

1841

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From Lady Franklin her sister.

Mr. Simpkinson.

Government House,

Asbarhou, Oct. 12. 1841.

My dearest Mary.

The present package or box, will be delivered to you by favour of Dr. McRostrie who came out last year or year before in the "Mandarin" with Frost and he tells us he returned home and was at the Admiralty on the very day when the observations appeared in the newspaper about Sir John. "The Lords" eagerly applied to him for information on the subject and appeared perfectly satisfied with his report.

I have begged Dr. McR. to call on you; he is not ^{an} interesting person but we are always on good terms whether they are interesting or not, with the Naval surgeons of these convict ships. I have desired three others to call on you. Drs. Sericlavie, and Durm.

I wish particularly to commend to your notice.

The first was an old shipmate of mine in the "Cordelia" when Capt. Kotham took me from

Smyrna to Nauplia. He is a sensible, well informed, and very nice person; a friend of the Richardson's also, and a brother officer of Franks' in the "Sulphur." We were great friends here, and he seemed much pleased and interested with the Country. P. Dr. Durr was specially introduced to us by Sir Edward Parry who speaks very highly of him, and I was much interested in him on account of his friendship with the good female philanthropists of England who interest themselves about female convicts. He expressed a great desire that I should know and communicate with the Dowager Lady Grey and Lady Howbridge on these subjects and felt assured they would delight to know ^{that} the female prisoners here, engaged so much of my attention. I told him of my writing to Mrs. Fry and of our having formed a society here, having the same objects in view as the Ladies Society in England. I took him to the Factory, and at his earnest request wrote him at parting a letter, (a very hurried one) in which I made a few suggestions

which he thought might be of use to these ladies in their endeavours to do good.

I told him in my letter, that if these ladies wished to know the state of the women here or my opinion of it, I would refer them to Mrs Fry who I had no doubt would shew them my letter, which Sir John had acknowledged to me was a correct statement.

The progress we are making at the Factory has been interrupted by a most unexpected obstacle, ~~being~~ ^{namely,} the defection of ~~the~~ Miss Hayter herself, who after assuring me that it was necessary for the success of our exertions, that a Ladies Committee should be formed corresponding with that of London, and after drawing up the regulations and assisting twice at the meeting, has in consequence of an article in one of the vilest of the newspapers, on the subject, determined to withdraw from it to my infinite embarrassment and mortification, for along with her, the other ladies, (there were only three) withdraw also, thinking it is not proper for them also to

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to become the objects of public notice ^{or} ~~and~~ animadversion, and thus, the wretched writer of a lying and contemptible print, who the other day had his head under the halter, is to triumph over the virtuous resolves of a body of Christian philanthropists: who have Sir John and myself for their heads, and their own perfect respectability for their proper shield.

I am shocked at the triumph thus given to that ^{misfit} portion of our press, and have told Miss Hayter that if such is her morbid sensitiveness she will infallibly have her own pure mind degraded and corrupted by the Newspapers and ought to avoid looking into them as she would into the pages of pollution.

I fear my indignant remonstrances will be of little avail.

I have only just received the architectural books you sent me, they are very beautiful in their way, but are of no use as to my object in furnishing designs of houses, for there is not a single design amongst them. Count Strzelecki, and the Chief Justice both tell me

I hope he will come and bring one of his sisters with him. x x x x x x x x

Our stay, of course is very uncertain. It would not be out of the usual course if we were recalled very soon, and again, the great changes yet untried which are taking place in the convict system may make ^{the Government} them unwilling to remove a governor who has only just begun to carry them out, and is feeling his way in it. x x x x x x x x

You ^{amuse} amuse me by your account of Sir George Arthur. I wonder if I should think altogether the same if I saw him. I am told he exerts the same feeling influence over everyone at first, and in fact I have no doubt of his having many virtues, but I believe there are other sides of his character than those you have looked upon.

Even his warm partisan and friend Dr Turnbull admits, ^{though} _{ysk} though with drawbacks and characteristic hesitation, that he was cunning and had a sharp eye to his own every body admits his cleverness and the advantages with which he parries all interests. ~~Captn Ross certainly became the~~ attacks, and triumphs over all his enemies. M^r Montagu is an inferior specimen of the same school; "a man" says Captain Ross, "who deals in

strong words & without one elevated sentiment
Captain Ross certainly became strongly
imbued while here with the Anti-Arthur
spirit. He said he judged for himself; but I
think he was influenced also by the passionate
emotions of those who think themselves in-
jured by them. For my own part, I can
scarcely help feeling myself one of these, when
I reflect that whatever faults Mr John may
have committed in his Government are
attributable to them, and when I feel, if I
do not see, the sly, deep, steady but undetected
opposition they are making to Mr Lell's
College which I am sure will never be erected
if they can help it, tho' it is made to appear
to be all owing to rational causes. How
Mr Lell can perceive the same and not feel
his blood boil within him, I cannot tell, he
is by temperament as well as principle a
philosopher. Sir George Arthur's treatment of
the Gregory case, is just what I should have expected.
a refined policy would dictate this mode of
conduct even if good feeling and principle did
not do so. God forgive me if I suspect him
of one, as well as believe him capable of the other.

~~Mr. Montagu is an inferior specimen of the same school, a man, says Capt Ross, who deals in strong words without one elevated sentiment.~~ It is a peculiar characteristic of my feelings respecting these men, that I am always alternating between a belief I do them wrong and a return, certain as necessity, to the misgiving Laborer. But who ever had any misgivings about such a nature as Gells? All truth and generosity and nobility of heart. Notwithstanding all I have said I am really glad Sir George is attentive to My Father (I ^{truly} can see nothing but goodness in this) and that you are anxious to pay him every attention. I should be sorry one insinuation ~~to~~ his injury should ever enter my father's mind about him. Lord John Russell's dispatch confirming the dismissal of Mr Gregory ~~was~~ ^{was} not so agreeably worded as could be wished, whilst he confirms the authority he had given to Sir John to dismiss him.



Forster

I have a grudge against Mr ~~Forster~~ on this account also. ~~He~~ was in his official capacity, the writer of those letters; though of course Sir John alone is responsible. Mr ~~Forster~~ ^{Forster} is the man who says, "When once I stick my harpoon into a man, I don't take it out again". I think it very possible however that Lord John Russell has not been able to see thro' the extreme subtlety of Mr Gregory's writing; very veiled in the language of deference, and simplicity of heart, and which it is hardly possible to deal with patiently.

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I mentioned in a former letter Mr Timmoche's dismissal by the Home Government; for giving an untrue statement, as they say: - for giving a true one as the Colonists say. Mr Timmoche is no personal favourite, but he advocated a system (the Procurty Emigration) which was acceptable to the Colonists, and they regard him as a victim. The strongest representations are going home about it. Every body here abuses the Emigration Board in England.

We are already getting stragglers from the

other colonies, which are at this moment
 glutted with emigrants. Capt. Grey, Governor
 of South Australia, begs Sir John to send him
 troops, having 1532 emigrants fed by Government
 many of whom are mutinous and discontented.

In Sydney they are beginning to think they
 will have more ~~troops~~ emigrants than they can
 pay for, and the country there is suffering for
 want of rain: there is no grass and a fear of
 another ^{drought} draught. In the mean time our fields
 are smiling with verdure, and the crops generally
 promising well, ^{though} ~~the~~ more rain with us would be
 acceptable. ¶ The Roman Catholic bigot, Anstey
 who has gone home with a budget of grievances
 was sent to Coventry, on board the "Derwent" by
 all his fellow passengers.

I have been much interested and amused by
 your account of Rosina. I can imagine her
 looking plain enough now she is near 40 years
 old. She used not to be vulgar in manner;
 she was too original and foreign. You do not
 say what her husband is like. He did not tell
 you then, that I was the most charming creature

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she had ever seen, the only woman she had ever cared for or loved. ~~She~~ ^{no,} she had long altered her mind on that point before we parted. I have no pleasant Egyptian recollections either of Mr Robert Thurburn;

Miss Rosina's influence at that time was too paramount for his better feelings to prevail. He saw Luas "de trip" in Rosina's estimation and did nothing to remove my painful consciousness of it. His self interest was concerned to behave as Rosina liked, or perhaps he judged of me by her judgment instead of his own. Dr Hogg used not to be dull, tho' he was always vain and conceited, he has written a lively and pleasant book upon Syria &c &c.

The "Layton" which arrived here on the 31st of August brought ~~us~~ ^{us} letters from Dr and Mrs Arnold; the former is all about the College Charter, his notions of which I fear get wilder the more he thinks about it. He proposes now two equal ^{heads} governing at the same time, ^{namely} an English and a Scotch also. 'Alas!

Mrs A's letter to me is particularly kind

She has not been able to meet with the people
I wanted for my girls school. ✕ ✕

Mrs Macnochie has written to Lady Gippo
that they were expecting me at Norfolk Island.
I hear from Capt. Ross, Sir George is very anxious
a ship of war should go there to overawe the prisoners
being under some uneasiness on their account.

How did you first learn that I was going to
New Zealand? I send you two New Zealand
mats, ^{rather} cloaks, ~~one~~ of the most esteemed kind.
They have almost ceased the manufacture, now
that English Blankets are so common.

I send you also a bit of Franklin Island,
the farthest spot to the South on which Ross
landed in his last expedition. You can break
it up if you wish to divide it. The delicate part there
is of the New Zealand flax. The other is from the
Fiejee Islands.

We had long letters yesterday from Captain
Ross from the Bay of ^{New Zealand,} Islands. He stays there
until after the October term. Perhaps in my
next I may send you his letter; it is so full of
cordial feeling and shows such entire sympathy

and identity of feeling with us.

Capt Ross though much fited at Sydney says he met with no heart there, unless from Lady Gipps, Capt Parker, and his old friends Capt King and Mr and Mrs ^{Mackay} ~~George~~ ^{George} ~~loaded~~ ^{him} with attention "but it came from him with difficulty, I think," he says. Capt Ross calls him a sly fox, and such an awful "radical" that he would not wonder if he were the means of instigating at some future period, the separation of New South Wales from England. Capt Ross you know, always talks very freely and strongly, and one is obliged in quoting him to be more discreet than he is.

Capt Ross found a yankee Corvette at the Bay of Islands, of which the Captain (Ancher) boasted much of the exploits of Wilks, and of "the Antarctic Continent." Ross let him go on to the end in silence, and then let out piece by piece his own story. "You can hardly conceive" he says, "his ^{amusement} ~~amusement~~ ^{he} took it extremely well however, and expressed himself very kindly, and handsomely towards Ross.