

1809

9 June.

Females.

*Female Prisoners.*—One woman's jacket, 1 pair of shoes, 1 pair of stockings, 1 handkerchief and shift, 3 yards of flannel in lieu of a petticoat, 1 ivory comb, 6 needles, and 1 blanket.

The serving to commence at Sydney on Monday next, the 12th instant, at 8 o'clock in the morning, when the overseers are desired to attend with their respective gangs.

All former Orders relative to the issuing and receipt of slop clothing will be rigidly enforced.

## GOVERNOR BLIGH TO VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH.

His Majesty's Ship Porpoise, in the Derwent,

10 June.

My Lord,

New South Wales, 10th June, 1809.

Bligh on the  
condition of  
New South  
Wales.

1. It gives me great concern to be still under the necessity to have my dispatch descriptive of the persons who have so unwarrantably conducted themselves against the welfare of this territory, which, but for their unparalleled proceedings, would have been replete with accounts of the improvement of a people who, in expectation of further benefits which were progressively arising out of faith, hope, and charity, would have become industrious and good subjects; but this reverse has caused the good to suffer, and led those whose minds were weak or vicious to be biassed by present advantages, or prospects of future which they had not sense to see could not be realised. Profligacy in others appears to complete the picture of the late rebellion, and, although a severe scourge, encourages me to hope will produce good fellowship and that purity which otherwise would have been much more remote. It is impossible, however, that the people can be in a more wretched state. Free man, but poor; the emancipated man returning from his unlawful way of life, and the unhappy prisoner under his penance of retribution, all now look with anxious hearts to the hour of relief by their gracious Sovereign.

His object  
in remaining  
in the  
colony.

2. I have not been able to render them any personal service, except remaining in the territory, that every act of the principal rulers, or their Courts, might become doubly unlawful, and their revenge kept within certain bounds, to which otherwise there was reason to apprehend there would have been no limits; imprisonment would not have been sufficient atonement to them from the honest men for being loyal.

3. I closed my last accounts\* to your Lordship when I was a prisoner in Government House. The circumstances attending my present freedom, and what has happened since, I must beg leave to request of your Lordship to become acquainted with by the following detail.

\* 23th October, 1808, and 12th November, 1808—vol. vi, pp. 737 and 867.

4. Lieutenant-Colonel Foveaux's reign continued to the 9th of January with unabated rigour, in the course of which the ships *Speke* and *Gambier* arrived; but whatever despatches were directed to me never came to my hands.

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Foveaux's reign.

5. By these arrivals the New South Wales Corps was further augmented, and the officers and men who came out were united in their principles.

6. Civil and Criminal Courts were continued to be held, and a plan was now adopted to gain over those persons who had been turned out of office to accept their former appointments; but only the Judge-Advocate, Mr. Atkins, and John Jamieson, the Superintendent of Government Stock, have become apostates; and an opportunity soon offered to Mr. Atkins to show his principles as a rebel judge, who, with five of their magistrates, as named in the margin,\* sat on five loyal free settlers—Mr. George Suttor, Mr. Andrew McDougall, Mr. Martin Mason, Mr. John Hillas, and Mr. John Smith—for not complying with an order given out to report their property at a general muster. They all denied the legality of the demand, and would not comply with it, in consequence of which four received sentence of one month's imprisonment, and Mr. Suttor was committed for a Criminal Court, he being deemed more culpable than the others, because he had written a letter to Colonel Foveaux which was considered objectionable. On his being brought before this Court, the members of which were as per margin,† he denied its legality in very particular and strong terms, and rather than plead he told them they might do with him what they thought proper. He was then sentenced to six months' imprisonment, fined one shilling, and taken to gaol, where he found his four loyal companions. I have numerous letters from the poor settlers, and I shall take the liberty to inclose two of this honest man's,‡ being samples of the others, and particularly stating his own case. As several of the friends of Government attended, the statement in the *Gazette* of the 18th of December is tolerably correct.§

Administration of Justice.

Settlers refuse to attend musters,

and are imprisoned.

7. The addresses of the free settlers to your Lordship, together with copies of those to me, which I herewith transmit, will explain the subject more fully.||

Settlers' addresses.

8. It became now much spoken of that the persons principally concerned in this rebellion were working by every means to realise and secure their properties. McArthur sent off a Colonial brig to China with sandal-wood under his nephew, Hannibal McArthur's care, but under a pretext of relieving the crew of a

John Macarthur.

\* Captain Abbott, Captain Kemp, Lieutenant Lawson, Garnham Blaxcell, Robt. Fitz.

† Mr. Atkins (Judge-Advocate), Major Johnston, Captain Cummings, Lieutenant Laycock, Lieutenant Draffin, Ensign Jamieson, Ensign Lilly.

‡ Ante, pp. 1 and 21.

§ This statement will be found printed as a footnote on p. 802 of vol. vi.

|| See these addresses, ante, pp. 33, 35, 44, 46, 78, and 151.

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ship that had been lost, and taking them to a port where they might speedily ship themselves for India.

Buildings.

9. During my time my object was to prepare materials in order to erect some necessary buildings. Colonel Foveaux by this means has been enabled to build a large barrack,\* which I think will allow all the troops accommodation.

Bartering with spirits.

10. The barter of spirits, and trafficking of all kinds by the officers of the Corps and a few others, to the great injury of the people at large, went on similar to that which I have already informed your Lordship of.

Naval officers.

11. Captain Porteous, who my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty had appointed Commander of the Porpoise, came passenger on the Speke, and with him a Mr. Thomas Kent to be a settler. These gentlemen, being strangers in this artful school of iniquity, were led to look at things in a wrong point of view. Lieutenant Oxley, who with Mr. McMillan, surgeon, had likewise come to join the Porpoise, had been companions on the voyage out. These officers had not been long returned to England from Port Jackson in the Buffalo; they knew well how every transaction was carried on in this territory. I had received them all, particularly Captain Porteous, with hospitality, and to him I left nothing untold, directing him, when the Porpoise arrived, to put the Acting Commander, Mr. Kent, under arrest, and I endeavoured to impress upon his mind that he must not have connexion with the disloyal party, as by so doing he could not visit me. This, however, not agreeing with his inclinations, he accepted invitations from them, and, becoming particularly intimate, he separated himself from Government House, and so did the others.

Despatches for Bligh.

12. Despatches were sent, as I understood, in this ship from your Lordship; but, as Captain Porteous and Lieutenant Oxley said they had not charge of them, the master gave them up to the rebels.

A settler.

13. Mr. Kent† brought your Lordship's letter, desiring me to allot to him land and stock as therein stated; which, not having the power to comply with, I gave him an attested copy, and I cautioned him how he acted with the usurpers of my government.

A Maori.

14. The New Zealand youth arrived safe, with his presents for his chief, Tippahee, to whom he had an early opportunity to return.

Paterson arrives at Sydney.

15. Colonel Paterson arrived on the first of January, in His Majesty's ship Porpoise, she having been absent two months; and Captain Porteous, on taking command, put Mr. Kent, the then acting commander, under arrest, as I had ordered him. Colonel Paterson landed privately, at the entrance to the harbour, where

\* The barracks were situated on the hill overlooking what is now Wynyard-square.  
† Mr. Thomas Kent; see vol. vi, pp. 384, 385.

a single horse-chaise received him, and was driven to town by Lieutenant Lawson ; but he has never called upon me. 1809  
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16. The *Gazette* of the 15th of January\* gives notice of his taking the command, by a very extraordinary paragraph, replete with iniquity and cunning. Hearing nothing more of them, I wrote the letter No 1,† in order to have the copy of his, which I had received from Colonel Foveaux on the 19th of October, authenticated. Accordingly, Colonel Paterson wrote to me, complying with my request. Paterson takes command.

17. By letter, No. 3,‡ to Colonel Paterson, I demanded the Great Seal of the colony, my commissions, books, and papers I had stated, in my letter to him of 8th August last, to have been seized and taken from Government House to be given up to me. To this I received letter No. 4§ in reply, refusing to do so, and by which his determination appears fixed to hold the government and wait His Majesty's instructions, while some hidden plan was intended to give reason to break it, which will hereafter be shown was really the case. Bligh demands his papers.

18. Many reports were now circulating that several leaders of the rebellion would endeavour to escape. I therefore wrote the letter No. 5|| to Colonel Paterson, declaring it was necessary that no person whatever should be allowed to quit the colony, as agreeable to his letter His Majesty's instructions would be soon received. Officers not to leave colony.

19. Letter No. 6,¶ in consequence of my having demanded my books and papers, and the Great Seal of the colony, encloses one from Major Johnston, and may be classed with No. 7\*\* to convince me of their insolent determinations, and depriving me of my despatches. Bligh's papers.

20. Fresh insults now came on. I received a letter†† from Captain Porteous, enclosing one from Colonel Paterson which he had received, thereby communicating with him, and receiving orders to have the Porpoise ready to proceed to Norfolk Island. This I had particularly ordered Captain Porteous to avoid, and to keep the ship out of the interests of the rebels ; and in case any application was made to him by the chief or any of them, he was by no means to forward it to me, but to reject it altogether, and tell them he would receive no applications—that they were to be made to me, and from me only could he receive any directions. I therefore wrote to Captain Porteous that he had received my orders, and it was at his peril to disobey them. He had been fully informed the ship was never to be removed from me, and he had Mr. Kent under arrest for having followed the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel Control of the Porpoise.

\* See Government and General Order of 4th January, ante, pp. 5 and 6.

† The letter No. 1 was merely a request by Bligh to be furnished with a copy of Paterson's letter of 29th September, 1808 (vol. vi, p. 763), which had miscarried.

‡ Ante, p. 8.

§ Ante, p. 8.

|| Ante, p. 9 (note).

¶ Ante, p. 9.

\*\* Ante, p. 9.

†† Ante, p. 105.

- 1800**  
10 June.  
Captain Porteous and Colonel Paterson.
- Foveaux. This was on the 26th January, the anniversary of my captivity, again adopted to do me some injury or cause terror; for Captain Porteous had no sooner left me than he informed Colonel Paterson that he would not allow the Porpoise to leave the Cove, and immediately the sentinels over me were increased to seven and a serjeant placed in the verandah. At the same time I received letter No. 8\* from Colonel Paterson, depriving me of communication with the officers or any other persons of His Majesty's ship. I was further deprived of all intercourse with my friends and every person except such as appertained to my household.
- Mrs. Putland.
21. In returning home, my daughter's carriage was searched, and every article brought to the house was examined, even the bundles of grass which were for the horses.
- Proposal to send Bligh Home.
22. On the next day, 28th, I received letter No. 9, † directing me to prepare to proceed to England in a merchant ship called the Gambier, and demanded to know when I would be ready to embark, which I answered by letter No. 10, ‡ refusing to comply with his commands, and demanded of him to declare categorically whether he meant to force me away.
- Porteous and the officers.
23. In the midst of these distresses I had the mortification to see Captain Porteous constantly at the barracks with the officers, and to consider all the officers of my ship were won over to the side of the rebels.
- Rev. Mr. Fulton.
24. It had been my custom to have the Rev. Mr. Fulton to perform Divine service every Sunday, but I was now obliged to ask for him, which is the purport of the letter No 11.§ This loyal man is peculiarly the object of their hatred, as he continued to refuse performing the functions of his office by any order from them.
- Bligh refuses to yield.
25. The rebels finding that under all these oppressions they could not induce me to give up the honor of my ship or receive any orders from them, they suffered me to remain quiet until the next day, the 30th—the martyrdom of King Charles—only very much annoyed by the sentinels, who, constantly heated with liquor, seemed to have been directed to bellow “All's well” with peculiar tones of hellish composition. On this remarkable day Major Johnston and Captain Abbott were sent by Colonel Paterson with a written message, No. 12,|| that, unless I caused all restrictions to be removed, by which I had prevented Captain Porteous from complying with his request that the Porpoise should go to Norfolk Island, they were instructed to remove me to a barrack until the period of my departure for England, where a servant would be appointed to attend me, and effectual measures taken to prevent orders being sent to the commander of the Porpoise.
- Paterson adopts strong measures.

\* Ante, p. 10. † Ante, p. 11. ‡ Ante, p. 11. § Ante, p. 12. || Ante, p. 12.

26. It is remarkable that, in the forenoon, before Major Johnston and Captain Abbott came to the house, Captain Porteous wrote a letter to me that, it having been verbally communicated to him, and it being also a matter of public notoriety, that it was the intention of the present Lieutenant-Governor to send me to England in the Admiral Gambier, he, therefore, requested I would give him directions how to act on so critical an event. This letter came through Colonel Paterson; and, as Captain Porteous had been thoroughly informed he was not to lose sight of me, I did not think it necessary to return an answer. Captain Porteous should have demanded my person, and in all cases kept himself apart from the rebels.

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Porteous asks for Bligh's orders.

27. But to return to Major Johnston and Captain Abbott, who had delivered the written message, and had required some time to recover themselves from the effect of first seeing me since the 26th of January, 1808, on so extraordinary a visit in my drawing-room, before the portraits of our beloved Majesties, which were veiled, I observed that it was a fortunate circumstance His Majesty saw nothing of the transaction. After Mr. Griffin, my secretary, had taken a copy of the message, which they refused to sign, but was compared with the original, I went to my daughter, and, reconciling all our feelings to our reputation, we parted; and, abhorring the idea of giving up my naval command, which now only remained with me, I refused to comply with their requisition, when—that their iniquity might be complete—Major Johnston forced me from Government House in a one-horse chaise. He had only drove me two hundred yards when I found my beloved child, under a vertical sun, running after me, having passed Captain Abbott, who told her she need not go for they would not let her in. Heedless of this, and despising such a want of common feeling of a human being, she got to the barrack when I did, and, seizing hold of my arm, we walked into it, passing Lieutenant-Colonel Foveaux, who came to direct Major Johnston where I was to be confined. This happened to be a subaltern's barrack. It consisted of two rooms, with a bed in one, and a sofa in the other. I had just got her to the sofa, when distress of mind, and the great heat she had passed through, overcame her; and when scarcely brought to recollection, Major Johnston came and delivered this message: "Sir,—I am directed by His Honor to inform you that you are to hold yourself in readiness to embark on board the *Estramina*, schooner, when she arrives." I asked him, "Where am I to go?" "I really cannot say," he replied, in what he fancied a terrifying voice, and he retired very much confused. A bustle took place in bringing two sentry-boxes to the back of the barrack. Three sentinels were placed over me, and I had permission to have a man-servant to attend me, and this was, I am informed, by a most infamous character, Serjeant Whittle, who only from that

Johnston and Abbott interview Bligh.

Bligh removed to a barrack.

Mrs. Putland accompanies him.

Bligh in close confinement.

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10 June. denomination induces me to name him. My daughter was told that if she went out she would not be allowed to return again; and her maid-servant was not permitted to come to her.
- Commissary  
Palmer. 28. This unlawful and brutal transaction was no sooner known than Mr. and Mrs. Palmer drove up in their carriage to demand admittance to me; but they were forced off violently by Sergeant Whittle and the sentinels, and particularly by a Sergeant Johns. Mr. Palmer then drove instantly to the Colonel's door, but got no explanation for what had been done. At this time Captain Porteous came out of the house and said, "What style we move in!"
- Bligh's  
prison. 29. Our dinner being brought to us, and a few other necessaries, we took it with much gratefulness, and at night I made my daughter's bed, and myself lying on a sofa in the adjoining room, we slept composedly.
- Parleying  
with Bligh. 30. The next day, 31st of January, I was again assailed by letters. Captain Porteous sent me one, open, by Major Johnston and Captain Abbott, with a copy of a letter which he had received from Colonel Paterson, and other inclosures tending to dispute. I replied to Colonel Paterson by No. 13,\* telling him Captain Porteous must act according to the rules of the service. This was followed by No. 14,† wherein Colonel Paterson demands to know whether His Majesty's ship Porpoise shall proceed to Norfolk Island. To this I plainly told him, by No. 15,‡ I was brought up to the barrack because I refused to give an order to Captain Porteous for His Majesty's ship Porpoise to proceed to Norfolk Island, and I still persisted in the same.
- Attendance  
on Bligh  
and his  
daughter. 31. Captain Abbott then came and informed me that two soldier-servants were to go to and from Government House for what we stood in need of (which they did, and always brought our meals), and one of their wives would attend Mrs. Putland. As she refused this insolent and lawless offer, the case was reconsidered, and her servant about her person was permitted to come, but not suffered to leave the barrack.
- Indignities  
offered to  
Bligh. 32. The extreme heat of the season obliged us to keep the front door frequently open, and those who passed came within ten yards of it. Every officer seemed to have orders, or to be afraid to pay me any respect, for they all passed without moving their hats.
- Lieutenant  
Draffin. 33. The succeeding day (1st of February), at an early hour, Lieutenant Draffin, who had been at the seizing my person on the 26th of January last year, and was very active among the officers, was attacked with violent insanity.
- Bligh to be  
sent Home 34. Another letter, No. 16,§ was again intruded on me, which stated that the ship Admiral Gambier was taken up for my conveyance to England, and would sail in fourteen days. It now

\* Ante, p. 12.

† Ante, p. 13.

‡ Ante, p. 13.

§ Ante, p. 14.

became evident that they *dreaded my presence in the colony*\* when succours arrived. As I had therefore much to consider how to avoid their machinations, I wrote letter No. 17,† and received letter No. 18‡ in reply. 1800  
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35. I now became tired of writing, and the following morning, Thursday, the 2nd, I sent for Captain Abbott to know if my daughter might be permitted to go out and in, and for me to have communication with my secretary. To this message he brought me word that unless I consented to the Porpoise sailing, no restraint would be taken off. I most positively refused this, and in consequence I received No. 19,§ a letter of dictatorial power, which I did not think deserving an answer. Bligh asks a  
favour.

36. No friend or person could come near me, and I saw myself deserted by the officers of my ship.

37. The next day, Friday, I was told that McArthur and Johnston were to proceed to England with me in the *Gambier*. To such company I strongly objected, in consequence of which, I have been informed, many ways were considered how to take me away—one of which was for the *Gambier*, after her departure for England, to bring to off Botany Bay, where I was to be carried by land in the still of the night, and embarked. However, it was laid aside, and the proposition marked No. 20|| was brought to me by Mr. Finucane, Colonel Foveaux's secretary, saying that Colonel Paterson saw no means of preventing my departure in the *Admiral Gambier* with McArthur and Major Johnston unless I went Home in the *Porpoise* under the conditions herein specified; in which case, if I consented, I might return to Government House. In answer to this I sent word I should consider it. Uncongenial  
shipmates.  
  
Paterson  
offers an  
alternative.

38. The general artifice of the rebels produced daily, and sometimes hourly, an extension of my mind to counteract them which is past description; even eating my victuals after the manner they were brought caused an apprehension of unnatural consequences, and which I afterwards found has been expected by many. Bligh's sus-  
picious.

39. The object of the proposition came now under my consideration. I found the presentation of it, and the fulfilment thereof, contrary to all political, moral, or religious precepts, and the duty I owed to my King. Paterson's  
proposal.

40. The design of the rebels to force me away in a merchantman was now become a most desirable object, as succours to me were daily expected; and the only means I had of avoiding it was to sign the paper, No. 21,¶ which was presented to me by Captain Abbott and Mr. Finucane, with Colonel Paterson's signature affixed to it, as by getting possession of my ship I was enabled to remain in or about the territory, which was all I had in my power to do for the good of the country. Bligh  
accepts his  
terms.

\* The *italics* are Bligh's.

† Antè, p. 14.  
‡ Antè, p. 16.

§ Antè, p. 14.  
¶ Antè, p. 17.

§ Antè, p. 15.



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Return to  
Government  
House.

41. Circumstances being so far settled on the 4th February, our carriage was sent for and we proceeded to Government House, where I was confined under three sentinels as before.

42. The arrangements for our embarking on the 20th became necessary, for I had the greatest reason to believe they repeated of their conduct to my going on board.

Witnesses to  
go to  
England.

43. On the 7th February, three days after I had left the barrack, I received letter No. 22 from Colonel Paterson, informing me he enclosed one from Major Johnston, naming the witnesses he meant to take Home, and one letter of mine, written soon after the rebellion, at the time I was to have been forced Home in the Dart in March, 1808,\* when positive assertions from the rebels (which I have since found were only meant to harrass me) fluctuated my opinions.

Officers  
engaging in  
trade.

44. During my residence in Government House to the time of my embarking, I received accounts daily of various improper proceedings. The articles for barter in the store were confined to the officers, who retailed them at immense profit; the provisions which had been sent out from England were neglected, and lay exposed to the weather in the street and jail yard; and a visionary government, replete with every illicit practices and violent measures, to the dread of every loyal person, continued to cause considerable uneasiness. I have little doubt, my Lord, you will receive mild and complacent letters from Colonel Paterson, as if everything he does is through absolute necessity; but I feel it my duty to say that, whether he has acted by the opinions of others—which I expect will hereafter be pleaded—or by his own, he has exceeded what I have met with since the rebellion from Major Johnston and Colonel Foveaux.

Colonel  
Paterson's  
treatment  
of Bligh.Land grants  
to naval  
officers.

45. To influence my officers, he has given Captain Porteous, Lieutenant Oxley, and Mr. Kent, late Acting-Commander, grants of one thousand acres of land each, which they have been weak enough to consider valid; and of the Purser he has purchased a house for about three hundred pounds, paid for in cattle; and every indulgence and attention was shewn to them to accomplish the end of disuniting the ship from me.

Bligh takes  
possession  
of the  
Porpoise.

46. The day of my embarkation being arrived, the sentinels had orders not to interrupt my proceeding to my boat, and I went on board and took possession of my ship, which I had been single-handed working to accomplish for nearly thirteen months under unheard of difficulties.

Officers and  
privates.

47. A number of officers of the Corps were at the guard-house, which I had to pass; and, while they paid me not the smallest respect, the privates of the guard turned out of their own accord, touching their caps.

Commissary  
Palmer.

\* This letter—dated 25th March—is printed on p. 547 of vol. vi. Johnston's letter—dated 3rd February, 1809—is printed on p. 16, ante. Paterson's letter No. 22 was merely a covering letter, and is omitted.

48. Mr. Commissary Palmer having refused to comply with various requests to arrange particular parts of his accounts, and shew the debts due by Government, in order that bills might be drawn for their liquidation, Colonel Paterson thought proper to prevent his returning to England; in consequence of which I wrote the letter, No. 23,\* demanding no obstruction to be thrown in his way, and was answered by letter No. 24†—a letter conspicuous in his correspondence for mutiny and impertinence. 1809  
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49. I heard no further from him until a fortnight afterwards, when I received a letter, No. 25,‡ offering me certain papers and arms which had been taken from me on the 26th of January, 1808, which I did not think proper to accept or return an answer; and since the receipt of this I have not been troubled with any more letters. Bligh's  
papers and  
arms.

50. You have now, my Lord, the general transactions up to my getting myself out of the hands of as presumptuous a set of rebels as ever existed, whose minds are replete with every art and dissimulation; but although thus far in a state of liberty, yet circumstances led me to doubt of preserving it, for my ship appeared to be still theirs, as secretly visitors of the rebel party came on board to my officers. Their intimacy became stronger every day, and Captain Porteous told me they had nothing to do with what had happened on shore. The Porpoise  
in Sydney  
Harbour.

51. From undoubted information of my friends, I was assured that the act of the rebels permitting me to be out of their custody was much regretted by them, for that I should have been kept as a hostage. Plans were now in agitation to get hold of my person by boarding with a number of the New South Wales Corps, which, with the ship not being ready for sea, and not having a person on whom I could rely, was not at all impossible. I therefore made up my mind to leave Port Jackson for this place, where my authority equally existed over the territory, until succours might arrive from your Lordship; and where I have directed Mr. Com'y Palmer to send me information upon the event taking place, in case they should arrive there first. This I thought the most profitable way of employing my time, as I knew your Lordship wished me to see the settlement. In consequence, I sailed on the 17th of March, leaving with Mr. Palmer a proclamation for each master of the merchant ships, declaring the New South Wales Corps and others in rebellion, as in enclosure K,§ and forbidding them, at their peril, to take any of the persons therein mentioned out of the colony. Bligh,  
fearing a  
surprise,  
sails for the  
Derwent  
  
Proclama-  
tion  
entrusted  
to Palmer.

52. In such a difficult situation as I have been placed, and the multitudinous papers I have received, your Lordship, I hope, will excuse all irregularity or deficiency of information; and I beg leave to transmit, in addition to those papers I have already named, an address from the loyal civil officers and gentlemen Addresses  
from civil  
officers and  
settlers.

\* Ante, p. 46.

† Ante, p. 45.

‡ Ante, p. 63.

§ Ante, p. 66.

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at Sydney,\* under impressions of my returning to England, which with the addresses of the free settlers of Baulkham Hills† and Hawkesbury‡ will, I hope, give all the information immediately necessary; for by the dread and horror which the people have been kept in, they have distrusted each other, to make up for which I have had their loyalty expressed by many separate letters, as stated to your Lordship in the beginning of this despatch.

Arrival and reception at the Derwent.

53. It was on the 29th of March we arrived here, after thirteen days' passage, and the next day proceeding further up the harbour, I sent an officer to wait on Colonel Collins, and wrote to him a note announcing my arrival. He soon after waited on me. The next morning, Friday, the 31st, I landed under the necessary salutes, and was received by the Colonel, Lieutenant Lord of the Marines, Mr. William Collins, Naval Officer, the Rev. Mr. Knopwood, and the Royal Marines under arms, and with cheers from the few poor inhabitants.

Collins and his officers.

54. On my entering Government House, Colonel Collins presented me with a state of the settlement; but I did not see the rest of the civil officers, at which, expressing my surprise, he appointed the morrow for introducing them to me. After a short stay I returned on board. In the afternoon Mr. Humphrey, the Mineralogist, waited on me to pay his respects on behalf of the civil officers who had been absent, and had deputed him to assure me that their non-attendance at my landing had been occasioned by Colonel Collins telling them there was no necessity, and at which they felt extremely hurt, thinking it to have been done with design to give me an unfavourable opinion of them. Such impressions I endeavoured to remove, and assured him that I would see them the next day, which took place; but Mr. Bate, Judge-Advocate was not allowed to appear, nor Mr. Harris, the surveyor, the latter being under arrest.

Government House at Hobart.

55. On the 8th of April I occupied Government House, a poor miserable shell, with three rooms, the walls a brick thick, and neither wind nor water proof, lately built, and without conveniences. Colonel Collins was in it on my arrival, but he insisted on removing to a house equally convenient. My daughter was now in a very weak state, which required her to be removed from the ship, while I was under the necessity to sleep on board every night.

Bligh and Collins.

56. That the utmost cordiality might subsist between Colonel Collins and myself, I desired him to consider that I should not interfere in his internal arrangements, and in no other way but with respect to the Norfolk Island settlers, concerning whom your Lordship would expect particular accounts.

57. I then requested of him to show me the country; but he excused himself, and gave directions to Lieutent Lord to accompany me, and with this officer I made only one visit.

\* Ante, p. 44.

† Ante, p. 46.

‡ Ante, p. 78.

58. As time advanced, there appeared something very suspicious. I could get no opinion from Colonel Collins. He would hear everything, but say very little; and in particular parts of etiquette, he was inattentive, as likewise in decorum.

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10 June.

Collins's bearing.

59. A ship called the Hunter being about to depart for Port Jackson when I came here, Colonel Collins had written to me by her. The letter was in consequence redelivered, and is enclosure N.\* This letter states that he had entered into an engagement with Mr. Campbell upwards of two years since to supply the settlement from India with three hundred head of cattle, and that two hundred and forty-five having been delivered safe from the Hunter on Government account, he requested I would do him the honor to sanction the proceeding. I acknowledged personally to Colonel Collins receiving this letter; but I could not possibly approve of a transaction which was without my knowledge, and contrary to your Lordship's instructions, by which I should have supplied the settlement from Port Dalrymple. Besides, the contract was unwisely made, or not fulfilled; for by bringing these poor, miserable Bengal cattle here in the beginning of winter, instead of the summer, the deaths which I observed had taken place would continue, and reduce them to a very small number; and at the time of the contract, likewise, the evacuation of Norfolk Island being not in contemplation, it would have had no influence in making it.

Cattle from India.

An unwise move.

60. On the 23rd of April the ship *Æolus* arrived from Sydney, and a day or two afterwards a rebel *Gazette* was circulated, which had been brought down from thence, wherein a proclamation† by Colonel Paterson declared me proscribed, and forbid any person having communication with me, my family, establishment, retinue, or with any person known to be in my confidence. This *Gazette* I enclose, as one of the most consummate proofs of ignorance and villainy ever produced. Its intention seemed designed to show that I was distinct from my ship, and that what was applied to me was not to be considered attached to my officers and crew—that is, His Majesty's ship.

Paterson's proclamation.

61. The proclamation having become public, I lost not a moment in communicating with Colonel Collins. The ideas he formed on it he did not disclose, but I told him I should issue a counter proclamation. The printing press he had was to be used for the purpose; but when it was to be put in use the ink was missing, and there was every reason to believe it had been taken away the night before with design, which deprived me of the convenience, and I was obliged to write the necessary number of copies that were to be distributed, the first of them, of which the enclosure P‡ is a copy, I sent to Colonel Collins with letter, telling him my intentions; and on the printing-ink being taken away I wrote

Bligh issues a counter proclamation.

\* Ante, p. 89.

† Ante, p. 81.

‡ Ante, p. 108.

1800

10 June.

Collins  
refuses to  
circulate  
Bligh's pro-  
clamation.

to him letter No. 3,\* directing the proclamation I had sent him to be circulated. Finding some latent objections were against this proceeding, I sent a written order, No. 4,† to have my proclamation read in the public Town-place, which Colonel Collins refused, as stated in letter of his, No. 5.‡ This letter informs me he had convened the officers of the settlement, and that it appeared to them and to himself highly improper to publish my proclamation; but Mr. Fosbrook, Deputy-Commissary, Mr. S. Anson, Surgeon, Mr. Bowden, Assistant-Surgeon, and Mr. Humphrey, Mineralogist, were not allowed to give their opinions, and Colonel Collins, Lieutenant Lord, Mr. Knopwood, and Mr. Collins, Naval Officer, had determined on the opposition before they met. I was informed of this by Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Fosbrook, who begged I would not consider them as agreeing to Colonel Collins's letter and refusal to publish my proclamation, and I wrote letter No. 6§ to show the disobedience of my orders.

The officers  
divided.

News from  
Sydney.

62. On the 19th of May the Pegasus, Chase master, arrived from Sydney with convicts, and by her I found Colonel Collins had received orders from Colonel Paterson respecting his proclamation; but, not hearing from him, I wrote on the 22nd No. 7,|| out of motives of humanity, to guard him against putting in force such proclamation, as I had heard from my friends at Sydney that the rebels there had intimation of succours being on the way here to remove the New South Wales Corps, and that serious examples would be made of the officers. On his receiving this letter he gave my officer, who had delivered it, No. 8,¶ dated the day before, vauntingly inclosing a printed copy of Colonel Paterson's infamous proclamation and his General Order putting it in force to the utmost of his power.

Collins  
breaks with  
Bligh.

63. In the letter to which I beg leave to draw your Lordship's attention, he throws off all obedience to me.

64. The duplicity of this officer was now seen through by me, and there is not a shadow of doubt that, if I had not retired from the shore, he would have had me under confinement similar to that I had been in before.

A sentinel  
removed.

65. On the 24th of April Colonel Collins dined with us, as he frequently had done during the fortnight we had been on shore; but before dinner I found the sentinel before my door had been taken away, and it had been reported on board, by Lieutenant Breedon of the Marines, before I knew of it. On asking Colonel Collins the reason of this, he said that his men had fallen sick, and he had forgot to mention it to me; but this was not the case, and the sentinel was still kept on at his own house. The next morning I removed my daughter again to the ship, very little restored in strength, from the effects of what she had long suffered.

\* Ante, p. 112.

† Ante, p. 113.

‡ Ante, p. 125.

§ Ante, p. 125.

|| Ante, p. 152.

¶ Ante, p. 150.

66. In addition to this transaction of removing the sentinel, the very next day, the 25th, a General Order, of which the enclosure Q\* is a copy (the original of which I have got), was stuck up, forbidding any person from addressing Governor Bligh by letter or petition without the previous knowledge of the Governor of the settlement, in default of which the person offending would be brought before the magistrates to answer for the same,—signed “DAVID COLLINS, L't.-Gov'r.”

1809

10 June.

An obnoxious order.

67. Nothing, perhaps, could have been more fortunate than my removal on board my ship, as from her I could have expected no relief.

68. With respect to the hackneyed expressions, of politeness in his letter, I am bound to notice the second paragraph, where he regrets that his wishes to promote my personal convenience had not been successful, and that his house had not for four weeks been of that accommodation for which the use of it was requested.

Collins's polite expressions.

69. The sentinel being taken away, and the General Order just mentioned, are two reasons for my quitting Government House; but a very principal private reason exists also, and that was—walking with his kept woman (a poor, low creature) arm-in-arm about the town, and bringing her almost daily to his office adjoining the house, directly in view of my daughter. As a military offence this was very great; but it was in a moral and civil point of view as great an insult as could be offered. He should not be surprised, therefore, at my avoiding it.

Immorality in high places.

70. His third paragraph alludes to an order (inclosure R)† which I thought proper to give for all boats except the Lieutenant-Governor's to come within hail of the ship, as it was highly necessary to the fulfilment of my duty while I remained in the port.

The order concerning boats.

71. Lieutenant Lord of the Marines had early been the subject of conversation between Colonel Collins and myself. He had been at Sydney while I was a prisoner there, and was a friend of the rebels. I found, likewise, he has Colonel Foveaux's appointment to act as a magistrate, and he returned with a free pardon to a convict woman of infamous character, who he immediately was married to under Colonel Collins's special license, by Mr. Knopwood, the Chaplain. The pardon being given by Colonel Foveaux, of course his wife is still a convict.

Lieutenant Lord.

72. Under all these circumstances, and various other accounts, I found this place to be Sydney in miniature. All the indulgencies were put into the hands of a few to accumulate wealth, and the poor the sufferers.

Hobart.

73. Upon what principle Colonel Collins has done it I know not; but a Mr. Collins‡ has been appointed Naval Officer at fifteen

William Collins.

\* Ante, p. 101.

† Ante, p. 149.

‡ This was William Collins, who came out with Lieutenant-Governor Collins in the expedition intended to settle Port Phillip—vol. v, p. 252.

1869  
10 June. shillings a day, who, in partnership with Lieutenant Lord, professedly keeps a shop, and engross the advantages of trade to the great injury of the settlement.

Buildings at  
Hobart.

74. Mr. Collins is also called "Superintendent of Public Works"; but except Government House, which is a miserable specimen of his art, here is nothing done but a shell of a building called an Orphan School, alternately used for the shelter of cattle and men; a blacksmith's shop; a deplorable house in the lumber yard, under the shed of which Divine service is performed; a new brick store began, but the walls only raised about ten feet, and remaining in that state; and an old storehouse, built with plank and thatched since the beginning of the settlement, that does not contain half the Government provisions, the other part lying constantly exposed to the weather. The other buildings of the town are merely huts with two or three rooms; of such habitations there are about two hundred. Between them runs a very fine rivulet, on which several water mills may be erected; one only, however, is building, and belongs to Mr. Collins and Lieutenant Lord.

Settlement  
on the  
Derwent.

75. I am sorry, my Lord, to see that my visit here is not attended with the good consequences it might have been. The country, I think, will turn out very well for agriculture, and in some places the produce of grain is great. It is very hilly, covered with wood, but all parts are very accessible except the interior high mountains. I have seen the settlement of New Town, about two miles from this, where Government has a small farm. It is a pretty part of the country, and has the only fine fresh water rivulet besides Hobart Town in this neighbourhood.

The water  
supply.

76. In the winter months all the valleys have more or less fresh water in them, but the scarcity of it in some places has induced the settlers to sink wells.

The  
harbour.

77. The harbour is in every respect commodious for ships, and it appears at present to me that the settlement as holding a Lieutenant-Governor will hereafter be found to render none necessary at Port Dalrymple, which, however, may be kept as a post if causes require it, and intercourse can be had by land.

Norfolk  
Islanders.

78. The number of the late inhabitants of Norfolk Island now here are one hundred and ninety six men, one hundred and seven women, two hundred and seventeen children, and fifteen prisoners. These poor people say they suffered and are still suffering the greatest hardships. I have visited many of them, and their situations, I assure your Lordship, do not contradict their assertions. They complain of not being recompensed for their losses, but became sensible of my admonitions to bear them with fortitude until they could be relieved, which a regular government would speedily do. I have brought them to consider, also, that their misfortunes are solely to be attributed to the rebellion, and not to

Colonel Collins, as he had but little in his power to grant them ; and should it be His Majesty's commands that I remain in this Government, they shall immediately come under my attention. 1800  
10 June.

79. The people in general having, according to custom, intended to address me on my arrival, they drew up one which was left at a house for signature, but the owner became the object of suspicion. He was put to prison by Lieutenant Lord, who tore the address. Nevertheless a respectful address by a few has been conveyed on board to me since Colonel Collins's prohibition, and of which the inclosure S\* is a copy. An address  
from the  
inhabitants.

80. It was with much fear Mr. Palmer wrote a letter by the Pegasus, informing me of the outrage committed by the rebels on himself and Mr. Hook, a gentleman from India, who arrived about nine months' since. They were brought before a Bench of Magistrates, and then a Criminal Court, for delivering my proclamation mentioned in paragraph 51† ; and, upon their refusing to plead, they sentenced Mr. Palmer to three months' imprisonment, and Mr. Hook to one month, each to pay a fine of fifty pounds. That such loyal subjects should be under the persecution of these monsters of iniquity is truly deplorable. They have borne their imprisonment with great fortitude, looking forward to that return of justice from their country which alone has supported their minds under a long trial of resistance to unlawful measures put in severe course against them. Palmer and  
Hook

81. From these gentlemen I have learnt that the Gambier has sailed from Port Jackson with Major Johnson, McArthur, Surgeon Harris, Surgeon Jamison, and Walter Davidson. I mention this circumstance that the master of the Gambier, Edward Harrison, may be taken with the others wherever they may be found. The Gambier  
sails.

82. I send these dispatches by the Æolus, Robert Addie master, a merchant ship, bound to London, who I hope will prove faithful to the trust reposed in him. A number of private letters being sent to me, I beg your Lordship's pardon in placing them in the same box for security, as the different individuals have solicited. The mails.

83. I now remain, my Lord, under the most embarrassed situation that can be conceived, in a small ship, without power to relieve myself, but which I am reconciled to in doing my duty to the utmost, and conscious of the support I shall receive from your Lordship.

I have, &c.,

W'M BLIGH.

P.S.—I have omitted to mention, my Lord, that the Duke of Portland and Æolus, transports, arrived at Port Jackson in the month of January, and that whatever despatches were sent by them the rebels seized, as they had done before.—W'M BLIGH. Despatches  
seized.

\* Ante, p. 151.

† Ante, p. 177.