Sir,

Having late received that it is the intention of the Government to commute to freedom the original inhabitants of the island, I take permission in the most respectful manner to address you on the subject with a view of affording information of an interesting nature of what I have observed to be happening in some of the remote districts which I conceive may deeply concern the future well being of this people.

In my numerous rambles through the unsettled western districts many circumstances have led me to believe that there still exists at large an extensive tribe of natives who have never been in captivity. Testify this as a fact which I will proceed to show is much more than merely probable, permit me very respectfully to inquire if it may not be feared that alienation of their old haunts and removal of acquaintance with these members of their old community may not in some measure be destructive of those amicable feelings which a long course of kind and considerate treatment has possibly encouraged in our unhappy prisoners and which time contamination may not take place from intercourse with the few who have had the odness to undergo the general doom of their race.

We believe in the existence of a tribe of uncaptured Blacks is founded chiefly on
circumstances following accidentally under my own observation, and partly in the statements of a gentleman who may confidently be relied upon.

I will premise by stating that the complete withdrawal from the mainland was universally believed to have taken place in about 1833 or 1834, and the feeling of security which followed was not much disturbed by the appearance of a few in the Dee in March 1840, who were actually taken and conveyed in a cart to within a mile of Marlborough, where they were killed, leaving their swords and their captain at the site of the encampment of their achievement. Three years (10 or 12 in number) passed before the pictures of the black men were distinct to that of Marlborough, and when I saw them a few months after.

In December of the same year, I was instructed to cut a track to the eastern border, when I led twelve about 20 miles from the village. I came to a small plain where I found a native tent encampment containing two large persons, which had evidently been deserted only a few days. Any person who has once seen the temple wealth of the images at Tehuantepec will be at no loss to distinguish their very primitive erections from those of every other class of beings. The footprints about them, though half obliterated by recent rain, left no doubt of their being those of persons but humble and without boots.
To be partly concealed was also to be inferred from the appearance of the fire place, from pieces of Kangaroo flesh which were lying about only half scorched.

Soon after this as I was examining the summit of the island when crossing a low open ridge which lay between two peaks of the plains I picked up a native spear which judging from appearance must have been dropped there very lately. This I took to MacMillan and left in with W. D. Clarke.

I had opened the track as far as the lower ridges & the Frenchman has some circumstance which I forgot recalled me to Lake Cline. I went with my confidential man John Thomas, leaving the rest of the party, to go on in order to open the track through the dense jungle & the Frenchman which I had previously marked out. On returning from the Lake we were waiting by night at the foot of the mountains. Tired by the long summer's day march and the carrying of heavy loads we were most unwilling as such an hour to scale the long and steep ridge which lay between us and the rest of the party. As it was growing dusk we proceeded to set up an little tent for the night. Which we did in a thickets some two yards away from our marked track. While we were employed in performing our quarters my attention was called by the sound of several voices.
I soon approaching us. At first I thought it was only some of our men who had come
from the camp on the Mendiwon. Though I could not conceive why they should
do to a what punishment could temper them
down this excessively, I suppose, only

to go up it again. I was the first to hear
them and said to Thomas, "My dear
sir, I am fellows: what brings them
here I wonder?" Then I tell them known
and see what they was." By this time
they were very close, and we both heard
them distinctly. I called our friend,
kindly, to them, fearing they might go by.
all was still in an instant; after waiting
a few seconds I repeated the call: still
there was no reply. In a moment the
recollection of the partly draped figure
and the natives' hats came across my
mind. The same with Thomas, whose works
are still in my recollection very clearly.
"It'seson our chaps," I know: depend upon
it, it is the natives." I started up a
run and catch it was an instant's work
and I ran out on to the track followed
closely by Thomas with a Tomahawk, who
is an excellent fellow to have with me,
at such a time. But when we were
they had stolen up and the darkness of the
inn gave them cover, facility to escape...
after a few moments absence we returned
to the tent where we stayed the night. Desiring of having a look round us before leaving our party, we went to the morning's last camp to a low open rise at the base of which we had encamped: and here we inspected the premises. Nature was at once confirmed by finding another of their tent which they no doubt were about making for the night when I interrupted them. In an hour or so I rejoined my men and another of whom had been away from their encampment and I in the first instance suspected it. But the worse proceeded from. I might have easily satisfied myself about the matter by keeping quiet if we had not set them fire. So there was no more to make too much money.

I may mention that during my examination of the western districts I was often led to the top of very high hills which I used to visit to acquire knowledge of the country and the best routes to follow. On these occasions I was then met by two others in quantity which left no doubt in my mind that these proceeded from the encampment of some insulting borders of these barbarians.

These pronounced with these districts my suppose that such might be the work of white people. They very respectfully to try if they present no temptation to any one to visit them. Their mild and forbidding character, the ruggedness of the numerous hills and mountains, the deserts of the fruit, where these signs scoured - the unattractive and above all the
course and worthless nature of the country at that season, all invited to yield rather than violate nature, and to implore them for counsel but the occasional visits of wandering tribes.

Similar evidence to the last of those being natives yet at large in the island, I gathered in 1846, while I had been sent by the Resident Governor to examine the unsettled country between the widely separated stations of Deloraine and Rama Bay. I then on one occasion accompanied the Resident known as Peter's Definite, who kept from thence in a southerly direction, I saw several. In a part of the country which is quite uninhabited and has never been visited till lately, except by the Surveys of the D.D.P Company in the early days of the Colony. The severity of climate to this country has recently been entered by some gentlemen from Bottnel in the wide of an expert bush-traveller. One gentleman, whom I have allowed to in the earlier part of this letter I learned that I was a man of country from the 18th of the second of the Fort since they saw several native huts and other indications of the former occupation of that country by their people. So apparent were these that the party with him felt the necessity of keeping a sharp look out on them, while they were beyond the settled districts. He also told me that a short time preceding his own visit a person of the name of Pitt, a surveyor (as was known to the 18th of the second) had made the same country, and that in reaching within the limits on the first known by me, I made my way on small track near the river. On learning that a person of the name of Pitt had shown to me, that there must have been 10 or 12, but knowing who Mr. Pitt was I surmised that he was soon to eradicate them. I learned that his statement might be
I implicitly depended upon us he was a strictly correct young man.

Since last being through the whole of this letter, I have read one late number of the 8th City Reporter that a party of men who had just visited Falmouth reported that they had, in that time, seen 58 natives on the West Coast.

It is now necessary to notice that since the late war, my visit to the Western Country, our wars were taken somewhere about Cape Town. I think it's 1843. Here it may be and were the same whole that it. But this is altogether uncertain if we know absolutely nothing. As what is going on in the Western half of the Island. But without forgetting the late capture, till the subsequent observations of Mr. Wellington and Pitt in 1845 x 1846 are strong

proofs that these yet remain at large. But again to bring forward the report of the recent appearance of all the other inhabitants. Not only remember that by the middle part of the Western half of the island directly any men has ever had merely, even a sight. The who is to say that no native is not now to be found there? My own observation goes far to prove the contrary.

We calmer go on to express his belief that the captured blacks will return to those not captured and recross their old signs, and the added powers of their form. Leave all of us wise people that the kangaroo hunters and black keepers are a most defensible race, and the natives will begin again.

The mention of them did not insure in the conclusions of Mr. Califer, are these the matter ended.