

[struck through paragraph at top of letter]

My dear Sir Hawkrige 12 Oct 51

I have only this Evg received the newspaper reports of Mr Kermodes Meeting and have scarcely time to reply to the remarks made on my address – But still I request you will have the kindness to cover [?] the annexed to be read at the meeting of today, or to publish it in any manner you may think fit -

Hawkrige 12 Oct 1851 [written in another hand]

To the Electors of Campbell town District

I feel much gratified that my late address to you has brought to Issue, Conviction and unwilling Confession on the part of Mr Kermode, the charge I made of his using unchristian expressions towards the Governor – Expressions which he is pleased to term Metaphor, but which if addressed in England to the Queen instead of her representative the Governor, would perhaps without Metaphor, have given Mr Kermode a much better plea for disliking transportation than any he has yet put forth –

This, the principal charge being settled. I seriously beg you to consider, whether your duty to the colony will allow you at this critical period to elect, a man, (who I am willing to think would not have acted on his threats) so very full of enmity to the Governor – and so little capable of controlling his passions, in preference to one of steady and active mind and master of his temper –

My other charges, Viz of defaming the colony and the prisoners which of course includes those who have been prisoners altho now free, cannot be more fully proved than by the statements in the papers of what passed at those meetings in which he joined hand in hand, with the open destroyers and secret assassins of our character and station, in the society of the world, by inferring that we were infected with every kind of contamination and derived from the presence of convicts-

Is not this another reason for not electing Mr Kermode but a man who would endeavour to set us right with the world and if possible to bring us into the level of good society

The charge made against me by Mr Dowling tho accompanied by such abominable language seems to be that altho I professed good opinions in regarding convicts and emancipists – I did not speak of them in the appeal by Mr Kermode Sr and others – 1r [?] 1839 –

At that time we fully proved that we were not contaminated with vice in any way – therefore could not be contaminated by convicts so that no mention of them was made, not could be with propriety, as I should think every one would feel – I did not as Mr Dowling asserts draw up the resolutions – Capt Crear composed them and they were considered by all as most manly and well founded and happy would it have been for the country if traitors to the colony had not effected a change in opinions –

My statements in favour of convicts are often repeated in the chronicle are of the following nature

“Nov 1849 – I feel that I am writing in a just cause and therefore however weak my capacity may be, I will never flinch from defending the character of the colony and of the unfortunate and almost equally injured prisoner –“

“Great number of those sent here in punishment of faults have become good and valuable member of society; and by attention to the education of their childrens conduct, have rendered very many of them worthy of ranking with the first and best of the colonists –

Has Mr Kermode ever stated or come forward with any statement of this nature – and has any one reason to say I have not supported emancipists in a proper manner

WWood

[in LHS margin]

Cap Wood

12 Oct 1851