

RS 18/2 (1)

Hobart Town V D Land

9th Septembfer 1843

Gentlemen

There are two periods appertaining to the office from which I have recently been relieved which cannot fail to excite deep emotions in the breast of any Governor; that of entering upon its high duties and responsibilities, and that of resigning his office.

In kindly alluding to my appointment to this Government as the reward of previous services, you remind me of expectations formed on your part, and imperfectly fulfilled on mine, which might well make me humble, did not the warmth of your expressions of esteem and attachment at the close of my administration, convince me that I have not altogether failed to justify your generous anticipations, and that at least you have appreciated my zealous endeavours to do my duty.

With pride and gratitude gentlemen, I acknowledge this tribute of respect and regard, expressing as I believe it does, the sentiments of a very large and of the most respectable and influential portion of the Community.

That some of you or even that all, may have been led to differ from me in some point or other of my Administration, is, I conceive, a fact which was inevitable, but I need not scruple to admit that in attributing to me those lofty principles of action which you have so kindly and so unequivocally acknowledged, you have done me scarcely more than justice.

The prospect of an approaching, perhaps of a lasting separation from you, would be a bitter trial to my feelings, did I not know that a separation from you in space is not necessarily one of interest and affection. I can conceive no position in life, no future sphere of action in which the welfare of the Colony will not be very dear to me. I pledge myself to use my best endeavours to promote it in every way which my experience may suggest, or which opportunity may offer.

Your very kind and flattering testimony to Lady Franklin's character and Conduct in the position it has been her lot to fill, calls for an Expression of my Especial gratitude. I may venture today that, however limited her sphere of action, or however inadequate her means and her ability, her heart has been disinterestedly and fervently devoted to the fulfilment of her duties, in which she has ever regarded the promotion of every object tending to the [social?] and intellectual improvement of the Colony as an essential part.

I thank you from my heart for all your affectionate good wishes. May the blessing of God and every happiness and prosperity be yours.

John Franklin

To Rev J Lillee

 And the Gentlemen

 Comprising the Deputation.