

1840.

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The Collyer

From. Lady Franklin
to her sister
Mrs Simpson
Hobartou.
7th September. 1840

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Extracts.

1840.

Lady Franklin to her sister
Mrs. Hupkinson.

Government House. Hobarton.

1st page written out by Miss Croft. 7th September. 1840.

My dear Mary

I must again ask you to send out to me some works on architecture, or some elevations of houses and palaces which may assist us in the erection of our new Government House. It appears that there is not ^{a single book on architecture} in all the Island, except my own Loudons Farm and Cottage architecture. I do not want finished and costly engravings, but if you were to go to Weales Architectural Library in Holborn, I am sure you would find a dozen things which would at least be better than nothing. I shall copy on the other side the names of some books whose titles have struck my eye, though of course without seeing them, I cannot judge of their being so the purpose. Two or three of them, Hope, Repton and Niceman, I will order at a venture; but besides these, if, either at Weales or elsewhere, you could find any small engravings of Gentlemens houses, in the Grecian or Italian style, in good taste, I shall be glad to have them; but this will not be necessary if the books sent, contain anything to the purpose. x x

* * * Mr Gell is not living with us now, but is hard at work with his boys in a house hired for the Queens School, at a rent of £ 300 a year in the street adjoining. The Vote for the College buildings

and masters salaries, and also 2500 £ for exhibitions has passed in Council, after a great deal of discussion on the religious part of the Question, in which the Roman Catholics personified, but not represented I believe, by Mr Chisholm Austrey (an acquaintance of the Beauports and Edgeworths) made an outrageous exhibition of their intolerance, as the Presbyterians did of their jealousy and ambition. I shall send my father Sir John's speech or "Minutes" as it is called in Council upon this subject, in proper form, with Mr Gell's report annexed, as it looks handsomer and will please him; to you I will send the "Courier" newspaper, which in less compass contains that, and another of his addresses in Council, as well as the Roman Catholic petition, which, bad enough as it is, was much worse before it was toned down for presentation to Council.

Mr Austey wrote it and afterwards in wig and gown, at the bar of the House pleaded on the same side. The Roman Catholics have at least gained nothing more than other religious denominations, out of the Church of England, who are all to be exempted from such special religious instruction as they cannot in their ^{conscience} ~~conscience~~ accept.

The College would now be on a right basis if it were only established that a member of the Church of England should always be at the head. It is the Church of a vast majority of the inhabitants, but the main reason is that the head of the ^{institution} ~~institution~~ should always be of the same religion. It is easy to conceive the disorder and strife which might otherwise ensue. Let us hope if Dr Arnold has anything to do with the making of the Charter, that he will establish this ^{principle} ~~principle~~. Tell John what I say. Sir John in his neutral capacity can't ask for it. Mr Lell commenced his school on the 3^d of August but has not hitherto had more than a dozen boys, as the

public were in ignorance of what was going to be done, and waited to see and get our understanding, I have no doubt he will ~~soon~~ have more than his house can contain.

I think the college will be erected at ~~the~~ ^{New} Norfolk about 22 miles from hence on the Government Farm, and Domain, the sweetest spot imaginable, forming a high peninsula on the Derwent which washes its cliffs and flat garden ground on 2 sides, while the Lachlan, a tributary trout stream flows under it on another. It has the loveliest views possible of the winding river, its woods and rocks, and of hills and opening vales in all directions. Should this measure be sanctioned by the Secretary of State we shall lose our Country ~~and~~ ^{retreat} and Farm, (it consists of 80 acres) and the tumble down cottage will be pulled down, it is now scarcely habitable, which is one reason why we so seldom go there. If however the place, were 10 times more valuable and used by us, I would

gladly renounce it for the college, which is my hobby of hobbies.

Mr Lell has set his heart upon that particular spot and was quite frightened the other day when a petition came in from Campbellton, a place 70 miles in the interior, begging to have the college there, and offering 1600 £. and 50 acres of Land to have it.

"Stop a little," said the opponents of this measure "and you will get 2000 from ^{new} Norfolk; and accordingly we hear vast subscriptions are going on there to enable Sir John to come to a mature judgement. We laugh at Mr Lell for being thus put up to the highest bidder.

Both sites are good, and each has special advantages.

Our Antarctic friends are absorbed in their own observatories and not very observant of politics. I think they will give a good account of us, for they seem pleased with everything and not the least so, with the sailor governor to whom they do a deal of good.

Capt Ross, and Major Sabine write to each other.

by previous compact, every Sunday, not sentiment
 however but science. There was one sentiment
 however, in one of Major Sabine's letters to Capt
 Ross, which the latter picked out of the rubbish
 of the science, which was to the following effect, - or
 rather the very words, "I fear poor Franklin
 has no very agreeable berth at Hobarton, and
 I regret greatly something I hear of Barrow's
 conduct towards him. - I marvel any one
 can be so bold as to speak ill of that ~~truly~~^{truly}
 good man, and excellent public servant.
 In the latter respect he is quite a character of
 the same order, as the Duke of Wellington."

You may imagine this praise, the only fault
 of which, is that it is much too great to repeat,
 gave pleasure to Sir John. (I was tempted to
 tell Capt. Ross about the letter which I
 burnt.

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 When we get home again, the ancient proportions
 of things will revive in our minds; Now the
 affair of Sir John Barrow seems as nothing,
 compared with the affair of Mr Gregory which

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is in fact also ^a much more serious thing and involving more important consequences.

Mr Gregory sends home by this ship his appeal to Lord John Russell, against his dismissal, and the whole of Sir John's conduct towards him, which he characterises as fatal to the character and honor of Her Majesty's Government.

Sir John sends ⁺ his accompanying despatch.

Ever since Mr G's removal he has been plaguing Sir John with innumerable letters.

1st He wants to have a copy of, or at least to see the despatch of Lord J. Russell giving power to Sir John to remove him; ^{Russell} ⁺ this is refused.

~~then~~ ^{then} he wants to know precisely what degree of power was given to Sir J., and whether he is absolutely removed or only suspended, the reply is that Sir J. is unable to give him any further information than he already possesses.

~~then~~ ^{then} he desires to know whether he is in possession of all the charges sent home against him, of every accusation, complaint or imputation whatever, direct or indirect, and if not, what are such accusations, complaints, &c.

This requisition was a most embarrassing one, and was meant to embarrass and entrap Sir John, either by ^{a downright} ~~direct~~ affirmative or negative reply. Those only who know the nature of Mr G's correspondence could anticipate to what it would lead. Accordingly Mr S ^{is informed} ~~is informed~~ of the Charges sent home against him, and that there appears no occasion for any further explanations." He tries the same point in every possible way, by argument, by example, by authority, and at last grown furious, (they say he is frightened, and his wife furious) and threatens to carry his wrongs to the very foot of the throne itself. God knows how all this will end, - not I think in the restoration of Mr Gregory, but it will probably be a subject that will give Sir John much trouble for years to come, here and at home. Sir Geo. Arthur is even now ^{now} ~~tormented~~ ^{tormented} with Mr Burnetts case and obliged to defend himself, tho' it is 7 years old. Mr Gregory is going home very shortly to fight it out. he is more dangerous there than here.

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 This reminds me ^{that} ~~of~~ one of Capt. Ross's
 good actions before he left England, was to
 unite again Parry and Sabine, alienated from
 each other since the affair of Miss Browne.
 I spoke to Capt. Ross about Mr. Babbage's cruel
 imputations on Major Sabine, in one of his
 books, affecting the latter's ~~truth~~ ^{truth} and honor
 and which he has never recalled, tho' he
 has some doubts himself of its full accuracy.
 Capt. Ross told me that Sabine would certainly
 have sunk under this infliction, but for his
 wife who is an admirable person.

I wish you may come to know them
 intimately.

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 I hear that Horatio ~~Lewis~~ ^{Turner} brother to
 Charles Turner, and to the Poet Alfred Tennyson
 is coming out here, ~~in a ship~~
 and ~~he~~ ^{also} that Capt. Washington thinks of giving
 up the Geographical Society.

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