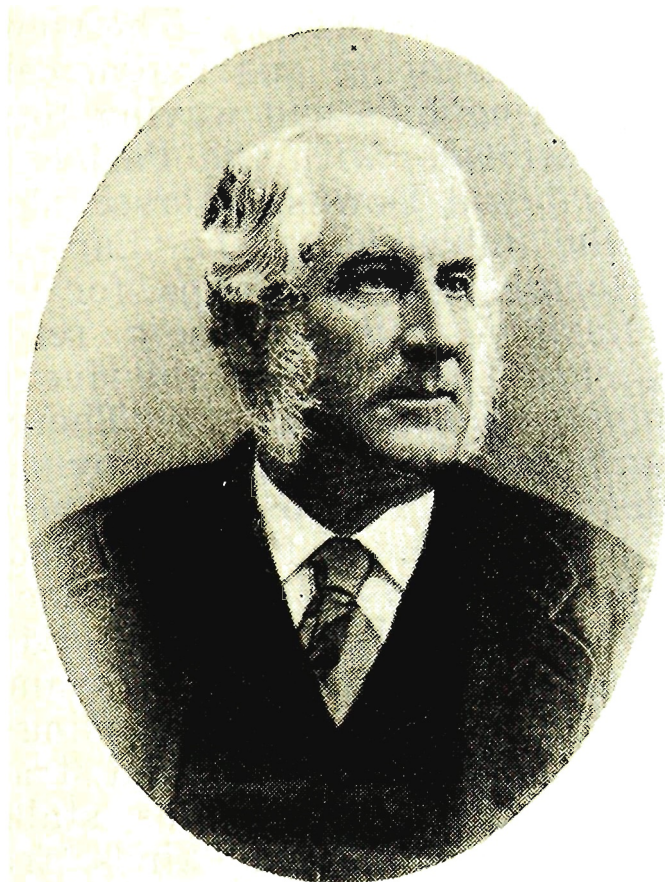
As to your query about "Seduta Volante" or "Sedula Volante," I suppose your doubt is whether the reference is to a flying sheet or schedule or to the **record** of the flying sitting.

There is no doubt that the latter is the more correct, notwithstanding the contradiction in terms contained in the words "flying sitting." Seduta is the proper Italian word for a sitting of a Council,

Assembly, etc. There is no such word as Sedula. A Schedule may be translated as Schedula or Cedola, but neither will help you.

I have little doubt that Sir George Bowen invented the phrase *Seduta Volante*, or reproduced it from the Corfu practice; at any rate it is correct Italian, which *Sedula Volante* would not be."

Apparently the Italian appellation continued in use for some time afterwards, but for many years now the basic English term of "Flying Sitting" has been used.



Sir George Ferguson Bowen

Another example of Bowen's fondness for long descriptive passages is quoted by Bernays in the following extract from a letter to the Under Secretary for the Colonies on April 10, 1860, in which he describes a visit of some 10 days to the Darling Downs:—

"I ascended from the *tierra caliente* of the coast to the tableland of the Darling Downs, through Cunningham's Gap, a cleft between mountains of porphyry and basalt; which, though not equal, as some enthusiastic Queenslanders imagine, to 'anything in the Alps,' is certainly finer than anything that I ever saw in the British Isles. There is, however, a cascade falling 300 feet into a chasm resembling the crater of a volcano, which would make the

fortune of any valley in Switzerland. Some of the squires, or 'squatters,' of Merivale had descended into the lowlands to meet and escort me to their houses; so we formed a very picturesque cavalcade as we wound up through luxuriant forests of the Gap. On the summit I was greeted with loud cheers, which made the rocks re-echo as they probably had never sounded since the dawn of creation; and there I found another batch of hospitable squatters, with a cold collation and plenty of champagne and hock, spread on the grass at the top of the pass, nearly 3,000 feet above the sea. The view from this point is most interesting and magnificent; on one side the undulating hills and waving forests of the semi-tropical littorale, with the Pacific beyond; on the other the broad Downs, intersected by wooded ridges, of the tableland. The Larissae campus opimae of Horace rose to my lips, for I assure you that the Darling Downs closely resembles the general aspect of Thessaly; and the river Condamine is a good substitute for the Peneus. There are indeed no Pelion and Ossa 'flourishing side by side,' but the hills which encircle the basin-like plains vividly recall the lower ranges of Pindus and Olympus. Show what I say to Fortescue, who has seen Thessaly; he will recollect the splendid variety of birds and butterflies there. This is another point of similarity. The woods on the Darling Downs are full of birds of brilliant plumage and strange voices; while stately bustards and emus stalk over the plains, and wild-fowl of all kinds frequent the streams. The residences of the squatters, however, afford a striking contrast to the lodgings to be procured in Greece. I found carpets and curtains, plate and pianos, champagne and crinoline, in places where fifteen years before the face of a white man had never been seen. If their country is like Thessaly, the squatters of Merivale are complete Centaurs. The cavalcade of well-mounted horsemen that everywhere came out to meet the first Representative of their Queen, eclipsed anything of the kind that could be exhibited in ancient Greece, or indeed, in any part of the world, except in England or Australia. I was escorted into the country town of Warwick by 400 horsemen. I rode one day, to the delight of the Centaurs — I mean the squatters — and without the slightest fatigue, seventy miles in

eight hours — of course, with a change of horses. You should never send a Governor here who cannot ride and shoot.”

By the bye, it would appear this last statement was taken very much to heart by the London authorities and has never been forgotten.

Moriarty continued to serve through the troublous early months of the Colony's life and we may feel certain, in view of his previous and subsequent records, that his ability and efficiency would have greatly contributed to the laying of those firm foundations on which the administration of Queensland is based.

I have recently had the opportunity of viewing some of the drafts of letters which he prepared for the signatures of his two masters — Bowen and Herbert. It is, I think, significant that these drafts have had very little alteration made to them by their signatories and almost invariably Bowen has endorsed his “Approved” or “All right” or “I agree with Mr. Moriarty.”

Moriarty's other administrative decisions were clear and firm and he displayed a great degree of ability and efficiency in his Queensland post. His services were greatly valued by Bowen and we can be sure that it was with a great deal of regret his resignation was accepted in September, 1860.

The Government Gazette notification of September 13 that year appoints “Arthur Wilcox Manning to be the Principal Under-Secretary, in the room of Abram Orpen Moriarty, Esquire, resigned.” It also appointed “John Bramston, Barrister-at-Law, to be Clerk of the Executive Council in place of Abram Orpen Moriarty, resigned, also to act temporarily in the capacity of Parliamentary Draughtsman.”

Bramston, who had also come out with Bowen, was to succeed Ratcliffe Pring as Attorney-General — in Palmer's Ministry between May 1870 and January 1874. It is not often that a legal officer of the Crown, framing legislation, later reaches a Ministerial office where he would administer that same legislation. At least he would not be able, as has happened on occasions since then, to place the blame for faulty or loose legislation on the poor Parliamentary Draftsmen. As a matter of fact Bramston's resignation in 1874 was to take up an imperial appointment as Attorney-General at Hongkong, and he subsequently became Sir John Bramston, G.C.M.G., C.B., Assistant Under Secretary

of State for the Colonies 1876-97. I venture to say that Bramston, who was Clerk of the Executive Council for the shortest term on record (under five months) was subsequently the most distinguished in his post-Council career.

Of Manning, the new Principal Under Secretary, Bernays makes a passing reference thus: "It was in 1869 that Manning, Under Colonial Secretary, was furiously assaulted in his office, and Parliament in a panic handsomely pensioned him and his wife." I am unaware of the details of this interesting incident, but I doubt if our masters would be quite as generous to any Public Service officers placed in a similar position to-day. Manning was still alive in 1887 and in receipt of a pension of £600 p.a. — which was, as Bernays says, a handsome one in view of the fact that the then incumbent of the position of Under Colonial Secretary received £800 p.a. in salary.

### Return to New South Wales

However, Moriarty left Queensland in September, 1860 and severed his official connection with the Colony. Perhaps he visited it in later years — if so, what remarkable transformations he must have noted since 1859/60! On his return to New South Wales, he devoted himself to further service to the Crown. He was appointed Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands in New South Wales in September, 1860 and assisted Sir John Robertson to frame his famous Land Bill.

Shortly after, he became interested in military matters and was a member of the Sydney Battalion of the Volunteer Corps. In January, 1865, he was appointed Ensign to Number 5 Company. In October, 1868, he was a Lieutenant, in May, 1870 a Captain, and in January, 1875 he attained the pinnacle of his military career as Quartermaster of the First Regiment of the Volunteer Corps.

His Civil Service career prospered. From December, 1869 to October, 1870, he was Under Secretary of Lands, which must have been a most responsible position in New South Wales at that time. Mark you, he was still only 40 years of age.

In 1872, he was Aide-de-Camp to the Governor in Chief — the Earl of Belmore — and, on that gentleman's departure, Private Secretary to the Administrator, Sir Alfred Stephens. Sir Alfred was then Chief

Justice of New South Wales and in 1875 became Lieutenant-Governor. He was a remarkable character. He lived to the age of 92 years and retained his great mental capacities and the good health for which he was noted to the very end of his days. In fact, his last words, addressed to a very good friend as he lay waiting for a death that seemed slow to come, were: "This is getting beyond a joke, dear boy."

Sir Alfred (if I might wander from my main subject for a moment) was twice married. He had 18 children, nine by each wife and nine of whom were born in Tasmania and nine in New South Wales. The following lines, written by him in 1859 incidentally, were his description of his family:

*"Of children this Knight had no less than eighteen —  
Twice nine little heads, with a marriage between.  
He had nine when a barrister, nine when a judge,  
And of sex — thus to Nature he owed not a grudge —  
Nine precisely were girls, the other half boys,  
An equal division twixt quiet and noise;  
While, if by marriage the number he reckoned,  
There were nine of the first and nine of the second.  
Nine in Tasmania, Nine New South Wales,  
Then, to show with what justice he still held the scales,  
Since nine it was clear he could not divide  
(A third sex as yet having never been tried),  
Five sons and four daughters in Hobart were born  
And four sons, five daughters might Sydney adorn.  
Twin daughters, twin sons, complete the strange story  
of this patron of 'Wigs,' though constant old Tory."*

Moriarty continued his Lands Department work — by now he must have been quite an authority on the subject of land law — and, after the passing of the 1884 Land Acts, he was appointed in 1885 Chairman of the Local Land Board at Goulburn, a position he held till his retirement in 1896.

It might here be remarked that at least two of his brothers also became distinguished public servants — in 1877 Edward Orpen Moriarty was Engineer-in-Chief and Merion H. Moriarty, Assistant Engineer of the New South Wales Harbour and Rivers Department.

### The Last Years

He lived at Goulburn in peaceful retirement — surely a well-earned one — till his death on May 22, 1918, in his 89th year. He, his wife and one of his sons,



Nathaniel Stephen Powell Moriarty (it will be remembered that these names were those of his wife's father) are buried at the Anglican Cemetery at Tirranna, West Goulburn.

Incidentally, he had named his home there "Brisbane Grove" and so had some constant reminder of his Queensland sojourn.

Few Australian Public Servants of his era had the same opportunities to participate in such a wide variety of matters of State as did Moriarty, and it would be hard indeed to select one who did as much as did this man in his time for his Queen and his adopted country in his capacity of Colonial Administrator.