

My dear Sir 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 1857

The reason of my going to the funeral of Mr. Alison, was that I was requested to do so, and that I consider such attentions to be an absolute duty - I went to Lancaster to obtain medical advice, and remained there several days, in the hope to be able to avoid a painful operation, which I have since undergone at home. and from which I have scarcely recovered, altho it has had the desired effect.

Louis has been so much occupied that he could not enjoy your kind invitations - We thank you very much for having added a frame to Mr. Johns printing - which needs not to fear comparison with <sup>any</sup> in Hobart - The reduction in constables has caused me a deal of correspondence with Mr. Foster the

Attorney general and the colonial Secretary

Some malicious advisers persuaded Mr Foster to take away the only constable between Cleveland and Perth (20 miles) on which I wrote to Mr F. pointing out the necessity of having one at the usual station and said that unless he remained no Magistrate could act - To this I got no reply for a month - and in consequence wrote him a very sharp letter - but it so happened that his reply reached me the same day - the letters crossing on the road - his reply was that it was thought proper to take away the constable I replied that he might do as he chose but that I resigned my commission as Magistrate, and wrote to the Atty Genl to that effect - on which I got a letter from both, stating that they had sent back the constable and desired <sup>me</sup> to withdraw my resignation - I declined doing this on account of age and infirmity - The colonial Secretary then wrote to say that Government thought it gave a bad effect - if old and respected Magistrates should withdraw - and that I should not be

required to go any where or do any thing that I  
considered troublesome - I therefore said I would do  
my best - I am not a person to say so and do  
nothing - but I am quite out of practice - and  
should be thankful if you could procure for me  
forms of Summons Warrants committment &c  
for which I would willingly pay the police  
clerk - But perhaps Mr Mason will do this -  
for me, I shall write to him - I am aware  
of the person who advised Mr Foster -

I have advised the colonial Secretary to cause  
an analysis such as was made by Mr Procter  
in 1838 - which is useful now - I think every  
Magistrate would purchase it -

I approve the wool tax - as being easy to collect  
as not being subject to misstatements and as  
no way affecting the poor - It is a mere  
Sophism to say that growth out not to be taxed  
that is only true when such tax prevents the sale -  
which it would not do in any way in regards wool -  
because none but England can fully supply the article  
and Wool tax also at one time formed the chief English tax -  
Yours truly  
W. Wood