

Extracts

1840

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Lady Franklin to her sister Mrs Simpson.

Government House. Hobarton

7th December. 1840.

My dearest Mary

x . x . x

You are mistaken in thinking I mentioned Dr Hobson as one of the many visitors you might expect to see. I regretted only that when he was living in London (studying medicine at the London University) you did not ^{know} him. He came out here ^{early} ~~late~~ in 1839, just in time to go with me to Port Phillip and Sydney. On his return he set up here as a Physician, fell ^{sick} ~~sick~~ of fever and over fatigue, and left five or six months ago with his wife for Port Phillip, to see if quiet and the hotter climate there would improve his health. He is a most interesting young man, but I fear there is disease and death in the hue, and ~~form~~ of his beautiful face and features.

x . x . x . x

I am much pleased at your acquaintance with Mr Gardner, which I think may be of great use. He has, or ~~is said~~ ^{used} to have, the reputation of being the main manager of the affairs of this colony, and I was delighted to hear he praised Sir John so warmly.

I am sorry if I have overlooked to acknowledge Mr. Haliburton's work on hieroglyphics, and Sir Gardner Wilkinson's map of Thebes, and Mr. Davidson's portrait. They must think me very ungrateful if they have not received my thanks even by proxy.

Pray tell Sir Gardner you write to me a great deal about him, and that I ~~read~~ ^{receive} it with great avidity. This makes him look strange you say, and I wish I were there to see him look so.

x x x x

I have been reading a light amusing book called Memoirs of Princess ^{Daskhaw} ~~Daskhaw~~ in which Mrs. Simptinson's exiled progenitors at Geneva are mentioned. I see she was nearly ^{sister, I think} related to the old Count Woronzow, Lady Pembroke's father, whom I have seen in London at their house.

Pray remember that when people wish to come to Van Diemen's Land they should come out in ships direct for the Colony, for the Ports either of Hobart or Launceston, and not take passages in ships going to Sydney or Port Phillip. It is owing to this that many whose future course had been undecided, and that many whose previous decision was to come here, have been turned away and arrested in their passage.

My letters seem to have come very thick upon you, and I do not wonder ~~at~~ you found them and Mr. Elliott's daily and hourly expected first visit very overwhelming. I was touched and distressed to think that for a few moments my father's emotion at seeing so many come together was a painful one. The account of your interview with Mr. Elliott much interested me.

Sir John had a letter from him by this last ship, he intimates that the Whigs only stay in to avoid the face of resigning as before, and say there are no words so bad

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which the Tories do not call the Queen, and that he thinks, the Jury who found Oxford insane, should have been sent to Bedlam themselves. I think it was a false judgement, though I would not have hanged him. Though in spite of Mr Mayers very gratuitous assertion about my politics, I am much more a Tory than a Whig, yet I cannot help wishing, they (the Whigs) may stay in long enough to confound the designs of Mr Gregory's against Sir John. I fear however that any administration that could be formed in present times could only stand, by compromising much with the opposite one.

And perhaps a Whig ministry with a powerful controlling opposition is almost as effective, as a weak Tory administration strongly opposed also. x x x

Miss Arthur is to marry the eldest son of Sir Compton Downville. I saw him in Egypt a gigantic bashful youth of twenty or so, to whom Rosina made violent love, but the Downville's objected.

Yours ever affectionately, J. P.