

# NELSON



*Barque, 603 tons Old Measure, 128'4" x 26'5"*

*Built 1844 on the Clyde at Dumbarton by Denny & Rankin*

*Owner Potter and Co, Glasgow*

*Master: Captain W H Lamond; Surgeon Superintendent: John Dennison MD*

*Plymouth July 10, 1848 to Port Henry Geelong November 11, 1848. 95 days at sea*

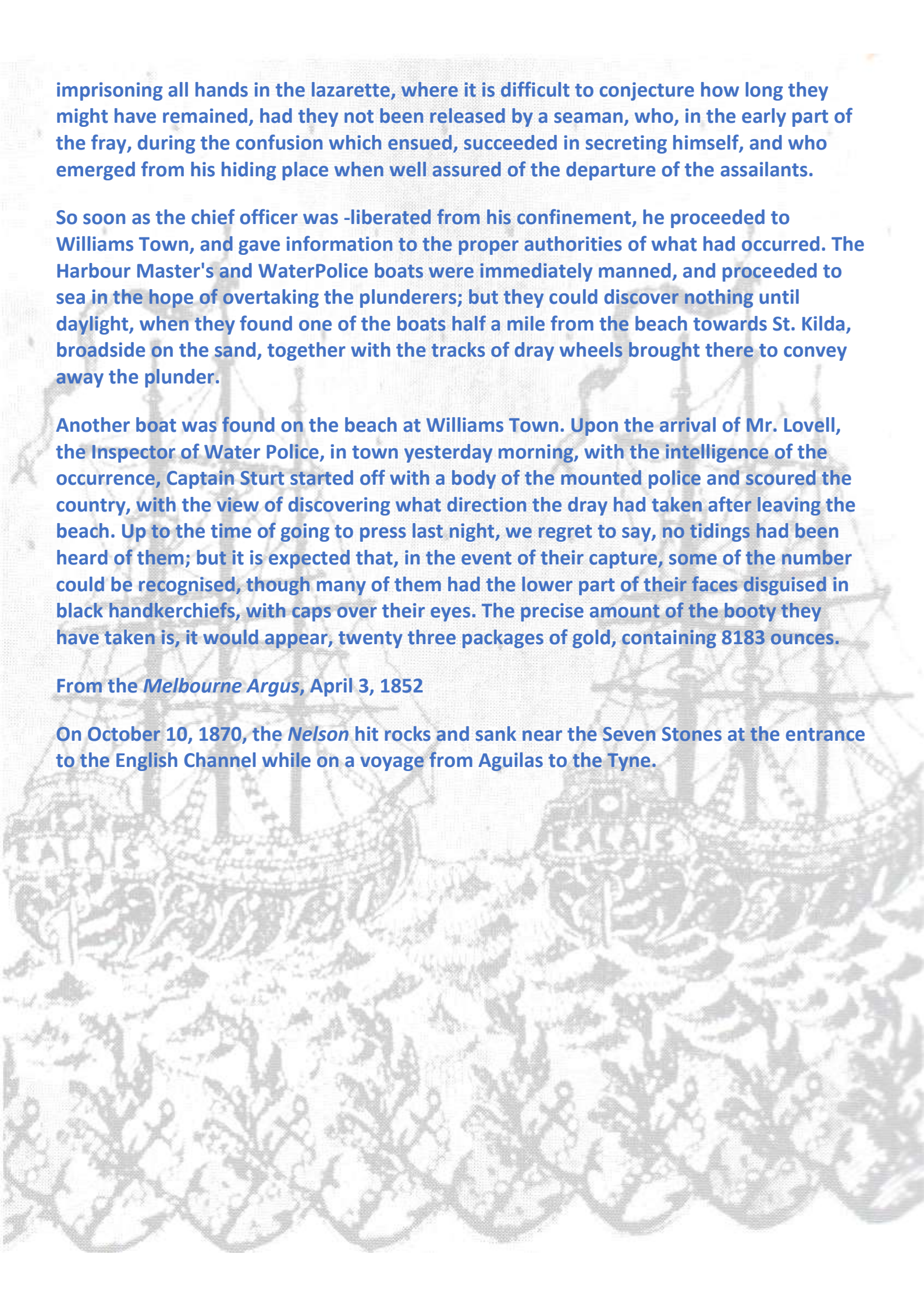
## DESPERATE ATTACK ON THE BARQUE *NELSON*, IN HOBSON'S BAY, PORT PHILLIP, BY PIRATES.

YESTERDAY morning at an early hour, two boats, with muffled oars, containing twenty-two men, armed to the teeth, proceeded from the beach at Sandridge, to the barque Nelson, lying off the lighthouse at Williams Town.

This vessel, which has recently arrived from Geelong, en route to London, had on board 8183 ounces of gold. Notwithstanding so large an amount of treasure was deposited in her, no watch was kept, and the pirates succeeded in boarding her, and securing two men and a boy, who were in the forecabin, before they could raise any alarm. Having dispersed themselves over the vessel, some went aft and seized the chief officer and a friend, together with the carpenter, who were asleep in the cabin, whilst others employed themselves in throwing overboard all the small arms within their reach, as well as the swivel-guns mounted on the poop deck.

Mr Draper, the chief officer, received a slight wound in the thigh, from a shot fired by one of the robbers, before they succeeded in overpowering him and his companions, which they soon did, and having lashed their hands together, they commenced plundering the lazarette, the position of which they appeared to be well acquainted.

Captain Wright, the commander of the vessel, was ashore, and seven only of the crew remained on board. Having secured the treasure of which they were in search, and deposited it in the boats, they took the precaution before quitting the vessel, of



imprisoning all hands in the lazarette, where it is difficult to conjecture how long they might have remained, had they not been released by a seaman, who, in the early part of the fray, during the confusion which ensued, succeeded in secreting himself, and who emerged from his hiding place when well assured of the departure of the assailants.

So soon as the chief officer was -liberated from his confinement, he proceeded to Williams Town, and gave information to the proper authorities of what had occurred. The Harbour Master's and WaterPolice boats were immediately manned, and proceeded to sea in the hope of overtaking the plunderers; but they could discover nothing until daylight, when they found one of the boats half a mile from the beach towards St. Kilda, broadside on the sand, together with the tracks of dray wheels brought there to convey away the plunder.

Another boat was found on the beach at Williams Town. Upon the arrival of Mr. Lovell, the Inspector of Water Police, in town yesterday morning, with the intelligence of the occurrence, Captain Sturt started off with a body of the mounted police and scoured the country, with the view of discovering what direction the dray had taken after leaving the beach. Up to the time of going to press last night, we regret to say, no tidings had been heard of them; but it is expected that, in the event of their capture, some of the number could be recognised, though many of them had the lower part of their faces disguised in black handkerchiefs, with caps over their eyes. The precise amount of the booty they have taken is, it would appear, twenty three packages of gold, containing 8183 ounces.

From the *Melbourne Argus*, April 3, 1852

On October 10, 1870, the *Nelson* hit rocks and sank near the Seven Stones at the entrance to the English Channel while on a voyage from Aguilas to the Tyne.