

R51612 (17)

Lady Franklin to Mrs Simpson.

Government House
Hobarton.

May 23. 1843.

My dearest Mary

+ + + I began my last letter in better spirits having convinced myself that the statements on which I had built the fact of Sir John's recall, as previously mentioned to you, were of very doubtful foundation, but I ended it in a different spirit having extorted from Mr. Bicheno a reluctant admission that Lord Stanley had himself communicated to him his intention to remove Sir John & that soon. Mr. Bicheno said he had no authority or commission whatever to announce this, but as I had asked him direct, he could not refuse to tell me, though he had hitherto evaded the questions put to him by other people. He told Mr. Denbigh afterwards that Lord Stanley wished him to get into harness before a new governor came & I do not understand Lord Stanley's reasoning however, unless the governor were coming out in the same

① Sent out to me (sent) to Mrs. Mantel's part of Colonel Gordon.

ship as the recall, which I cannot for a moment believe; or unless Lord Stanley fancied that as soon as Sir John hears of his recall, he might resign, or cease to feel any interest in helping Mr. Bicheno which would be a very low sentiment indeed.

Sir John has refrained from saying anything to Mr. Bicheno on this subject. I believe he thinks it more dignified to let it alone, and only suffers Mr. Bicheno to perceive that he is prepared for anything.

A few days after Mr. Bicheno had made his communication to me at Saunceston, he told Mr. Ronald Gunn, that he could not in the least tell whether I had mentioned it to Sir John or not, as there was nothing in his manner to indicate it. As Mr. Montagu

✓ evidently however has the right ear of Lord Stanley, while Mr. Bicheno has only perhaps the left, I take it for granted that his communications have been still more ample and that the reports afloat are correct, ^{namely} that a Major General is coming out not only to be governor, but

Commander of the Troops also. — We hear that ~~to all the~~ ~~the~~ ~~only~~ ~~and~~

⊕ as really happened &c.

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Norfolk Island will be included amongst the Van
Diemensland Dependencies - ^{indeed} +++ the annexation of
Norfolk Island to this government is really
a proper measure, now that New South Wales
is no longer a Convoict Colony, and is unwilling
to receive her prisoners back again from thence
and as a proper measure, I think it not improbable
that Sir George Gipps may have advised ^{it} +++
~~not the fact~~ ~~before me~~ ~~again~~ ⁺⁺⁺ I believe I told
you in my ^{last} letter that Mr. Bicheno had said while
at Launceston, about a week after his arrival
that he was thoroughly convinced, from the most
unprejudiced sources that Sir Johns removal of
Mr. Montagu was an act "necessary for the good of
the Colony." He at the same time expressed his
belief that they had made use of me merely as
an instrument to injure Sir John, and when he
heard of their showing me their papers and requesting
my advice and opinion, he said it was done as
a snare.

Mr. Bicheno has since said things still more satis-
-factory for us to hear. He evidently arrived with
a considerable estimation of Sir Johns moral
qualities; the rest he has found out for himself.

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A short time ago when an immense box of papers came in as usual from his office to Sir John for the letters opinion and instructions upon them, he said to Mr. Henslowe "There is an immense boxful today for Sir John." "You'll find," says Mr. Henslowe, "that he'll get through them with great facility and despatch." "Yes" - said Mr. Bicheno, "and in a very different manner too from what I had been led to expect." Since then, he has told Sir John and told Mr. Henslowe that he (Sir John) worked harder than any officer in the colony, or any clerk in any office, - that he had no conception of it and that no man would accept the governorship of Van Diemens Land if he knew what it was.

Three or four days ago, as I was walking with Mr. ^{Bicheno} after speaking to a convict coachman of ours, I explained to Mr. Bicheno why I had made such and such objections, and given such and such orders. Ah! he said "how much you must have learnt since you have been here! how much you must know!" I replied it was of course impossible not to have learnt much of things I had never thought of before. "but it's Sir John", I added, "who has learnt many things."

"Sir John," he exclaimed, "it is surprising! and he has such clear and sound ideas upon every thing and so much information, and writes them also so well" —

I told him I was not altogether unprepared for this because Sir Henry Hotham when Commander in Chief in the Mediterranean had paid me many compliments on Sir John's talents in diplomacy as shewn in his dealings with the Greeks and Russians.

The day after this conversation, Mr. Bicheno took the opportunity of obtaining Sir John's ideas upon the conduct of the next session of the Legislative Council, and Sir John told him what he should do if he had himself to carry it through, and what he would advise any new Governor to do, or refrain from doing till he was possessed of experience.

Sir John did not scruple to say, because it was the truth, that he had been able to carry many measures which his predecessor had not attempted, and which no man could have carried who had not possessed a good measure of the confidence of the people. Mr. Bicheno said he had heard this on all hands, and then he ~~energetically~~^{energetically} assured Sir John that if another Governor came out, he should

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deeply regret it, and that it would give him the greatest pleasure to continue to serve under him". Such a tribute won from such a man, against probably previous impressions to the contrary, was very valuable and pleasing to Sir John. It has been obvious to us all that his manner has gradually increased in deference to Sir John, and though this may in a great measure proceed from his having more assimilated himself to the manners of those around him, in which new comers (unless they have been in a Colony before) generally fail, and in which Mr Richens did perhaps more than usual which was natural in a man of his fixed age and fixed ways and habits, yet I am persuaded that that much of it also is owing to his increased respect for Sir John as a Governor. As a man (he told Sophie) he could not sufficiently express his admiration of his excellence. He thought "he might well be judged by the manners of all around him towards himself," and to see the ~~Breakfast~~^{breakfast} table of a morning was beautiful" - ++ There is a mixture of shrewdness and simplicity in his character, but he is unable to understand comprehend, and I believe to give credit without comprehending, to the fraud and wilynefs around him. x - r