

Private Secretary's Office,
Government House.

March 1847.

SIR,

I am directed by His Excellency to lay before you a series of Questions on the subject of Transportation; and to request that you would carefully consider them, in connection with such of the Gentlemen and others in your neighbourhood who are competent to form opinions on the subject; and that you would return to me the Questions, with such Answers as you may be able to give to them, as soon as possible.

His Excellency has thought it desirable to take this mode of ascertaining the views of the Inhabitants of the Colony on this very important question, in order that he may be in a position to lay before the Secretary of State a clear statement of the views and wishes of the Colonists on a subject, which, although of very great importance as regards the welfare of the community, is yet altogether unconnected with other matters of public interest, and should therefore be considered with reference only to its own merits.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

J. J. Murray

J. J. Murray

RS. 131/6

St Johns June 10th 1847

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Letter enclosing some Questions relating to Transportation which the Lieutenant Governor desires to have answered.

In replying to the first question of "Do you consider it desirable that the Transportation of Convicts to this Colony should cease altogether?" I feel that it is for the best interests of Your Dominion held as a Colony that Transportation of Convicts should cease altogether -

My reasons for arriving at this opinion here with the natural taint to be expected by mixing bad with good admitted by all. Secondly the ever existing effect of keeping the Colonists always dependent on the Convicts for cheap labor, and the expected Government expenditure, and lastly the present number of Convicts in the Colony being so great affords a favorable opportunity of carrying out this great change with the least probable shock to Society.

The objection of your Excellency agreeing that my first reason is not objected to I will not endeavor to show in what particular I consider the free Colonists have already suffered by this contact, but in balancing the expediency of continuing Transportation this consideration weighs heavily against it.

The extreme dependence on forced labor producing injurious effects on the Colonists at large I consider shown by the few, and feeble efforts made to introduce free Laborers altho' it is allowed that the amount of Work got from the Convict Servant bears no comparison to that obtained from the free, and the habit of considering a large number of Convict Servants cheaply obtained, but of doubtful industry better than a less number of really good Servants at a higher rate of Wages has tended to cause a prodigal indifference to the number employed. The reluctance on the Government expenditure (apparently large) has prevented in a very great measure the enterprise in seeking, and working out the natural resources of the Colony, and the fear of attempting to compete with the neighboring places, is in my opinion attributable to this dependent feeling - A more active, and industrious, and healthy State will follow the withdrawal of Convicts. The Land also will be more divided when the dread of letting it to Convict Servants now felt by the Landlords is superseded by the collecting honest hard working Free persons round them.

The Return of the number of Convicts now in
T. Hand

late published impressions me with the belief that
a better time than the present could not occur for the
ceasing of Transmigration as there are a greater number
than there now are, and no very injurious consequences
from stopping the supply can be felt for the next two
or three years before which time any amount of Free
Labor required could be introduced from England or
Ireland - I consider also this a favorable time for
making the important change as the Colonists generally
are prepared to make sacrifices if necessary to raise the
Colony in the opinion of Emigrants to the same Social
level with every other of Her Majesty's Settlements

Having endeavored to express my ideas
confirmed by what I believe to be a large majority
of the Free Inhabitants, and conceiving it uncalled for
by His Excellency's Circular to reply to the 1st and 3^d
Questions after my answer to the first

I have the honor to be

Dear

Your most obed^t humble Servant

Capt^o C. G. Stanley
Private Secretary
F F F

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Copy
Letter to Sir R. D. Owen
regarding Southampton