Hobart Town V. D. Land
20th October 1843

My dear Booth,

I find that I must deprive myself of the pleasure of visiting you at Port Arthur – and considering all the circumstances, which I need not detail, I think it most advisable to abstain from going there ~~now~~ even had I the means of doing so at my disposal. I shall however very much regret leaving the Island without being able to take my farewell of you. The time of our departure is not exactly fixed – though I have this day decided on not going to Port Phillip in the Eliza. I have not yet settled whether I shall proceed across the Island on foot with my family for Launceston or engage a vessel to take us from hence. These points must be determined on in a day or two and as soon as they are I will immediately inform you, and also as to the day we propose to start. and I am sure if you can without inconvenience to the public service you will not let us go without ~~[illegible]~~ giving us a personal Good bye. I can truly say that there is no officer on

Capt Booth
Commandant Port Arthur

from

or friend in the Colony of whose services I have a higher opinion - and for whose honorable character I have a higher regard than yours. I am fully aware of the vast importance and great responsibility of the trust reposed in you and that you fulfill its duties with a judgment energy discretion & zeal which few could exercise in the manner and to the same extent. It will ever be most gratifying to me to bear testimony to your merits to the authorities at home whenever the opportunity ~~to~~ is afforded me - in the Colony they speak for themselves.

I shall be obliged by your sending me the documents which you have had the kindness to prepare for me as soon as you can - and you will add to my obligation by letting me have the numbers of Prisoners at last station in the Peninsula from the latest returns. They will be interesting to me and may be very useful.

I hope I shall not leave the Colony without seeing my excellent friend Mr Spencer and I should be glad if he could obtain permission to come up to see me with you - say this to him with my kindest regards - and may I ask you also to inform him that I have heard of his friends Mr & Mrs Richardson who never fail in their anxious enquiries after him -

at John Griffin Esq.

My address in London will be No 21 Bedford Place Russell Square - and I shall hope to have the pleasure of hearing from you - I say you to be assured that if you think I can be of any service to you in England - you have only to write to me and I shall have great pleasure in using my best efforts in your behalf -

Pray say every thing very kind on my part and that of Lady Franklin and all the members of my family - to Mrs Booth - Whom we hope is better - kiss also by our love to little Mary -

Ever my dear Booth
Yours most faithfully & sincerely
John Franklin

Private & confidential

Govt House. 29 Feb.
1843

My dear Sir, In looking over the enclosures, Papers &c, here rel. to Hobart, there was some negotiation with you, previous to your present appointment, of your accepting the office of Port Master General. It seems, this cast off, & you received your present appointment

So very soon, new arrangements are to be made respecting the Orphan School here, by which the Orphan School & the educational department, held by Mr Ewing, will be separated, & the Orphan School put under the

Classical Department, and a Master for French, if that School appointed, it has struck me, that before any thing is said or done, about it, I should ask you, (having here much your health has suffered from arduous duties & by your resident in the Bush), whether you form views of an easier life, with a view to your entering, & if it would be a step fitting in with your wishes, to have such an appointment, as I have above mentioned. The Salary is altogether I believe £400.

We should lose much by such a change; but I am not so selfish, as to consult the public benefit, or my own personal satisfaction, at the expence of the health & ease of mind of a friend. Take me, what you think of what I have written, as perfectly & confidently

as I have written it.

Send me the beautiful white Hawk, whenever you can with safety & present the enclosed to Mr Cart.

Yours faithfully

W W Edwards

Capt. Birth