

Sr Robt. Barclay to Col. McKeaton

A.A. No. 401

21307-8  
Private

Mauritius 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 1814.

My very Dear Friend,

All your unabated Kindness, Friendship and Favour to your unfortunate friend had nearly been lost for ever. — after a very tedious, but favourable Voyage to these Colonies I was, from ignorance & incapacity of the Captain of the Dea burch Castle Wrecked on the Coast of this Island in the Night of the 30<sup>th</sup> of last Month:

Fortunately & miraculously we have saved our Lives; not a Soul perished, owing to the vigilance of the Fishing Boats, & the kind, benevolent Humanity and exertion of our Excellent Governor and also of my relation the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Troops in this Colony, Sir Alexander Campbell: —

I enter into no particulars; we are safe, thanks to Divine Providence: My Daughter / who is yet in Bed at Lady Campbell's / behaved like a Heroine at the fatal Moment. My beloved wife will

Yours Affly John McKeaton R: R: R: explain

to Mr. McMahon all the particulars of this dreadful  
catastrophe. I will not affect you now or at any  
time by the relation of it: - I will endeavour to  
forget every circumstance attending this sad affliction,  
my Health & spirits require I should do so; for the  
sake of my unhappy wife & children, alas! I have  
left behind:.. we had but just time to save ourselves  
from our Beds when the Ship struck on the coral  
Banks: Judge of my distress: I have lost nearly  
the whole of my valuable Effects; in fact all the  
Comforts that I had (with great economy & expense  
scraped together in London: if, I know the  
Heart & Kindness of our worthy Governor (from what  
I have already experienced from him,) He is doing  
all in his Power by his dispatches this Day to Eng<sup>d</sup>  
to request the favor of Lord Bathurst to afford me  
some relief by way of <sup>immediate</sup> remuneration for my very

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heavy Exp: I have myself written to Mr Goulbourn  
the Under Secy of State to lay my deplorable Case ~~at~~  
before Lord Bathurst: His Lordship was even disposed  
at the moment of my departure from Eng.<sup>d</sup> to listen to  
my last application to Him, & that was, to allow me  
an additional Salary of £500 p<sup>a</sup> and for House Rent  
&c. I stand in need greatly of this, from the proper & excessive  
high price of Rent every Article of subsistence in  
these Colonies; but this, I leave to the breast of Lord  
Bathurst to admit or refuse: my present application  
is the most pressing, I know, & have the long experience  
of your Heart & Kindness, & that you will through  
the benevolent recommendation of my illustrious Patron  
H.R.H. the Prince Regent do all in your Power to  
forward my own & Governor Farguhars application <sup>now</sup>  
<sup>made</sup> to Lord Bathurst; if his Lordship would kindly admit  
that my Salary & percentage of my office to commence  
from the Day of my Appointment in England or <sup>in lieu</sup>  
<sup>from the Day of my arrival here</sup> it will nearly cover the expence of my heavy Exp. —

I have the Satisfaction to inform you that my present  
situation here is the most responsible & the most laborious  
of any in the colony, but I have entered into it with  
spirit, to fulfil the intentions of Lord Bathurst which  
his Lordship has been pleased to express in his dispatches  
to our excellent Governor, of my Capacity & Abilities to  
perform my important duties. — They shall not be disap-  
pointed; nor above all, (if I have life & Health,) I  
will not discredit the illustrious Patronage that I have  
so generously & graciously received from H. R. H.; and  
sure I am, that I will endeavour to merit the distinguished  
friendship you have always so warmly & so effectively  
shewn to; My Dear Friend;

Yr. most devoted, attached  
& obliged humble servant  
Robert Barclay

My warmest regards & affection attend your amiable  
Lady. The Commission in favor of Mrs. Leiseck will be  
attended to, if I have any power on this Island.

In Rob. Barclay  
12. 27. 1714