

D.
Allan
to
Col.
McMahon

18489-90

Hobgoland 5th Sept. 1811.

Dear Sir

Lieut. Governor Hamilton ever anxious to promote my welfare, has by this Packet recommended me through Mr. Harrison to the Lords of the Treasury to the appointment of Agent for the Light House of this Island. Your kind support and influence would add much to his recommendation. I have taken the liberty of inclosing a copy of his letter on the subject (inclosure A No 1)

Whilst I had the charge of the old Coal Light the heavy expenditure attending the same struck me forcibly and in 1809 I submitted for the consideration of Government at different times the great advantage that would be derived from the substituting of an Oil in lieu of a Coal Light, which substitution was subsequently made, and is now the cause of a saving of upwards of £2,000 per Ann. In obtaining the Governor's support with a view to have the change carried into effect, I had to encounter much opposition arising from the strong prejudices of the Natives and other Individuals on the Island. By persevering however I was ultimately successful and have now the gratification of seeing the New Light House an ornament to the Island and
Colonel McMahon perhaps
per

perhaps the first in the World, and I am still more gratified at having been the means of so great a saving to the Public. I also at different times pointed out to Government the propriety of Tolls being collected here for the Light, and which last year amounted to upwards of £500 (inclosure B.N.^o 245)

For what I have done I never expected or should have asked for any remuneration, conceiving it no more than my Duty, had it not been that Others and whose duties are comparatively trifling to those which I executed under the Old Light, and which I will now be called upon to perform should the appointment of Agent take place, the one Mr. Fredericks Keeper of the Light being paid a Salary of £200 per annum and the other Mr. Brown the Harbour Master being allowed 20 per cent. for collecting the Tolls, which in some Months has yielded him £40 per Month what is remarkable, these two Gentlemen were perhaps the most hostile to the change, yet they have reaped all the advantages, and left me all the trouble.

I trust therefore that the liberality of the Treasury will grant me an equitable allowance in the event of my being named Agent, as I humbly conceive my Claims are at least equally great as theirs.

By the inclosed Abstracts which form but a small part of my Correspondence you will be able to form some opinion of the great trouble I have had, and the pains I have taken respecting the

the Light House, besides which I have to mention that I have constantly the Comptrolling and receiving of the Tolls, and that with a view to bring the Negotiation with Hamburg to a close, I have been twice on the Continent for that purpose and have had a discussion with Commodore Brunswick at Cuxhaven on the part of the Senate, during which I was made prisoner by a party of French Dragoons who unexpectedly entered the Town, was marched into the Country, and procured my release only by a considerable Ransom which never was charged to Government (B.N.^o 245)

I trust that in taking all these circumstances into consideration you will be of opinion that my claims in this instance are well founded, and my expectations neither presumptuous nor unreasonable and I have most respectfully to entreat you, to use your interest with their Lordships in procuring me the situation with an adequate Salary attached thereto.

I know not how to apologise for the length of this Letter, but I have found it impossible to compress it into a smaller space. But throwing myself entirely on your goodness and liberality. I do assure you with the greatest Truth, that I ever remain with unalterable sentiments of the highest Esteem and Respect

Dear Sir
Your most grateful
and most devoted
humble Servant
David Allan

5 Sept. 1811