

Mr Leake Esq M.L.C
Rosedale
Campbelltown

M Wood [upside down]
12th Sep 1850

My dear Sir – Hawkrigde 12th Sep 1850

In consequence of your favourable opinion of my letters on the subject of transportation I concluded that I had obtained a zealous as well as an influential promoter of our moderate views – And altho I ought not to be surprised that praise is not in this country [word scribbled out] followed by support – yet I acted on this supposition, and wrote to Mr Gunn and Mr Sinclair that you would join with us – I am glad to find that your opinions are not altered, altho your assistance is withheld –

But trust me you are entirely wrong, completely so in fancying that either the dignity or duty, of a Member of Council is compromised by your acknowledging your own Sentiments, in other places as well as in the Council Chamber – Almost every Member, of Council somewhat superior to ours [?] – signs his name to any address he may intend to support in the British Parliament – for Instance the Names of Privy Councillors – Of Members of the house of Lords appear plentifully in the petitionage [?] the Corn Laws [?] – They consider it not only consistent with dignity, but a duty to support inferior persons holding the same opinions as themselves, they also sign to the general tenor [?] of such petitions not insisting that every article of them should be precisely in conscience with their wishes for to do this, would be an underhand way of destroying the whole –

What hope can there be of the success of any attempt, if the weak only come forward, whilst the powerful conceal themselves – Believe me it is your duty to come forward on one side or the other –

But in this affair not only the welfare of the colony – but that of the Governor is implicated, for he has been led to believe (what I also believe), that many of the most respectable families hold the same opinions as ourselves in the most material points, and has acted on this belief – we should not allow his reputation to suffer by this –

Setting the transportation case aside – I as a Soldier and Gentleman and therefore a loyal man and lover of decency – would not allow the Queens representative to be insulted, and perhaps to be considered in England as justly subject to the expressions used against him here – Certainly it must be the duty of a Gentleman a Member of his Government to protect him – which cannot be done by a few, perhaps ambiguous, words spoken in Council – which Council you know, will very probably not meet again for any substantial purpose – We are about printing our declaration and sending copies to all friends who will endeavour to prepare [?] signatures, If we fail, after having firmly fought the battle. I shall content myself with having done my best without fear or favour in anger x still saying *Victrix causa diis placuit sed victa catoni* [in LHS margin the following] x the heathen Girls Girls [?] not to be believed

I am my dear Sir
Yours truly
W Wood

My Wife joins me in kind regards to Mrs [?] Leake and rest of your family
WW