

My dear Sir - Hawkridge 23rd July 51 -

The distance from the Post Office renders the transmission and receipt of my letter, very uncertain – I did not receive your kind note and invitation until this morning I did not forget that I had signed a document to be forwarded to the Governor – nor that Mr Allison had exerted himself on that, as he does on all good public occasions – nor that Mr Lord signed it and then publicly and in print declared that he never had been a friend to transportation which is something like blowing hot & cold in same breath – I again say that it would be of the utmost advantage to the colony that you or Mr Allison should represent Campbell town instead of being nominee or nominees of the Governor – two or three county members of our persuasion – besides the nominees – would carry the day – as to the respectability of our colonists I have said quite as much as they deserve –

If Mr Kermode who when sent a Youth to England was the makings of a Saint – and who came out as Teatoller full blown Saint, and fine Gentleman, was allowed by the company make a speech so unchristian and ungentlemanlike, that I do not believe the most blackguard convict in the colony would not act as said he would do – surely, much cannot be said for a set of persons of moderate station in society who did not punish him – for such malevolent expressions – Is such a man fit for the council: -

The document you speak of was good but not sent to the governor till very long after I signed and when it was too late –

Maria is somewhat better and joins in kind regards to Mrs & Miss Leake

I am my dear Sir
Yours truly
WWood

Mr Leake Esq