

Copy

Lady Franklin writes to her sister II Jun 3 1839

(4) RS 16/8

My Dear Mary

which yet I hope will be averted. though if otherwise, I have not the slightest doubt of Government being obliged in a very short time to return to it. There is much to be said against the Assignment system, and much in its favor - but this is a subdivision of the great subject whether Transportation shall be continued or abolished.

Amongst the newspapers sent you will find (in the Hobart ~~Town~~ ^{on} Courier) a copy of the Despatch of Sir John above alluded to, and in another an account of our late brilliant regatta, which is to be an annual one and of which Sir John may be considered as the founder. Its objects were this year confined to whaling and sailing boats, the former in particular being an object of great colonial importance. It is our intention to embrace a

great number of additional ones
in the festival of next year.

I have taken up my pen again on
my return to Hobarton and am now
writing on the 3rd of January, in the
new year, being just upon the point
of entering upon the 3rd of Sir John's
administration of the affairs of the
colony. -----

Amongst the minor changes, M^r
Price (Mary Franklin's husband)
becomes 2^d Police Magistrate at
Hobarton, a place for which he is
said to be extremely well fitted -
M^r Montagu will go home in the
Derwent at the latter end of Feb^{ry}.

I have begged him to call in
Bedford Place, he is a very gentle-
manly and extremely clever
man, of good connections and
good fortune - he well, I think
have much influence at the

Colonial Office and may be able
to do much good to this colony
by his representations - He and
Mr Forster married two nieces of
Colonel Arthur and they and
their particular admirers generally
go by the name of the "Arthur Faction"
at least it is the name given
them by the Opposition papers.
They are certainly deeply attached
to Sir George Arthur.

The town is at present afflicted
with an epidemic catarrh, supposed
to arise from the unseasonable
weather or at any rate from some
peculiar state of the atmosphere.
It is much more virulent at Sydney.
There is scarcely a house which
has not been affected by it: and
some few deaths have occurred
(chiefly amongst young children)
and amongst these, we have to

deplore that of the Surveyor
General, Mr George Frazerland,
a man of the most varied accom-
plishments of mind, of the most
gentlemanly feelings and manners,
of singular wit and humour and
of the most amiable private
character. From the nature of
his public office, he considered
himself a privileged companion
of ours in all exploring excursions
and journeys, but what most
brought us, or at least him and
me together was the late Regatta,
of which he was one of the most
active managers, and into which
he threw all the imagination
and ardour of his mind and
character - I was in constant
correspondence with him on this,
at the time all-engrossing subject
