THE OLD ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY, WOLLONGONG:

The Rev. Dean Rigney, of Parramatta, many years ago the Roman Catholic clergyman of this district, wrote as follows, on the 21st ultimo, to Mr. A. Lysaght, of this town, regarding the old burial-ground on the beach, and the state of the sea shore there about forty years ago. Doubtless the twenty-five acres reserve alluded to consisted of what is now the sand-bank between the burial-ground and Flagstaff Point: "The Catholic Cemetery at Wollongong was granted by Sir Richard Bourke before my residence in Illawarra.

Captain Allman, the then Police Magistrate of Campbelltown, including Illawarra, was instructed to deliver the land over to Father Therry, which he formally did. I know nothing of Trustees; neither can I tell you who was first interred in the cemetery. Many graves were there in 1838, when I took charge. The place was well-selected by Father Therry and the good Catholics of Wollongong. A dense myrtle scrub then sheltered the cemetery from the sea sand as effectually as would a stone wall.

Governor Gipps granted 25 acres of recreation ground, extending from the cemetery gate to the breakwater point, between rows of native honeysuckle trees protecting the promenade from the sea, and he had several seats fixed amongst these trees for the convenience of invalids and others who went from various parts to recreats at Wollongong. I am grieved and ashamed to learn that the people of Wollongong actually cut down and used for firewood the belt of myrtle that so well protected the cemetery from the sea, and the double rows of honeysuckle that shaded the grand promenade. It need not be wondered at that in just retribution they should now be without a cemetery and without a promenade for recreation."

— Illawarra Mercury, 6th March, 1883.