

R 516/6/1

1839.ExtractsLady Franklin to Sir John Franklin

N S Wales

(?) Sydney on the Hawkesbury
20th June 1839

My Dearest Love.

If I had foreseen the delay to which we have been subjected, I should probably have left by the "Eudora," but in so doing, we must ~~either~~ have given up seeing a great deal of Sydney, as well as Paramatta, and ~~we must~~ ~~have given up the~~ ~~theatre~~ ^{and} ^{Hunter,} and our excursion with the Bishop, as well as the meeting of the Legislative Council. We did what we could to induce the "Eudora" to stay till the day after that ^(of the Council) meeting, but did not succeed. When we returned

from the Hunter, and I found by your letter that you wished us to go there, I was glad at the decision.

The "Eudora" was then on the eve of starting. I did not much fancy going down with such desperate ruffians as I concluded the captured Port Arthur runaways must be, but this alone would not have prevented me. + +

~~When~~ ^{Then} the "Medway" again presented herself and was in every respect so desirable that we could not hesitate to wait for her.

We are now moving about with the Bishop, expecting by express notice of her movements which we trust will enable us to sail before the time mentioned in my last letter. + +

~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ I should have been very glad to be at home on the 28th, and made calculations accordingly, but it is now too late. + + I am pleased with your speech. That part about

the grain, will be very useful for this colony to which it seems partly addressed.

I hope you will not yield the Paving and Lighting Act, whoever may oppose it. I am glad to see the Derwent bridge at New Norfolk at last in a fair way of being accomplished.

You are aware I suppose that Toll bars exist and have long I believe existed, (and heavy ones too) all over this colony. The proceeds go into one common fund, so that a particular line of road does not get the exclusive benefit of the tolls raised upon it. But Hobarton and Launceston will get the exclusive benefit of their own self taxation. I trust you will press this measure ⁱⁿ spite of Mr Gregory, and of those who have more money shut up in their pockets, than public spirit. Let them have it on the most liberal and popular terms.

I like the sentence, "The great object however, with us at present is not merely to be prosperous and moral but to prove to the world that we are so." It is expressed with the confidence of truth.

I think I told you that the Bishop has heard from the Archdeacon on the subject of the schools, and that the latter thinks himself ill used that a certain letter written by him some time ago, was not sent home. I did not know what letter he meant, and I suppose it was never shewn to me.

x I am rejoiced at Dr Hobson's acceptance of the Secretaryship - pray tell him so with my kindest regards. Tell him too, that as far as I have seen, he need not regret the winter climate of Sydney. Such fogs I have never seen since I was in England, ^{and it appears to me that the air is much more saturated with} only not at the right time. Yet even the damp has more moisture than it is with us. The Bishop says that as much rain falls here as in England, only

not destroyed the mosquitos; ~~Every~~^{Every} where,
my rest is more or less disturbed by
them; * least in Sydney, because there
I have mosquito curtains; but to have
bad weather and mosquitos together
seems very hard and unusual. X

I have just been writing a long letter to
dear Dr. Turnbull. * I told him I
liked his suggestion of calling the
new schools "The Catholic Schools."
It puts me in mind of my printed
letter to Mr. Barrow in which I
made a similar observation, suggesting
that the Roman Catholics take
an undue advantage of the word
"Catholic" and suggesting that
they should be called Roman
Catholics and we Protestant
Catholics. - Do you think it would
at all interest Dr. ~~Barrow~~^{Turnbull} to read that
letter in Barrow's book? If you do,
I know his indulgence so well, that
I should not fear any severity of

criticism; particularly if you tell him the fact that Sir John Barrow, afraid of offending the Roman Catholics, cut out a piece here, and a piece there, so that the thing scarcely holds together. I should like an apology to be made also for writing at all. You must recollect that it arose solely from our being asked about Achill which ^{young} Barrow was unable to visit, and my letting him read in consequence my private gossiping letter to Mary which he begged to extract from, and has extracted from, in the text.

***** The Bishop seems much amused to day to read in the "Hobarton Courier" that I am writing a book on the Colony. I tell him it is now an old joke, copied I supposed from the Hobarton papers. He says it shows how little he knows of the

papers, that he has not seen it before.

I hope you will not relax in your endeavours to procure Dr Hobson, the Colonial Naturalist's place. Can not you write to Herschell, Swainson, Murchison, Buckland &c about it.

I hope the Port Arthur runaways will be taken back to Port Arthur before any thing else is done with them.

You seem to have been well received at the Theatre on the Lecture evening. Why cheered on this occasion more than in the Court of Requests?

The papers say you came forward to thank Mr Lillie. I suppose that means that you got out of the box for it. ~~Could you hear him in that situation?~~

I think I told you that the Government here is giving £4000 for a new

building for the Mechanics' Institute, besides £200 a year, and Sir George says he would have given more had they not made rules on too exclusive a principle.

***** At the Diocesan meeting, the Bishop in his speech almost as soon as I entered, alluded to your patronage of the Christian Knowledge Society. "There are those present," he said, "who can testify" &c, and then urged that not only persons of such "exalted rank" but &c.

I told him one day that he was accused in ^{Van Diemens Land} ~~Van Diemens Land~~ of sending us the worst of his clergymen, or those he least cared to retain; instancing on the other hand that a particularly desirable one though destined originally for Van Diemens Land (as Mr Walsh) was kept by him. The Bishop colored a little and was so hasty in excusing himself that I am sure

Van Diemens
Land.

he felt a little guilty. His wife spoke instantly to the same effect, and the Bishop's first words were, "Why there is Mr Aistabie," who apparently was the only exception he could think of to my observation.

~~xxxxxxx~~ I find from the Bishop (and indeed I guessed it from the speech itself) that Sir Geo. Gipps must have formed his new school scheme entirely himself without any ^{reference to,} ~~reference~~ and without the knowledge of his Executive Council, indeed the Bishop had only a few days before, been proposing a scheme of his own for the promotion and improvement of schools. I remarked to the Bishop that I thought Sir George had always great confidence in himself. He said he had, and that it was the most valuable element of character. He did not allow that Sir ^{Richard} W. Bourke

possessed the same high quality; he
leaned much upon the opinion of
others and those were all on one side.
On my comparing Bourke and
Arthur, he said Col. Arthur was
cunning and mysterious in a
much worse way than Bourke;
indeed he seems to regard him as a
much inferior man. Sir ^{Richard} ~~Ed.~~ was a
good scholar; Col Arthur was very
ignorant, - ignorant he believes
even of the History of England.
He told me how it was that Colonel
Arthur offended Captain Wood of
Snake Banks - adding it was
impossible they should ever agree.
"Captain Wood was much too
straight forward for Col Arthur; he
was fitted for Sir John Franklin".
The Bishop, who certainly has a strong
predilection for this colony in
preference to ours (which is natural
and even proper as he lives in it.)

says, Sydney is free from the petty feeling which exists in Van Dieman's Land as respects this country. "In fact," he says, "except when they want grain, I do not ~~think~~ ^{believe} they ~~ever~~ ^{ever} think of Van Dieman's Land." This was not very complimentary. I told him that certainly many people arrived from Sydney giving greatly the preference to our colony, at least they told us so. "They think it will be acceptable," he said. "Col Arthur laid himself out for such compliments, for the praises of Van Dieman's Land, and was angry with ~~any~~ ^{every} one who did not prefer it. Consequently people paid their court to him in this way."

Don't let us subject ourselves to the same weakness. I do assure you that Sir ^{G.O.} Gipps is above any feeling of the kind, though his sensitiveness

on the subject has been a little tried; not by me however. It would be unhandsome indeed, if enjoying his hospitality and treated with distinguished honor, I were to seek any occasion of crowing over some real or fancied superiority. I am much more disposed to strain every nerve that our colony may keep pace with this in its rapid march of improvement.

Sir ^{George} it is evident is very desirous to render his reign illustrious by noble and useful works. He said the other day in shewing me the Bath house at Paramatta, that that was the only thing Sir Thomas Brisbane had done during his Government.

"I never allow of any difficulties" he says. "The great secret of being useful and successful is to admit of no difficulties." I went with

him in the wet, and shocked ^{those} ~~them~~
I left at home by so doing, while
the Bishop, a man after my own
heart in this, expressed no ^{disapprobation} ~~disapproval~~
~~ment~~ and made no effort to deter me.
Mr ^{Foster} ~~Fowler~~ tells me in his letter
that I seem to make light of all
difficulties, "To be able to do so,"
he writes, "is a blessing only
known to those who enjoy it, and
I thank God that I am likewise
one of those individuals."