

sent. to Port Phillip

(No. 2)

Ed. S. Munn 23 April 1839

My dearest Love

Mr Gould has returned from Sydney  
that up to the day of his departure the Country  
was so completely burnt up that not the least feed  
was to be found for Cattle of any kind and  
it was therefore feared you could not accomplish  
your journey - but on the day he sailed the  
fire was passing in torrents and the spirits of  
the people were rising in consequence -

that you may not be disappointed at not  
finding my letter in the event of your being  
forced back to Melbourne either from  
the consequence of the drought or Flood. I wrote  
these few lines just before the post goes out  
we are all getting on remarkably well  
and I have sent off by day several letters  
and my journal giving you all the details -  
I have been almost every other night in  
relation on the estimate questions - the hard lines  
and on the report from the Duke of Devon - which

display such an appearance of improper  
demeanor that the most urgent enquiry into  
the whole matter will take place immediately  
and as a preliminary step I have ordered  
the removal of all the officers attached  
there - Mr. Robinson might well look shy  
at you - though at present he does not  
know the extent of the enquiry - nor should  
you intimate the subject to him or any  
one else - The most important point  
that we are now occupied in is the  
supply of grain & the necessary steps to be  
taken that he receives demand from  
England & the exportation <sup>of wheat</sup> does not leave  
us in want - ~~There~~ the price of wheat  
has suddenly risen here from 9. 8. 10<sup>0</sup>  
the Bushell - and our contractors will  
not be able to meet their contracts - There  
are therefore <sup>against</sup> ~~many~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~our~~ <sup>some</sup> ~~heads~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~speculating~~  
by ordering that a portion of Barbadoes  
and all be used & mix with Flour in  
the bread of all vessels, and have



Received a Express enquiring the ~~institutions~~ <sup>institutions</sup> into the  
the quantity of the letters have in hand  
through the Police Magistrate & Commis-  
Officers. Besides giving orders to get sufficient  
in store for our purposes with next harvest  
I have had written to you fully - I have  
to Mr. Ashwell - the former will send to you  
a copy of ~~the~~ the Finance Committee which  
is well drawn up & sets forth a  
very satisfactory statement. The address  
will soon be taken in hand - and I trust you

I have wanted to write to you after Mr. Ashwell's  
address here on Thursday - & that it they  
seemed pleased. I have sent a copy of  
my 20th & his answer to you. An  
address is getting up for him. which there  
is well done - that of Law is too  
I had ~~to~~ be rather fulsome - there will  
be no dinner except that from the Bar  
already over. He is going every way well  
going home is going home - & support  
the views of the committee - the people  
here he says do not appreciate the

his writings or talents - He goes on the Cherish  
next month - Harding is here & he is  
quite happy - I have the Primer of both  
Councils & met him on Saturday. The  
Chief Justice Robertson has done to be  
sworn to have already asked them to  
decease.

Mr. Williams is now very well. I have  
asked Mary to ~~send~~ take your place  
on ~~Friday~~ Thursday & meet Mr. Lefferts's  
Chancellor quite well. So is Mr. Gould.

I am afraid of losing the post - but  
will write again - All is quiet - and  
the papers particularly so - I have rather  
or heard from the convoche

Believe me  
My dearest love  
Yours most affly

John Smith  
Love to Sophy. And remembrance to your  
parents.