

B. N. 21 - Oct 1836

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To Mr Henry Daulton Junr

Port Louis, East Falkland



Sir,

In addition to what I wrote you in my two last letters regarding the management of my concerns on the Island I have to communicate to you what has been officially made known to me, in order that you may know my present position & act with that circumspection & prudence as my interests may require. The following is the communication, and the which has been sent to the Admiral by the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty, namely:

"With regard to Mr Vernets Claims & as his Majesty's Govt consider these Islands to be part of the Dominions of the British Crown, no claim of property on his part must be admitted arising from a grant real or supposed of the Barons & by God to him of the Island, or any claim of fishing or other seigniorial right, or to the possession of Wild Cattle or any other production of the Islands."

I conceive that this will greatly perplex you as my representative, in your future proceedings especially in as much as on the one hand you can not continue the catching of Cattle without a special permission, and on the other hand, who shall catch the necessary Cattle for the consumption of the inhabitants

& the Garrison and H. M.'s Shipping? Who has the
means of doing it besides yourself? Then again
what property will be allowed me to remove
from the Island? On the ^{one} hand it is stated not
to belong to me, and on the other hand it is stated
has already been delivered to you as my repre-
sentative by the public authority of H. M. ^{Govt}
by virtue of the Admiral's order dated 11th ^{May} 1835
and upon that same order you possess
all the hides & skins you hold for me. ^{Since}
for the present not less perplexed than what I pre-
sume you to be; but I have every reason
to believe that there is no intention to injure
my individual rights, whatever they may be,
and I have to inform you that I have written
to H. M.'s Govt on the subject and to the
Admiral and that I expect favorable answers
regarding the principle upon which I shall
be permitted to stay and act on the Island
in future. Therefore, I request you
will implicitly do every thing that the Com-
mander in Chief of the Islands requires of you,
employing for the purpose everything or
any thing which depends of you, as my repre-
sentative; only being particular in asking for
written orders, that no doubts may occur for
the future. But with regard to the terms upon
which any thing is to be done, you must await

my instructions, which I shall impart to you
as soon as I am informed of what is required,
and of course the services must be done by you
without delay & without waiting for my instructions.



I presume it is only the principle that
is looked to in that communication to the Admiral
and as no precise orders are imparted as to the future
I conceive no innovation is intended in the practice
of supplying a few head of cattle to those
who are in want of it, and allowing me at
least the hides of such animals, which is the
very least which could be allowed for the
important service of my horses. If this was
denied me there would scarcely be sufficient
property to buy the freight of a vessel that
goes to fetch it, let alone the expence of a
cargo of horses and a few gaudies, which I
intend to take to the Island if I can get a
permission from the Admiral so to do, for
which I have written to him.

With regard to the seal fishery, which
very late I caught at Brisbane carried on
you must be aware that it was not by virtue
of any seigniorial right; but merely upon the
same footing as the Americans, or others carry
it on there, namely: the owners of the
vessel or boats have a part and the crew
the other part if, therefore, I was to be
deprived of the share due me as proprietor
of the boats, I would be on a worse footing
than utter strangers to the Island.

I do not impart instructions, because under present circumstances, it is impossible for me to foresee what will be or is my real position, and I am certain it is by far too intricate a one for you to act without instructions, as you might innocently and unnecessarily compromise my claims, whatever they may be, and which I am confident will be ultimately settled equitably by the British Govt—

As for the ~~grant~~ remuneration of your services to me, if you had ~~so~~ stated what you expect, I could have answered you in a positive manner; but as it is, it must be left until we meet on the island, or until you write me your pretensions on the subject; meanwhile I believe we shall agree very well on this point, as I am not in the habit of leaving unwarded any services that are done me—

Yours
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