Sir John Jamieson to Col. McMahon

A.A. No. 563

21716 – 7

Regentville New South Wales
June 27th 1815

My dear Sir

I have used the freedom to enclose for your perusal Governor Macquaries Narrative of a Tour he made (throughout which I accompanied him) over the Blue Mountains to the new discovered tract of Country. Mr Evans one of the Land Surveyors who the Governor dispatched to explore the Country to the westward the Day we left Bathurst returned here yesterday after having penetrated 115 Miles due West from the limits of our tour. He reports that the whole extent of his Journey exhibited the most fertile and luxuriant Landscape he ever beheld. The soil generally rich loam the Hills of gentle character the Valleys affording excellent pasturage and all well watered either by

The Right Honble John McMahon &c &c

by Brooks Rivulets or chains of Ponds, the general face of the country thinly wooded, but several of the Trees of new character & considerable size Pines 40 feet without a branch & they &c. At 60 Miles distance he discovered the greatest abundance of very superior Lime Stone.

Through the whole extent of his travels he saw immense numbers of Kangaroos, Emus, Wild Geese and Duck to what ever Bathurst Plains produces. He also brought with him some of the finest Manna I ever beheld, which he says can be collected off the grass in any quantity but which I suppose exudes from the Trees. At the end of his Journey he discovered a large new River which continued its course through this fine extent of level country as far as his

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21717

sight could follow it from the greatest eminence he could look from. The River he says abounded with large Fish but as snow lay on some of the adjoining Hills he could not get them to take bait. He saw the natives in more numerous Tribes here than elsewhere, but they were so much alarmed for him, that he seldom got near them, however from what he observed they differed but little in character from those we have about us, with the exception of being covered with Kangaroo Skins.

I have several young black Swans & Emus in training for the voyage to England a pair of each I hope to get Home in Safety in order that I may have the pleasure of sending them to you.

To send them before I go my self would be only the Same, as without the directing care of those interested in their Safety they seldom reach

reach England, and even if they should survive the voyage they are not always delivered to whom they were sent. As Seeds will suffer from keeping I have taken the liberty to send Mrs McMahon a few from the new Country accompanying the same number of Copies entrusted to a friend to deliver them to Mrs William Rodrian.

On my arrival I must encourage Mrs McMahon to have a small Museum of her own.

I say on my arrival but I fear the State of this Colony will yet require my presence at least six months longer to enable the settlement of my affairs in even a half satisfactory way. For really my Property here is so extensive, that all the means of the Colonists here at present cannot purchase it even at a reduced valuation. And the Judges and the Jurors having dispersed

No. 563

21718-2

differed so materially that no Courts have been opened for civil causes since my arrival, nor is it likely they will open until the matters in dispute shall be referred to England and answers received. This state of our civil jurisdiction consequently retards my success in collecting my debts in a very material degree. However the policy of the line of conduct I adopted towards my Debtors has made me more successful in obtaining part payments & substantial securities than could have been anticipated.

If I am not able to dispose of my Property here I shall be at least able to let my disposable Land to tolerable advantage, and I hope to be able to reduce my Horned Cattle & Horses in the course of six months to certain limited stock by the former to 500 and the latter to 40 leaving those breed Herds on my stock Farms under trustworthy care, to be disposed of when over offers are made equal to my terms of disposal.

Macquarrie

Perhaps after my arrival in England, I may make my mind up to retire to this country for good as I am more pleased with its climate than any other I know, and I have already seen quite enough of the world to be satisfied with the very comfortable retirement my means here afford me. However more on this subject when I may have the pleasure of seeing you in England.

I have just heard that some new arrangements have been made in the order of the Bath, which is to include all belonging to the Army & Navy in some of its gradations who have received the honor of Knighthood for their services during the present war. If such arrangements have really been made I feel confident your considerate & disinterested friendship will not see me (tho' so far distant) left out if my

claims and your powerful interest comes within the new regulations of the order.

 I have written to the Admiralty for a renewal of my leave of absence, which I trust under all the favourable pacific state of Europe will not be denied me.

We have just heard of the conclusion of peace with America. I hope it is an honourable for us (indeed I have no doubt of the contrary) and will be satisfied.

Your Protégé here Mr Foster is doing very well, and his conscientious proper conduct entitles him to a continuation of your generous success.

I am sorry to say Mr Allan & Governor Macquarie are in very bad terms, the Governor rests his conduct on Mr A becoming a large Proprietor of cattle so as to supply the Government stores almost exclusively to the great injury of the settlers: and in violation of the Commissariat regulations.

I beg my best & most respectful compts to Mrs McMahon

And have the honor to subscribe my self

My dear Sir your ever obliged, devoted Humble Servt John Jamieson

Macquarie

In John Jameson
June 27. 1815