

Extracts.

1842.

(15)

RS 1613

Lady Franklin to her Sister Mrs Simpf Nixon.

~~marked
No. 59.~~

Government House.
 Hobartton.

5th September. 1842.

X My dear Mary
I believe I have given you the
right number,^{V 359} but I have certainly computed
my good deeds at the lowest; My last letter
being + +

Poor Miss Martineau! I deeply pity her -
It is a sad catastrophe indeed, - to be deaf, ^{and} also probably
unable to read with comfort. If it be otherwise, and
that you think she would be pleased with the attention,
I should like you to present her from me
in testimony both of my admiration of
her talents and my sympathy of her
sufferings, with the four numbers now
out of the Tasmanian Journal, not because
it is interesting or entertaining, or clever,
but simply because it is written and
published in this "paradoxical" corner of the
Globe, and as a tribute from the Antipodes
of the pride we feel in our distinguished
countrywoman. I should like it to be

regularly sent to her as it is published
and wish I could think of any thing else
to please her. Miss Martineau's name
forces me also, alas! how painfully -
the name of another.

Before this letter reaches you, you will probably
have heard as much of the Mac^{no}ochies as I
am able to tell you. They were all badly
brought up. Their parents had a ~~certain~~^{certain}
outrageous liberality of principle in edu-
cation, which left unchecked their children's
greatest faults. They did not even see them,
~~or could~~, nor could they put faith in
any thing but their own notions.

This was peculiarly the case with Capt. M.,
how often have I disputed with him on that
licentiousness of principle which made him
assert that any thing that ever was written
was fit for children to read. They were
allowed to read whatever they could lay
their hands on, except the Bible, this alone
~~were~~ they forbidden, not I believe from his respect
of it, but perhaps the contrary.

Norfolk Island by the recent accounts
is stated to be in a very disorganised
and disorderly condition.

Perhaps this domestic calamity working on
Sir George Gipps compassion may induce
him still to retain Capt M. longer there than
under such circumstances he might otherwise
have done. But of this I know nothing.

Evils are magnified by distance and they
may not be so bad at Norfolk Island as is
represented. I have long owed Capt ~~W.~~^{Macdonald}
a letter, how can I write to him now?
Yet I think I must write to him, and
that sympathy and tenderness, and the
existing ties of friendship require it. To her
I cannot write, we have not corresponded
since we parted, and she would loathe
the commencement of it, on such a subject.

The Beauforts will hear of all this
if they do not know it already but I
would not have you be the first to communicate
it. The notoriety here precludes all
possibility of its being kept a secret in England.

It has already been plainly alluded to
in one of our ^{new} papers.

We were delighted to hear of Mr Thornton's interest in our college and of his active and fruitful exertions.

Dr Arnold's letter is encouraging as to the Charter, but I wish something were actually done, and poor Dr Gell suffers severely from the delay, for in the mean time, the ignorant and prejudiced public abuse the present school as a job, and disbelieve the existence of a better future from which they can benefit.

They do not acknowledge the use of a prolonged and classical education, how will any thing make them do ^{so}, but the substantial pecuniary rewards which the endowed college will have to bribe them with.

Dr Arnold writes that he grieves over the Presbyterian dislike to the name of Christ Church. Now I think if Lord Stanley chooses that it should be so called, we shall hear nothing about this trifling objection, and that it is not with a serious thought.

Mr. Gell has received promises of benefactions and endowments from individuals here, if the college be based on right, that is, Church of England principles, but not otherwise.

Surely if the most free admission and toleration is granted to all, the minority cannot be the worse because the majority are not shocked on their account?

You are right in requesting Mr. Thoroton's discretion in communicating to him the views. The Charter should come out as we wish it, not because Sir John does with it to his ~~so~~, but because the law-givers so ordain it in their own good grounds, and because Lord Stanley approves them.

We long to see our Bishop. I wish he could bring a suite of good zealous men for the convict population, to be stationed with these men in the ~~rural~~^{rural} districts, on the scenes of their manual labour, and where the whole energies, (of the ministers) could be devoted to the spiritual regeneration of these poor creatures. No unworthy labour for any minister of

6
Christ; but it cannot be a labour of love. !
how are such men to be got? they will not issue
from the Halls and Schools of Oxford and
Cambridge, they will not come & fear at the
call of the Christian Knowledge Society, but
there are men who would answer such an
appeal if once it reached their ear.

The Bishop of New Zealand published his want
of clergy, and I dare say had more applicants
than he could use. Van Diemans Land
the great Penal Colony of the world, for such
it is now, is repulsive to those who luxuriate in
the visionary charms of New Zealand, yet no one
can tell, not even the best of those men furnish to see,
how intensely interesting is the labour of dealing
with convicts for their ^{conscience} moral and spiritual
good as well as for their ^{coercion}. Tell dear
John what I say, and ask him if the Church
Missionary Society, and the Colonial Church
Society, and the Pastoral aid society, not furnish
willing instruments for this great work, or if
he knows of any ~~other~~ way.

I hope you and Mr MacRintosh have attended to my request of giving Sir John's subscription to the Bishoprick fund. I think £50 or £100, I should prefer the largest sum if we could afford it. There is no good work of the times which pleases me better than this.

The Mr Fleming whom Mr Thompson recommended to Sir John is in full business here, and seems I think satisfied. He agrees with me that it is a very trying place for a man to come to, and that there is more than an average degree of intellect and shrewd talent afloat, compared with communities at home. It is most true that many a man who passes well enough at home becomes here an object of ridicule or contempt. People here stand more alone, they can be viewed round about, on all sides, not on that side only which they like best to present to view, and they generally sink accordingly. There is nothing I believe extraordinary in Mr Fleming, he seems honest and diligent,

and these qualities combined with a moderate
with a degree of talent will insure his success.
for the moral tells quite as much in a man's
favour here, as the intellectual.

We are wretchedly supplied with lawyers.
Lord John Russell in his last days of power
at one stroke of his pen dismissed both the
Attorney and Solicitor General, (Maudowell
and Jones) for their squabbles with each other
and their disrespect to Sir John, and then
he sends out an Attorney General from Dublin
(Welsh), electioneering job I presume, who
promises as bad as either. He has not the
excessive impudence, and I believe as far
as we know, not the unblushing falsehood of
Maudowell, but he is not considered to be a
better lawyer, the Acts he draws being full
of blunders, and the prisoners escaping whom
he wishes to convict and his private character
which ought to be particularly discreet; since
his wife and family have not accompanied
him, not bearing any close investigation.

A really good lawyer here would make

a rapid fortune at this moment, and would have a good chance of stepping into some post of honor whenever a vacancy occurs. But if you make this known, you must take care not to quote me in my account of the Attorney General or else I may be made sooner or later to suffer for it. It is a grievous thing however to see such a worthless man, as Macdowell (whose business energies have been much roused since he lost his office) turning his successor into ridicule, when they are opposed to each other, and gaining many a cause ~~tho'~~ ^{through} his own impudence, and the blunderings and perhaps want of courage of the other. Jones was the best lawyer ^{but} if he had known how to manage the moral part of his nature. Macdowell is engaged in every cause against the Crown and in almost every other. Sir John was written to about Mr. Fleming by several others besides Mr. Simphoniou.

We are much pleased with Mr Murray's kind
reception of the Tasmanian Journal, pray tell

him so, and also thank him for sending us
the Literary Gazette. I hope you will send
us every notice you see or hear of respecting it,
whether good bad or indifferent. The 3rd and 4th
Nos. are out. In No. 4 you will find an account,
(not a very scientific one) of Port Arthur, the
penal settlement of this colony, that is to say, the
place to which persons convicted a 2^d time or
persons sentenced to be transported in the courts here
are sent. It is written by one of our travelling companions
to Macquarie harbour, who is about to send home
by this ship for publication a narrative of our
adventures in that expedition. He (Mr. David
Bunn) sends it to a friend Mr. ~~Bannister~~^{Bannister}, who
is likely I believe to apply to Mr. Murray
about it. Whether the latter will think it
worth publication is I think doubtful.

That expedition was likely to have had very
disastrous results. I am not alluding to our
own privations of food, and dangers of sea
and land but to a subsequent expedition
which before we had returned in safety was
sent out to our rescue. ~~six~~^{Six} men prisoners

chosen for the purpose, continued to follow us to Macquarie Harbour, found us gone, and then pursued their way along the coast, expecting to find some wreck of us along the shore. They consumed all their provisions were stopped by ~~a river~~ which they had not strength to ford, retraced their steps and having consumed the last remnants of their leather knapsacks for food, regained a little canoe they had constructed, and got to an island in Macquarie Harbour, once inhabited, now desolate, but where they found potatoes growing wild from those originally planted 10 years ago. After a few days rest, four of the men, with a small store of potatoes embarked again in their canoe for the "Gordon" river where they left it, and plunged into the forest, came to the ^{"Franklin"} Franklin, crossed it in the "Eleanor Isabella" which they found there and which unfortunately filled as they crossed so that they lost their potatoes, and had still many days journey before them before they came to the haunts of men. Most pro-

- identically another party, which on our return we had sent in search of the former met them with provisions at a moment when according to their own account they could not have held out another day. ^{Two} ~~men~~ however were left behind at the island, ^{overcome by} ~~overcome by~~ the woods and unable to walk. For the safety of these two we were long in a state of great anxiety, ^{though} various means were taken to release them. At last they have been rescued by a boat sent in ^{to Macquarie Harbour} for the purpose, by one of our colonial vessels which had herself been driven off on this inhospitable shore. ^{They} had been living on potatoes and water, and as the former were coming to an end were building themselves a canoe to attempt an escape from the island. I suppose Mr Burn will work all this up into ~~a~~ ^{being made} heart-rending narrative, which indeed it is capable of, at least as far as physical suffering is concerned. For myself, I have suffered mentally, very much indeed on the subject. It would have been a bitter pang for life, if these poor fellows had perished in their attempts to rescue us, and more so because

I convinced myself that if I had paid more personal attention to their relief than I did (thinking it was in the hands of others whose peculiar concern it was) they might have been saved. Their image haunted me day and night, and you would be surprised to see how much this with other anxieties since our return from Macquarie harbour has worn and aged me. The constant excitement in which we live, is something which must be seen and felt to be understood.

If it were not that the excitement of today cures that of yesterday, so that no impression however vivid has time to eat its way into the soul, we should die under ~~such~~ such excessive stimulus.

I think Mr John will write to Mr Murray as soon as he has a little leisure, at present he is absorbed by the duties of his Legislative Council which is sitting. He will probably introduce to Mr Murray one of the most accomplished and interesting persons he has ever known even ⁱⁿ the wide

circle of his distinguished acquaintance
 Count ~~Strzelczi~~^{Strzelczi} a Polish Noteman of high
 family and some independent fortune, who
 has been travelling for several years, in
 New, and South Wales, and this colony with
 a view of studying the Physical Geography of
 this country. He has been writing a book on
 this subject, illustrated by Geological Charts
 on a new plan, and by drawings, and is shortly
 sailing for England to publish these.

I have begged the Count to make your ac-
 quaintance, and I trust you will see as much
 of him as you can. At the same time I
 must tell you he will be courted and caressed
 by the first people of the land, to whom he
 is already well known in England, and who
 will receive him again after his interesting
 labours here, with more honor than ever.

You will know he is charmed with him,

everybody is^{so} without exception, he is so gentlemanly,
 elegant, so very clever, so accomplished, so
 full of fire and vivacity, and withal so
 amiable, only a little bit satirical, but not

too much so. He will be the brightest star in your galaxy of worthies. I met him first about 3 years ago, at the Government House in Sydney, where he was in high favour with Sir George Gipps, whose name the Count has given to every important district of country discovered by himself on the borders of Bass's Strait and within the dominion of Sir George.

That highly talented Governor however is not so great a favourite with the Count, as is Sir John whom he is extremely fond of, and he intends shewing his great regard for him, by dedicating to him the remarkable work he is about to bring out on the ^{Physical} Geography of these Colonies. There is to be no narrative attached, it will be a work of pure science, which ^{however} it may elevate the character of the book, will restrict its sale. The Count says it has already cost him two thousand pounds. What after a short acquaintance will perhaps most strike you in the Count, is his wonderful tact, the ease and facility with which he sees the due relations, and right

bearings of everything around him, accommodates himself to every situation and sympathizes or appears to do so with every mind with which he comes in contact.

And now I must tell you what I have to ask of you respecting him. And this ~~is~~ is to get me his portrait done by Dregelin, or any other superior artist, to be paid for by me.

The Count has lived two years in this colony, will have done more to illustrate it scientifically than any man who has gone before him, has lived in the house with us, whenever he has been at Hobart^{on}, has been on excursions with us, is cherished and honored by us, and his name must ever be connected with Van Diemen's land. On all these accounts, his portrait ought to exist in the Colony, and I must have it in the little library of my Museum, where there will be a few, and only a few, other worthies.

The Count was evidently pleased when I told him this, and has promised to place himself in your hands for the purpose.

I could wish to have heard much more about Mrs Fry and that you had been able at least to tell me she had had my letter which tho' it may reasonably have been inferred, does not actually appear.

I have made Mr Gell blush by telling him Mrs Fry has been with him in her hand, to Lord Stanley. I should have wondered not to have heard from Mrs Fry myself if I had not told her, that I was shortly going to send her a second letter, and this off course she must have been continually expecting, and would naturally wait for. I had some time afterwards, an opportunity of letting her know indirectly thro' ~~the~~ Dame that I should wait before I wrote to her again for the result of the investigations of a Committee upon the Female Convict Establishment, in the island. That Committee did not sit for months afterwards. It brought out fact which shews that what I have said about the Factory is much below the truth.

Their report is said to be unfit for me to

Their

to read. ~~Their~~ conclusions, or rather the remedies they propose, are in some respects (in my view of things) so absurd and weak and preposterous, that ~~they~~ I have waited for I cannot adopt them, and must still write to Mr^o Sly in my own way.

But I have put this off because Sir John has not yet had leisure to consider the Report having been since our return from Macquarie Harbour deeply engaged on a similar subject, (the management of the male Convict) at a crisis of great importance.

You are not perhaps aware, that there are two systems of convict discipline going on at the same time in the Colony. — the remains of the old, or assignment system, ^{and} the new, or Probation system. Under the latter the prisoners are worked in gangs, in unsettled districts for a certain period. Somewhat more than a year ago, it was deemed that this second division of the Department required especial superintendence and then Mess^{rs} Montague and Forster succeeded in effecting a job, which

Foster

gave to Mr. ~~Forster~~¹ in addition to his former duties of Chief Police Magistrate, that of the entire control^{II} of the other departments under the title of Director of the ~~Probation~~^{Probation} system, with an increase of salary. Sir John at his request gave up to him the entire control^I of the establishment and even the privilege of appointing and removing his own subordinate.

Had Sir J. foreseen at that time the conduct^{II} of Mr. Montague, in which ^{Mr. Foster} was so intimately joined, he would never have made such an arrangement.

Experience has proved that, independently of the woeful evil of ~~thus~~^{thus} accumulating power in the hands of a man who has no feeling of attachment but strong sympathetic, if not personal, feelings of resentment, the union of the two offices in Mr. ~~Forster's~~^{Forster's} hands has been more than he could manage.

They require a person to be in different places at one and the same time, or at least necessarily the neglect of one part of the duty for the sake of the other. This is peculiarly true in Mr. ~~Forster's~~^{Forster's}

case, as he is an Executive Councillor, which renders it very desirable he should be here on the spot whenever Sir John is.

These considerations combined with the fact that the arrangement made was even at the time regarded only as an experimental one, have induced Sir John to determine on their separation, that is to say, leaving Mr ^{W. Forster} in possession of his original place (that of Chief Police Magistrate) to take from him the added one of Director of the Probation system, and make this the business of another individual.

No measure could have been more necessitated by the circumstances of the Colony, (for the Probation ^{System} under Mr Forster was become for want of supervision, a waste of labour) nor more necessary for Sir John's honour and safety. Mr Forster had become by his extensive and daily increasing patronage a more powerful man than the Governor.

This view of things was of course not made known to Mr Forster, but a kind and handsome letter was written to him, shewing that the incompatible nature of the two offices would require an early separation.