

Theodore Hook to Col. Keblehow

21289-90

Private

Recd. at
Manchester Jan. 12. 1744

My dear Sir
The many marks of kindness I have received at your hands have almost flattered me with a belief that you will not be displeas'd to hear of my safe arrival and subsequent comfortable establishment in this Colony - In addition to the Office of Treasurer and Accountant General Governor Sargant has appointed me his Private Secretary and the reception I have met with here exceeds the most sanguine hopes I could have entertain'd even from his goodness and the warm intentions which were so kindly made for me at Home.

I will not take up your valuable time with anything like a description of this beautiful Island - Its Climate, Scenery, local advantages and general beauty are such that a residence here is incalculably desirable and its relation to the English Possessions in India it appears as a Colony in political importance inferior to none.

The Power of whom I have heard you speak has been distinguishing himself in his new Office of Collector of Customs at Boston and for his sake I hope the distinctions may prove favourable; The measures he has taken to obtain it while they show the warmth of his Heart betray rather an intemperance of disposition - The Fact is that in consequence

of the absence of any of His Majesty's Ships from these Seas
 strong suspicions have been entertained that the Slave Trade
 is still carried on in these Colonies, indeed the proximity to
 Madagascar (one of the chief markets for Human Steaks) the
 facility of debarkation, the general habits of the Colonists to
 about the positive value of the commodity are strong reasons
 for its existence, but Governor Targuhen has so strictly and
 energetically followed up his avowed determinations with
 respect to the administration of the Abolition Acts, that many
 new Slaves have been actually seized, the purchasers and
 owners identified and the cases brought before the Tribunals here
 which have been declared by His Majesty's Ministers a competent
 Jurisdiction. - In all these proceedings the Targuhen has been
 strictly governed by the professional advice and opinions of
 the Judicial Officers and the Attorney General and the regularity
 with which they have been conducted, and the opportunity
 of vindication which has been afforded consequently to the innocent
 have gained the hearts of the people and not a murmur has
 been heard on the Subject.

at Bourbon similar suspicions were
 entertained by Mr Power - but his measures were widely
 different - that he proceeded zealously none will deny -
 that he acted prudently as few will maintain - he applied
 to the Lieutenant Governor Col Keating of the Bourbon Regt

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In a military force which that gentleman thought proper
I grant and place under his immediate command. With
these troops unoffic'd and of course unaccept'd by Pow
took upon himself without warrant. Prohibited any
legal authority whatever to enter dwelling houses. and search
even the women's bed chambers for new Slaves - In this search not
having been successful they carried off to Prison 20 or 30 miles
across the country to Saint Denis several of the white taxers
and then the Lieutenant Governor established a new Tribunal
which he called a Committee empowering them to summon
betwixt and take evidence making by Powrie the most interested
person in the region one of the Quorum. These proceedings in
open defiance of the regular Laws confirmed by the people
and approved by His Royal Majesty the Prince Regent in the
name of His Majesty which Laws were regularly then administered
in the established Courts alarmed the proprietors who began
to imagine that domestic violence and martial law were
to be established and a strong disposition to revolt manifest
thence that the Lieut. Governor took active measures for the
disposition of troops to quell it. however Mr. Ferguson issued
a proclamation which has had the effect of opening the mind
of the Colonists and which while it offers protection to the lowest
while free from guilt expresses very strongly the impartiality of

regard with which the Laws are to take their course against
any of those who are convicted of or implicated in any of those
reform speculations so revolted to every feeling of Humanity:

Mr Power is a man of strong mind and warm passions, he
may at present see all this differently, indeed it must have
had great effect upon him for he has quitted his post at
Bombay and come hither to argue the ^{incompetency} ~~incompetency~~ and the
inability of the French Tribunals to take measure as an English
Act of Parliament - I wish he may get well through all
the prosecutions he is threatened with for though as a politician
I am proud to say I must war at variance with Mr Power
yet as an individual he is very popular and has received
in consequence of the favorable opinions made on his first
annual very much of esteem and personal friendship from
the Governor.

I can of course have no news to offer to you except the
melancholy intelligence of the loss of Messrs. Boardman, Paines
Went and Stirling passengers on the Sumner destined for the coast
service here who were all drowned in attempting to quit Madagascar
in a passage - They had been left there by mistake and were sailing
anxious to gain their point by reaching the Island, as accounts
have been forwarded of this unhappy business and the reasons
and of the Governor I conclude you are in possession of the facts

My Lord Mordaunt had here some time in his long
to India Mr Lushington had taken his departure previously to

21291

my arrival but from all I hear I trust he will not give
an unfavorable account of this dear little island

The military here are in high spirits at the admirable
letter of The Prince Regent to Lord Wellington. Such a document
gives redoubled value even to the gift which it accompanied
and does the highest credit to the Head and Heart of the
Illustration writer - it breathes all that nobleness of spirit
and refinement of feeling inherent in his nature - long
may he live to enjoy the Triumphs of his General, of the
Affection of his People:

I had the pleasure to dine with the 8th last
it was with infinite satisfaction I saw upon their Table
presented to them by you - thus even in this remote
the world exist proofs of your liberality and I do assure you
it was not only with my self I drank the donors health from
this time.

With many apologies for thus trespassing and
my best compliments to Mr Macmahon believe me

dears Sir

Yours most faithfully and gratefully

D. M. O. K.

To
The Hon^{ble} Col. Macmahon

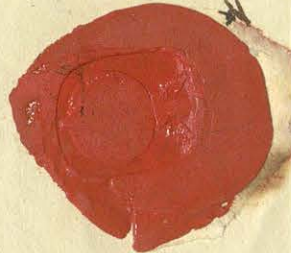
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P.S. - might I request the
favor of you should the
accompanying packet be
forwarded.

Private

To
The Right Hon. H. John P. Mahon
Esq. &c. &c.
Carlton House

W. Wood



1814
J. G. Wood
Jan 12