**The passenger who became ill at the Cape, died at this time (whilst**

**laying over near Maatsuykar Islands) after expressing a desire to be on**

**land. His name was Roadknight and had two sons on board. He was buried**

**two days later in the Hobart Town churchyard.**

**The Skelton anchored at 11 o'clock at night on Sunday 26th of November in**

**d'Entrecasteaux Channel. At 3 o'clock the next afternoon, Hobart Town was**

**sighted and the Pilot came on board. A number of vessels were seen at**

**anchor, two convict ships, a brig from India and two colonial vessels. A**

**naval officer came on board about a mile from Hobart Town and inspected**

**the ships manifest and passenger list. In spite of the corpse on board,**

**they were allowed to land immediately.**

**The arrival of a vessel with so many settlers was an object of some**

**importance in the colony. Some of the passengers went ashore that evening**

**to get lodgings. They found the terms exceedingly high - one to one and a**

**half Guineas per week for small, unfurnished houses. These were not**

**plentiful. Lieutenant Governor Sorrel sent intimation that he wished the**

**settlers to call at Government House.**

**The land grants made to the settlers were in proportion to the capital**

**assets of each. They were required, under oath, to prepare a schedule of**

**their property for this purpose.**

**Captain Dixon noted:**

**'The settler, at such an immense distance from home, begins now to feel**

**the difficulties of his situation, especially when every kind of useful**

**thing is enhanced three times its real value by the avarice of the**

**merchants.'**

**About the Captain:**

**James Dixon was a Yorkshireman who came from the village of Skelton near**

**Whitby and owned the ship he named after his village. Very little is known**

**about his early life, but he eventually gave up the sea and became a farmer**

**in Van Dieman's Land. He built his home 'Skelton Castle' on the Isis river**

**near the Macquarie, 32 miles from Launceston. Though the house no longer**

**exists, Dixon Galleries in Sydney have a watercolour of 'Skelton Castle'.**

**James Dixon died at 'Wilmot Terrace' in Harrington St., Hobart 21/11/1865**

**aged 79. He is buried in "The Friends Burial Ground'.**

**(Death Record – Reg. No.5969, Aged 79, Hobart)**

**About the Ship:**

**The ship Skelton was built at Whitby, Yorkshire in 1818. It weighed 260**

**tons, had a draught of 15ft. and had a single deck and iron standards. It**

**was owned by Dixon & Co. London. It made 3 voyages to Australia, in 1820,**

**1822 and 1823. The cost of the voyage to Van Diemen's Land was 70 Guineas**

**for cabin passage and 40 Guineas steerage.**