

Correspondence Relating to the Sojourn in Port Jackson of the Baudin Expedition



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Description

The letters reproduced here relate to the Baudin expedition's sojourn in Port Jackson, which extends from the first arrival of the *Naturaliste*, on 25 April 1802, to the departure of the *Géographe*, accompanied by the *Naturaliste* and the *Casuarina*, on 18 November 1802.

This correspondence consists of letters exchanged between members of the expedition and the principal figures in the colony, most notably Governor King. It also includes letters exchanged between King and the authorities in Great Britain in which the visit of the French and their activities in Australian waters are mentioned. Letters by Matthew Flinders in which the French expedition is mentioned are also reproduced here.

Not included are the many notes and other brief written exchanges between the French and various members of the colony in Port Jackson (requests for provisions, promissory notes and the like).

The letters reproduced here come principally from the *Historical Records of New South Wales* (F.M. Bladen, ed.), published in Sydney in 1892-1901, though some also come from the *Historical Records of Australia*. Fresh translations have been made of all letters originally written in French, with both versions being provided here.

Period covered

3 June 1801 – 19 August 1803

Compilation

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Commander Flinders to Sir Joseph Banks

H.M.S. Investigator

Spithead, 3 June 1801

On our arrival here yesterday, Sir Joseph, I received your acceptable letter of May 26. I feel much obliged by your offer to lay the substance of my letter before the Admiralty, but I foresee that although I should, in the case of Mrs. F.'s going to Port Jackson, have been more particularly cautious of my stay there, yet their Lordships will conclude naturally enough that her presence would tend to increase the number of and to lengthen my visits. I am therefore afraid to risk their Lordships' ill opinion, and Mrs. F. will return to her friends immediately that our sailing orders arrive.

The advanced state of the season makes me excessively anxious to be off. I fear that a little longer delay will lose us a summer and lengthen our voyage at least 6 months; besides that, the French are gaining time upon us.

In consequence of my application the ship's company and officers are to be paid up to the end of last month, and two months pay advanced.

I am happy to inform you that the Buffalo has brought home a person formerly of the Reliance, whom I wish to have as a master. He volunteers, the captain of the ship agrees, and I have made application for him by to-day's post, and expect his appointment by Friday.

Your ready compliance with everything that I have wished relative to my instructions, etc., etc., and which I feel most sensible and gratefully, embolden me to express my wish that the Governor of New South Wales should have the necessary order sent to him relative to the Lady Nelson and Lt. Grant, both from the Admiralty and from the Secretary of State's Office, and also that he should be ordered to give me every advice and assistance in his power, and not to divert me from the service upon which I am sent. Of these necessary letters, Mr. Hollingworth made memorandums, but whether that is sufficient to procure such orders being issued I am uncertain, and therefore take the liberty of mentioning them to Sir Joseph Banks.

I sincerely hope that the passport is now arrived, and that nothing will detain us more than one week here at most.

The honour which you proposed to confer upon the Investigator at Sheerness will, I hope, be done to us here—an honour that will add to the obligations of, Sir Joseph,

Yours, &c.,

Mattw. Flinders

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 380-381)

Governor King to Acting Lieutenant Murray

31 October 1801

His Majesty's armed surveying vessel Lady Nelson, under your command, being victualled and stored for six months, you will proceed without loss of time to Basses Straights, and observe the following directions for prosecuting the discoveries in those Straights, and on the south-west coast of this country, agreeable to His Majesty's instructions communicated by His Grace the Duke of Portland.

Having the chart before you of the discoveries that have already been made, if you find the wind westerly when you are between the Ram Head and Western Port, you will proceed to Kent's Groupe, and ascertain the size of those islands (particularly the easternmost), and how far they correspond with Mr. Rushworth's account, noticing the facility of getting fresh water and whether it proceeds from a spring or from rain. From Kent's Groupe you will run on a straight course to Wilson's Promontory, noticing the course and distance, soundings, and quality of the bottom. But should you have a leading wind into the Straights, you may defer visiting Kent's Groupe until you return. From Wilson's Promontory you will trace the coast between Point Schank and Cape Albany Otway, noticing the soundings and everything remarkable. From thence you will run on a straight course to Harbinger Rock, lying off the N.W. point of King's Island, carefully noting the exact line of bearing and distance, sounding every half-hour, and quality of the bottom, set and strength of the tides. You will then make the circuit of that island or islands as the wind and weather may suit; and, in addition to the King's instructions respecting new discoveries (a copy of which you are furnished with), you will carefully examine the nature of the bottom in the circle of and all within six miles round the island, to ascertain whether a vessel may anchor on either side without danger of cutting her cables by foul ground.

Having completed the survey of that island or islands, you will ascertain the line of bearing and exact distance between its south-westernmost point and Albatross Islands, the northernmost of Hunter's Islands, and the Pyramid, carefully noticing the half-hourly soundings and bottom on those three lines.

Having completed the object of your survey thus far, you will ascertain to what distance sounding may be got to the westward of the Norfolks and Lady Nelson passages, taking care to traverse across to the latitude of 42° on the south side, and within sight of land on the north side or coast of New Holland [Van Diemen's Land] until you lose soundings between 38° and 42° .

In making these traverses I wish you to sound as often as possible, and to be very circumspect in noticing the depth and quality of the bottom; and as you stand in on the New Holland side you will examine the coast between Cape Albany Otway and Cape Soliciter, which Lieut't Grant named Portland Bay, the bottom of which he did not see. Should you have time, I would wish you to run due south from Cape Soliciter as far as 40° , and work back again to Cape Bridgewater, noticing the soundings and quality of the bottom on both tracks. If you have completed all this by the time you have been out three months, you will employ another month or six weeks in tracing the coast from Cape Banks as high up the south-west coast as the weather will allow of.

As many unforeseen circumstances may happen to accelerate or retard your proceedings in executing these instructions, much must necessarily be left to your discretion, and in which you will act according to the best of your judgement.

In returning to this port you will deliver all such journals and charts as may have been

compiled by you or any person under your command, together with such specimens of natural curiosities as may be collected during your intended voyage.

Should you fall in with His Majesty's ship *Investigator*, you will communicate these instructions to the commander of that ship, and put yourself under his command. And in case you fall in and are come up with by the *Naturaliste* and *Geographe*, French vessels on discovery, you will produce your passport from His Grace the Duke of Portland to the commander of that expedition.

For all which this shall be your order.

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 602-604)

Le Commandant Hamelin au Gouverneur King

À l'entrée du Port Jackson

25 avril 1802

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

Au moment où le pilote est arrivé à bord j'avois mon canot à la mer, paré à envoyer en parlementaire dans le port pour vous demander la permission d'y entrer afin de faire de l'eau dont je manque absolument, et de chercher, sur votre bon plaisir, à m'y procurer des rafraîchissements et des vivres pour la continuation de ma campagne.

J'ose espérer que quand mon officier vous aura présenté le passeport que votre gouvernement a accordé à chacun des deux bâtiments français le Géographe et le Naturaliste, composant cette expédition de découvertes, vous accéderez à ma juste demande.

Je suis, en attendant le bonheur de vous voir,

Votre obéissant serviteur,

Le capitaine de frégate,

Emmanuel Hamelin,

Commandant la corvette le Naturaliste.

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 941)

*Translation***Commander Hamelin to Governor King**

At the entrance to Port Jackson

25 April 1802

Governor,

When the pilot came on board, I had a boat lowered ready to go into the harbour with an envoy to ask your permission to enter it in order to take on water, which I am seriously lacking, and to seek, if it should please you, to procure some refreshments and provisions to continue my campaign.

I trust that, when my officer has presented you the passport that your government has granted each of the two French ships, the Géographe and the Naturaliste, that constitute this voyage of discovery, you will grant my request.

I am, in expectation of the pleasure of seeing you,

Your obedient servant,

Commander Emmanuel Hamelin

Commanding the corvette le Naturaliste

Le Gouverneur King au Commandant Hamelin

26 avril 1802

Monsieur,

J'avois l'honneur de recevoir votre lettre du 25 courant, et comme j'ai été informé de la probabilité que vous relâcherez ici, et aussi que vous êtes fourni d'un passeport, je m'empresse de vous donner les assurances que rien ne manquera de fournir à tous vos besoins, autant que cette colonie en est capable. J'ai donné les ordres que votre frégate serait mouillée à l'entrée du cove; et en attendant le plaisir de vous recevoir,

J'ai l'honneur d'être, etc.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 942)

Translation

Governor King to Commander Hamelin

26 April 1802

Sir,

I have had the honour of receiving your letter of the 25th inst., and as I was aware of the likelihood that you would stop over here, and also that you are carrying a passport, I hasten to assure you that everything will be done to fulfil your needs, as far as this colony is capable of doing so. I have given orders that your frigate will be anchored at the entrance to the cove; in expectation of the pleasure of receiving you,

I have the honour to be, etc.,

Philip Gidley King

Le Commandant Hamelin au Gouverneur King

À l'entrée du Port Jackson

26 avril 1802

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

Mon second que j'envoïai hier au soir à la ville pour vous présenter l'hommage de mon respect vous aura communiqué le passeport que j'ai reçu de votre gouvernement.

Puisque vous le permettez, dès que le tems sera favorable j'irai mouiller à l'entrée du cove, et puis après, accompagné de mon état-major, j'irai au Gouvernement vous assurer que je suis pénétré d'estime pour vous.

Salut et haute considération, etc.,

Emmanuel Hamelin

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 942)

*Translation***Commander Hamelin to Governor King**

At the entrance to Port Jackson

26 April 1802

Governor,

My chief officer, whom I sent to town last evening to present you my respects, will have shown you the passport that I have received from your government.

Since you have allowed it, as soon as the weather is favourable I will go and anchor at the entrance to the cove, and then afterwards, accompanied by my staff, I will go to Government House to pay you my respects.

Yours respectfully, etc.

Emmanuel Hamelin

Governor King**Regulations to be Observed by the French Ship during her Stay in Port Jackson**

27 April 1802

By, &c., &c.,

- 1st. No person is to be admitted on board (except the officers, who will be known by their regimentals) without a pass from the governor or lieut't-governor.
- 2nd. All boats coming on shore, either for refreshments or to bring or take off officers, are to land at the governor's wharf.
- 3rd. No boats are allowed to remain on shore after sunset, except those that come with or for officers, in which case the officer of the guard is to be informed thereof, and the French officers are requested to send their boats on board before eight o'clock in the evening.
- 4th. An officer will point out the place where the French ship may wood and water.
- 5th. No person is to go higher up the harbour than the anchoring place, nor is any person to go into the country without permission from the Governor.
- 6th. As the centinels and police officers are ordered to stop and confine every person whatever who cannot give the countersign after eight o'clock, the captain of the ship is requested to order his people not to remain on shore after that hour, and the officers are recommended to get one of the civil or military officers of the garrison to accompany them after that hour.
- 7th. As the commanders of all English vessels are ordered to cry down the credit of their ship's company, the governor recommends the captain of the *Naturaliste* to use the same precaution.
- 8th. The Governor exacts from the captain of the French ship his word of honour that he will not allow any person whatever to be received on board during his stay here or at his departure without the Governor's permission.

Given at Government House, 27th April, 1802.

Philip Gidley King

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 943)

Governor King
Government and General Order

27 April 1802

Lieut.-Colonel Patterson will direct the centinels to make themselves acquainted with the persons of the captain and commissioned officers of the French ship *Naturaliste*, and pay them the compliments due to their rank in the army, when in their uniform, with side-arms, according to the regulations of this garrison.

No person whatever is to go on board the French ship without the Governor's or Lieutenant-Governor's permission, except commissioned officers, civil or military ; the latter will not go on board but in regimentals.

No boat belonging to the French ship is to land at any other part of the cove but the Governor's wharf. The centinel on that post is not to suffer any person whatever belonging to the settlement to pass his centry-box while any French boats are at the wharf, unless they have permission from the officer of the guard, who will direct a non-commissioned officer to accompany the person to the boat and back again. A non-commissioned officer of the guard will order all French boats from the wharf at sunset, unless the Governor allows of their remaining after that hour for any particular reason, which will be communicated to the officer of the guard.

All centinels and constables will stop and confine every person whatever who does not give the countersign after gunfire. Commissioned officers, civil and military, will make themselves known to the centinels as usual.

Philip Gidley King

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 943-944)

Le Commandant Hamelin au Gouverneur King

Devant Sydney Cove, dans le Hâvre Neutre

28 avril 1802

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous prévenir que sous votre bon plaisir j'enverrai à l'hôpital de Sa Majesté cette après-midi six Français qui ont besoin de quelques jours de repos à terre. Suivent leurs noms:—

Jn. Louis Poulain)
 Jn. Fs. Miloner) scorbutiques
 Gllme. Yvelin, vénérien
 Adrien Happede))
 Pre. Martin) blessés
 Edouard Happede))
 Salut et haute considération,
 Emmanuel Hamelin

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 944)

*Translation***Commander Hamelin to Governor King**

In Neutral Bay, opposite Sydney Cove

28 April 1802

Governor,

I have the honour of advising you that, with your consent, I will send to His Majesty's hospital this afternoon six Frenchmen who require a few days of rest on land. Their names are as follows:—

Jn. Louis Poulain)
 Jn. Fs. Miloner) scorbutic
 Gllme. Yvelin, venereal disease
 Adrien Happede))
 Pre. Martin) wounded
 Edouard Happede))
 Yours respectfully,
 Emmanuel Hamelin

Le Commandant Hamelin au Gouverneur King

5 mai 1802

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous remercier des légumes frais que vous avez eu souvent la complaisance d'envoyer à bord. Mon eau étant achevée, je vous prie de mettre le comble à vos faveurs en m'accordant une ancre de bossoir, 200 boisseaux de blé, quelques gallons d'eau-de-vie, et 8 à 10 quinteaux de patates, s'il étoit possible.

Muni de ces objets, je compte mettre sous voiles lundi ou mardi prochain.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, etc.,

Emmanuel Hamelin

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 945)

Translation

Commander Hamelin to Governor King

5 May 1802

Governor,

I have the honour of thanking you for the fresh vegetables that you have often had the kindness to send on board. Now that I have finished taking on water, I beg you to add to your many favours by granting me a bower anchor, 200 bushels of wheat, a few gallons of brandy, and 8 to 10 hundredweight of potatoes, if that were possible.

Once provided with these articles, I expect to set sail on Monday or Tuesday next.

I have the honour of being etc.

Emmanuel Hamelin

10

Governor King to Commander Hamelin

Sydney

5 May 1802

Sir,

I have the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of this date, and as I do not consider the trifles of which you speak worthy of thanks, I am much obliged to you for allowing them to be received.

With respect to the articles you request for the use of the corvette under your command, I have the honour to enclose my orders to the Commissary to supply you with such articles as are in the King's stores. For the rest, you have my permission to provide yourself with them from individuals, or anything else that the colony affords.

I have etc.

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 945)

11

[Enclosure]

Governor King to Commissary Palmer

Memorandum

Sydney

May 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hamelin dated 5 May 1802]

Sir,

The Commissary will deliver to Captain Hamelin, commander of the French national corvette *Naturaliste*, from His Majesty's stores, the following articles for the use of that ship, viz.: A bower anchor, 200 bushells of wheat, for which he will receive payment in unwrought-iron equal to the weight of the anchor and 10 per cent, in addition for making it and loss, etc.

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 945)

Commander Flinders to The Admiralty

H.M.S. Investigator, Sydney Cove

11 May 1802

Sir,

I have to inform my Lords commissioners that His Majesty's ship under my command, having refitted, and taken in such supplies at the Cape of Good Hope as she required, and as could be furnished by the Commander-in-Chief, sailed from False Bay on Nov'r 4th last, and keeping between the parallels of 36° and 38° south until drawing near the coast of New Holland, we made the south-west cape of Lewin's Land on Dec'r 6th, where I commenced the survey of the south coast. We arrived at King George's Sound on the 9th, and after ascertaining that there was not sufficient water for the Investigator to go over the bar into Oyster Harbour, we wooded, watered, and refitted in Princess Royal Harbour. Of these harbours and sounds I made a survey, and the neighbouring country was examined by the men of science. A friendly communication was held with the natives, and we sailed on Jan'y 5th, 1802, prosecuting the survey of the coast. On the 9th we entered the Archipelago of D'Entrecasteaux, where the examination of Captain Vancouver terminated, and passed through the middle of this most dangerous cluster of islands and reefs, which extend 2 ½ degrees along the coast. We anchored here in Bays No. 1¹ and 2,² which will be mentioned hereafter, and proceeded along the coast, finding it to trend as laid down in the chart of D'Entrecasteaux.

The point whence the land trends to the southward of west on one side, and to the southward of east on the other, forming the great gulph or bight of New Holland, lies in latitude 31° 28' south, and longitude 131° 25' east. We passed this on Jan'y 27th, and came to an anchor in No. 3,³ a bay in the main land near it, passing through some small islands and reefs which lie a little to the westward.

From D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago to this bay no inlets, bays, or places of shelter were found, the coast being destitute of any bights or inlets (that bight forming the head of the great gulph excepted), and scarcely any inlet or rock lies off the shore. From this bay eastward the windings of the shore form a constant succession of bights and bays, and a number of islands lie scattered at different distances along the coast. The western of these islands I suppose to be the Isles of St. Francis and St. Peter, discovered by Nuyts⁴; but the archipelago extends to the longitude of 138°, and the last island being of more than 70 miles' length, affording various places of shelter, and abounding with kangaroos of a large size, and with the emu. The coast near this island forms itself into two inlets extending 180 and 90 miles into the interior, but no streams of fresh water come into them.

From No. 3 bay to the large island, which is called Kangaroo Island, many places affording secure shelter were found, both amongst the islands and in the main, in one of which (No. 10 bay)⁵ we wooded and watered the ship.

Having been constantly opposed by foul winds after leaving No. 3 bay, and been detained by the examination of this most interesting part of the south coast, we had not left Kangaroo

¹ This bay, in which Flinders anchored on the night of 9 January, he called Lucky Bay, a name it retains.

² Bay No. 2 Flinders called Goose Island Bay. It is situated on the northern side of Middle Island.

³ Fowler's Bay.

⁴ It is surmised that these islands were so called, one of them to commemorate the name of their discoverer, Pieter Nuyts, and the other that of his captain, Franchois Thysz, in the year 1627.

⁵ Port Lincoln.

Island before April 7th, when we made the best of our way to the southernward along the coast, beating against the same easterly winds as before.

On April 10th, in the latitude 35° 42′ south, and longitude 139° 10′ east, I met with the French national ship *Le Géographe*, which had come from Basses Straits, and was proceeding westward in her examination of the coast of New Holland. Captain Baudin informed me that after parting with the *Naturaliste* in the strait in a heavy gale he had had fine weather, and had kept the coast close on board from Western Port to the place of meeting with us, but that he had found no bay or place where a vessel could anchor, the coast having but few bights in it, and those affording nothing to interest.

On parting with *Le Géographe* our examination of the coast was continued to the latitude 38° and longitude 141°, but after passing a point in that situation, a gale came on from the south-westward, and obliged us to push on for Bass's Straits, without attending minutely to the formation of the coast, which from its south-easterly direction being still continued it was with difficulty we could clear. On the west side of Bass's Straits I found a large island,¹ the north point of which lies in lat. 39° 36′ south, and longitude 144° 14′ east, being 16 leagues distant from the opposite part of the coast of New South Wales. The winds being unfavourable for examining the southern parts of this island, after landing upon the northern part I bore away and explored the main coast from near the westernmost part which we had seen in the gale to Western Port. In latitude 38° 18′ S. and longitude 144° 45′ east, I found an opening of something less than two miles wide, which led me into No. 16, a very spacious port, the termination of which was scarcely visible from the hills. This port, as well as the large island, I suppose to have escaped the examination of *Le Géographe*, but it appears that they had been previously visited by the brig *Lady Nelson* from this place, and called Port Phillip and King's Island. A friendly communication was held with the natives of Port Phillip, and the country round it was found to be beautiful and fertile. After a hasty examination I proceeded to Port Jackson, correcting the situations of several parts on the north side of Bass's Straits whilst running through it.

We arrived in the port yesterday, with the officers and crew – four men excepted – in good health ; but I am sorry to add that in the entrance to the largest inlet,² the master of the *Investigator*, a midshipman, and six men, were unfortunately lost, with a six-oared cutter being upset at night. The wreck of the boat was found, but a search of several days brought us no intelligence of the crew.

The speedy departure of the ship by which this is sent does not permit me to forward a copy of the charts of the coast to their Lordships, but by the next conveyance I hope to have them completed, and that their Lordships will then find the examination of the coast from the south-west cape to beyond the place of meeting with the *Géographe* to have been conducted with so much care that very little further will require to be done there.

The consort of the *Géographe* I find riding in this port.

I shall proceed to refit H.M. ship with all expedition, and to execute the further orders of their Lordships.

I am, &c.,

Mattw. Flinders.

The positions of the principal place where the *Investigator* anchored are enclosed.

¹ This was King Island, which had been discovered by Captain Black, master of the *Harbinger*, in January, 1801.

² Spencer Gulf.

No. 1. A small bay¹ on the main, within D'Entrecasteaux's Archipelago, affording shelter and water sometimes. Lat., 34° S.; long., 122° 23' E.

Note.- A smaller bay lies 1½ west of this which affords more complete shelter, and also wood and water.

No. 2. Goose Island Bay, in the same archipelago, 4 or 5 miles from the main, affording shelter and wood and water sometimes. There is a lake here containing much salt. Lat., 34° 5' S. ; long., 123° 19' E.

No. 3. A bay² in the main affording shelter from all winds, those at S.E. excepted. Lat., 32° S.; long., 132° 39' E.

No. 4. A bay³ on the north side of an island 6 leagues from the main, affording shelter. This island is frequented by great flocks of sooty petrels, and by geese at times. Lat. 32° 33½ ' S. ; long., 133° 35' E.

No. 5. An anchoring place in the north side of an island,⁴ 6 miles from the main ; open to westerly winds. The island frequented by many petrels. Lat., 32° 21' S. ; long., 133° 48½ ' E.

No. 6. An anchorage place on the north side of an island,⁵ near the main. The island frequented by petrels and geese at times. Lat., 33° 23' S. ; long., 135° 5' E.

No. 7. Anchoring place on the north side of an island,⁶ 5 leagues from the main ; open to north-westerly winds. The island inhabited by numbers of small kangaroos. Lat., 33° 41' S. ; long., 134° 46' E.

No. 8. Anchoring place in the north side of an island,⁷ in the entrance of the largest inlet, 5 miles from the main, affording shelter and wood, and perhaps water. The island inhabited by kangaroos. Lat., 34° 56', S. ; long., 136° 16' E.

No. 9. Memory Cove, in the main,⁸ open to the N.E., affording shelter for one vessel, and wood and water at some times ; an inscription set up here which mentions the loss of the boat and people. Lat., 34° 57½ ' S. ; long., 136° 9' E.

No. 10. A deep bay⁹ in the main, affording shelter, wood, and water. The water pits at the head of the bay are in lat. 34° 48½ ' S. ; long., 135° 55' E.

No. 11. Anchorage under one of a cluster of small islands¹⁰ in the largest inlet. Lat., 34° 33' S.; long., 136° 21' E.

No. 12. The largest inlet,¹¹ in which the Investigator anchored frequently. Its head is frequented by ducks and swans, and is in lat. 32° 25' S.; long., 137° 56' E.

No. 13. Anchorage under Kangaroo Island, sheltered from all winds, and affording wood and

¹ Lucky Bay.

² Fowler's Bay.

³ Petrel Bay, on the north coast of the largest island of the Isles of St. Francis.

⁴ One of the Isles of St Peter.

⁵ One of Waldegrave's Isles ; the longitude, according to Flinders's chart, should, however, be 134° 44' east.

⁶ Flinders's Island. Named by Flinders in honour of his brother, Samuel W. Flinders, second lieutenant of the Investigator. The position of the island, according to Flinders's *A Voyage to Terra Australis*, vol. I, p. 124, is latitude 33° 41' south ; longitude, 134° 27' 30'' east.

⁷ Thistle Island; so called by Flinders in honour of the master of the Investigator, John Thistle.

⁸ To the north of Cape Catastrophe. Flinders gives the situation of this cove in his *Terra Australis*, as lat., 34° 58' S.; long., 135° 56½ ' E. It was while the Investigator was moored in this cove that the master, John Thistle, one of the mates, William Taylor, and six seamen were capsized in one of the ship's boats and drowned. Flinders "caused an inscription to be engraven upon a sheet of copper and set up on a stout post at the head of the cove, which I named Memory Cove." Matthew Flinders's *A Voyage to Terra Australis*, vol. I, p. 138.

⁹ Port Lincoln, so named by Flinders in honour of his native province.

¹⁰ Sir Joseph Banks Group.

¹¹ Spencer Gulf.

generally water. The island abounding with large kangaroos. Lat., $35^{\circ} 42\frac{1}{2}'$ S. ; long., $138^{\circ} 11'$ E.

No. 14. The smaller inlet,¹ in which the Investigator anchored thrice. The entrance is sheltered by Kangaroo Island, and its head lies in lat. $34^{\circ} 8'$ S.; long., $138^{\circ} 19'$ E.

No. 15. Anchorage on the north side of King's Island, in Bass's Straits. The island is inhabited by kangaroos, womats [wombats], and emus. Lat., $39^{\circ} 37\frac{1}{2}'$ S. ; long., $144^{\circ} 14'$ E.

No. 16. Port Phillip, affording shelter, wood, and water. The port abounds with ducks and swans. The south point of entrance is in lat. $38^{\circ} 18'$ S. ; long., $144^{\circ} 45'$ E.

The whole of the islands abounds more or less with seals.

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 747-751)

¹ Gulf St. Vincent.

13

Governor King to Commander Hamelin

Sydney

12 May 1802

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose a copy of my order to the surgeons and their report respecting the state of your second captain,¹ wherein they point out his inability to undertake the voyage to Europe in the *Speedy*, and the necessity of his remaining in the colony until his health is more established; in consequence of which I have given my permission for his remaining until his health is sufficiently re-established to undertake the voyage, and I have to request you will take the necessary steps for his subsistence until he may be able to go from hence.

I have, etc.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 946)

¹ Pierre Bernard Milius. The surgeons reported that his complaint was of a bilious and highly nervous nature, and, though convalescent, he was “reduced to great debility”. Milius was first lieutenant on board the *Naturaliste*.

Le Commandant Hamelin au Gouverneur King
 À bord du Naturaliste, Neutral Harbour, Port Jackson
 23 floréal an 10 [13 May 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

Sous votre bon plaisir je laisserai dans cette colonie, en outre de M. Milius et son domestique noir, destiné à le suivre, le négro Jean, bon homme, un peu cuisinier ; le négro Jasmin, ancien valet de chambre. Ces deux hommes sont des esclaves de l'Ile de France, à qui la colonie n'a rien à reprocher que d'avoir, en naviguant sur les corsaires, trop contracté le goût de la liberté pour être de nouveau admis sans danger dans ses habitations ; mais je crois qu'il n'y en a aucun à les prendre comme esclaves, si vous le jugez bon, sur une des vôtres.

Salut et haute considération,

Emmanuel Hamelin

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 946)

Translation

Commander Hamelin to Governor King
 On board the Naturaliste, Neutral Bay, Port Jackson
 13 May 1802

Governor,

With your kind consent, I will leave in this colony, in addition to Mr Milius and his black servant, who is to follow him, the negro Jean, a good man who can cook a little, and the negro Jasmin, a former valet. These two men are slaves from the Ile de France, and that colony can reproach them only with having, through their time spent sailing on corsairs, developed too strong a taste for liberty for them to be taken back on its plantations without risk; but I believe there is no danger in taking them on as slaves on one of your stations, if you think it proper.

Yours respectfully,

Emmanuel Hamelin

Lieutenant Rowley to Captain Waterhouse

Kingston Farm, New South Wales

14 May 1802

My dear Waterhouse,

Flinders arrived here on Sunday, the 9th inst. I was exceedingly happy to hear from you. You say you have wrote to me by almost every ship. I never rec'd but two letters – one about last June, and one now by Flinders. The first I answered by a ship of Lord's,¹ which sailed for the Cape last Nov'r, which I hope you will receive safe, but for fear it should not I will send the copy of it as near as I can; it contains all the news I could collect.

You have wrote to me about your concerns. I will most cheerfully do anything to serve you. I am at a loss to know what to do with your mare. You are informed that she don't breed, but she do, and has a fine filly foal and should be in foal again. I have learnt her to draw as people may see she is useful, but there is no money ; the stores removes the whole. I believe I shall not sell her till I hear from you again, except I could get a good chap for her. I received six sheep from Biggars about nine months ago ; no increase since, but hourly expected. I sold one wether for £3 5s. The Governor's General Order is 15d. p'r pound for mutton and 8d. p'r pound for pork.² Since that the butcher's shop is shut up ; nobody has anything to sell. King and I are on very good terms. I believe the little time I commanded at Norfolk Island was so pleasing to him that he would be glad to serve me. Here is strange work : I was President of two General Court-Martials, and member of one, in less than a month – two on Bayley one on poor Piper. Both Piper and Bayley do not know how it is settled. Gov'r King will not approve of them. They are sent Home for His Majesty's approval.

The colony is on a very short allowance—one pound ten ounces of pork p'r week, and not many weeks of that. The officers and families is all off the store – no employment for them; the Croppies troublesome; a great many of the ringleaders is now in gaol, under orders to go on board the Porpois, supposed to be sent to Lord Howe Island, or some other island, to shift for themselves.

One of the French surveying ships is here. Flinders has got the start of them, as he has surveyed the south-west coast and they are bound there.

Bass has been here and is employed by King to go to some of the islands to cure pork. I think he will make a good job of it. There has been so many ships from England, India, America, &c., articles are wonderfully cheap. Leith and Wilkinson was greatly deceived. Liquor at 5s. p'r gallon, everything else in proportion.

I made a purchase of Wilkinson's stock of 15 head of black cattle, 97 sheep, one mare foal, and one horse, Major Foveaux's farm as it was, and one hundred acres in the brush, and all for seven hundred pounds down. Cox offered eight hundred trust, but the ready money had the advantage.

Cox has been repairing the kitchen—weather-boarding it, &c. I will most assuredly attend to yours as much as I would to my own, and believe me to be,

Yours, &c.,
T. Rowley.

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 752-753)

¹ Simeon Lord (merchant and former convict). The vessel referred to was the *Anna Josepha*, laden with coal from the newly-formed settlement at the mouth of the Hunter River.

² See Government and General Order of 16 March 1802 (*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 727).

Commander Flinders to Sir Joseph Banks

H.M.S. Investigator at Port Jackson

20 May 1802

I am happy, Sir Joseph, in announcing to you the success of our voyage thus far, and scarcely less so to say that before we met the French national ship *Le Geographe* the most interesting part of the south coast of New Holland had undergone the examination of the Investigator, although we were not happy enough to have completed the whole of the before unknown part. Our meeting with Mons. Baudin took place in latitude $35^{\circ} 42'$ and longitude $139^{\circ} 10'$, so that 5 degrees of the unknown coast from Bass's Strait westward had been explored by him, but in this part he had found no ports, harbours, or inlets, or anything to interest, nor had he seen a large island, now called King's Island, which lies in the middle of the western entrance into Bass's Strait, and is 16 leagues from the coast of New South Wales. I continued our examination of the coast after passing *Le Geographe*, but a heavy gale which blew upon the shore made me glad to miss a small part of it, and we made King's Island, upon which we landed. After Mons. Baudin's account of the coast, it surprised me not a little to find in the mainland opposite this island a very large port ; and more especially as he had had fine winds and weather to run along it. It seems, however, that from the narrowness of the entrance he must have missed this port and also King's Island ; but yet we were not the discoverers of them, for on arriving here I found that they had been named and undergone a cursory examination by the *Lady Nelson*,¹ as well as a part of the 5 degrees of coast seen next by Mons. Baudin. His consort (*Le Naturaliste*) we find in this port, she having parted with *Le Geographe* during a westerly gale in Bass's Strait. Port Phillip is surrounded by a fine country, and our communication with the inhabitants was friendly. Our greatest progress into the body of New Holland has been something less than 200 miles, and this by means of a great and very wide inlet, the utmost extent of which was fully traced, but it did not even end in a fresh-water river. My letter to the Admiralty will contain more information concerning what we did find, than I should chuse to trouble Sir Joseph Banks with.

As was the case with Admiral D'Entrecasteaux, we were much opposed in our progress by easterly winds, from the time of passing his dangerous archipelago to past the situation of meeting *Le Geographe*, but from D'Entrecasteaux's Archipelago westward, and also within 3 or 4 degrees of Bass's Strait, westerly winds seem to be much the most prevalent. These foul winds and our detention in England favoured Mons. Baudin, or no part of the south coast wou'd have been left for him to discover. As circumstances now stand I consider it to be fortunate that instead of passing along the coast cursorily, and going to Port Jackson to refit, that I made a very strict and minute examination of it ; so that I fear but little to have any thing of importance found in the coast, or very near it. When the charts arrive you will better judge, Sir Joseph, how far the task has been well performed, and how far the good opinion which you have been pleased to entertain of my exertions is well placed. At these charts I am now labouring assiduously, in order to get copies transmitted to the Admiralty by this conveyance, but I fear the accomplishment. They will consist of the following:-

The south coast of New Holland, from the S.W. cape of Leuwen's Land to Wilson's Promontory, upon a scale of 4 inches to a degree of longitude. 5 sheets.

Particular survey of King George's Sound and its two harbours; the scale 1 inch to a mile. 1 sheet.

¹ Lieutenant Murray, in the *Lady Nelson*, had discovered and named this port. He called it Port King; but Governor King gave it the name it now bears – Port Phillip.

Particular chart of D'Entrecasteaux's Archipelago; the scale $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch to a mile. 1 sheet.

Particular survey of No. 10 bay ;¹ scale $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch to a mile, and sketches of the heads of the inlets, No. 12² and 14³ ; scale, $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch to a mile. 1 sheet.

A sketch of Port Phillip, upon a scale of $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch to a mile. 1 sheet.

Concerning these charts I shall take the liberty of writing to Mr. Dalrymple⁴ to explain some circumstances relative to their construction, which I hope he will not take amiss.

As far as I have been able to learn, the operations of the French have been confined to the north, the east, and south sides of Van Diemen's Land, and to the west side of New Holland, from the S.W. cape of Leuwen's Land to the Rosemary Islands of Dampier; but the large opening, where is the great rise of tide, Mons. Baudin denied having visited, or any of the more northern parts of New Holland. He expressed some surprise at meeting me, whom he knew by name, and observed that it was unnecessary for him to prosecute his survey, as the coast was now already done, and therefore he should come to Port Jackson when the winter weather set in.

In Governor King I find everything that can be expected, and from his assistance I hope to be ready for sea again in two months after our arrival, victualled and refitted for ten or twelve months. He thinks with me that to return to the southward at this season would be highly injurious to the ship and men, as well as to our general safety ; and therefore, as well as that but little left to be done there, we have determined upon the Investigator proceeding to the northward, and to the westward along the north coast, if the Gulph of Carpentaria can be examined before the month of November next, when the N.W. monsoon may be expected, and should it oppose our progress to the west there is ample employment in Torres Strait and at the Feejee Islands until the change takes place. This expedition, followed by a similar one, will, I hope, be fully sufficient to accomplish the purpose of the voyage. The Lady Nelson will accompany us.

I say nothing of our scientific gentlemen, Mr. Brown being so much better qualified to tell his own story than I am. It is fortunate for science that two men of such assiduity and abilities as Mr. Brown and Mr. Bauer have been selected ; their application is beyond what I have been accustomed to see.

With respect to our astronomical operations, I have given Dr. Maskyline⁵ some account of what we have been able to do in this department. We have not been idle, but from want of ability as well as of time, I fear that complaints will be made against me on this account.

I hope Sir Joseph will excuse this straggling letter. It should contain more information of what has been done, and condensed into a smaller space, if the sailing of the ship by which our accounts in every department are sent Home, would allow of time for emendations.

With much respect, and a grateful sense of your many kind offices done me.

I am, &c.,

Mattw. Flinders.

P.S. We have a flying report of a peace having taken place, which to naval officers is no very welcome intelligence, as far as concerns themselves ; but I hope that the difficulty in obtaining promotion which usually follows a peace will not extend to the Investigator.

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 755-757)

¹ Port Lincoln.

² Spencer Gulf.

³ Gulf St. Vincent.

⁴ Alexander Dalrymple, Hydrographer to the Admiralty.

⁵ The Astronomer-Royal.

Governor King to the Duke of Portland

Sydney, New South Wales

21 May 1802

My Lord,

In my despatch by Lieut. McKellar, I had the honor of informing your Grace of the Lady Nelson's return from her voyage to Basses Straits, just before I closed my letters, which enabled me to transmit Acting Lieut't Murray's log, and copies of the discoveries he had made on that voyage of King's Island and Port Phillip, in Basses Straits. Those important discoveries, being combined with the chart of former surveys that have been made, which I now transmit, with a copy of Acting Lieut't Murray's journal, I hope will convince your Grace that that highly useful vessel, the Lady Nelson has not been idle since under my direction, and altho' Mr. Murray unfortunately does not possess the qualities of an astronomer and surveyor, yet I trust his efforts and success will, in proportion to his conduct and abilities as a seaman and officer, more effectually ensure your Grace's recommending him for his being confirmed as a lieutenant in the Navy, and in the command of the Lady Nelson, which I hope he will appear deserving of.¹

2. The *Naturaliste*, one of the French ships on discovery, which sailed from Havre de Grace in 1800, appeared off this port the 24th April. An officer was sent on shore with an Admiralty passport, bearing date 25th June, 1800, and a request was made by the captain to enter the harbour for water, which he was much distressed for, and also to procure such refreshments as might enable him to continue his voyage of discovery. Observing by the passport that a provision was made therein for their being allowed "to put in any of His Majesty's ports, in case of stress of weather, or for the purpose of obtaining assistance if necessary to enable them to prosecute their voyage," I permitted them to come in, and lye in Neutral Bay, under certain restrictions, a copy of which I have the honor to enclose. Their principle wants were water, wood, a bower anchor, wheat, and vegetables, which being furnished with, they sailed the 18th instant, after a stay of twenty-three days, during which time they experienced every attention and hospitality on my part, and that of all the officers in this colony, which I trust will not be disapproved of, considering the situation and character they came in, which their conduct and demeanour fully correspond with during the short stay they made here.

3. From the accounts I have been able to collect, it appears those ships first destination was the Isle of France; from thence to the Land of Lions on New Holland, the western and north-west coast of which they examined minutely as far as Timor, where they refreshed ; from thence they stood off to the S.W., and were two months before they made the coast of New Holland again. They anchored and lay some time in Shark's Bay, named by them Chiens Marins Bay, where they provided themselves with abundance of turtle and fish, but describe the land about it to be sterile and sandy. We also learned that they had discovered a very spacious bay, where they had anchored, situated between Swan River and the point of the Land of Lions.² They deny having been into King George III harbour. On leaving the south cape, it appears they saw no other part of the intermediate coast till they made the south-west cape of New Holland. After having rounded Van Diemen's Land, they put into D'Entrecasteaux's Bay, and examined the Derwent. Their next and grand object on the coast

¹ The Admiralty refused to appoint Murray in consequence of some incorrectness in his statement of services (see *HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 743).

² *Note in the original*: "This bay they named Baie du Géographe".

appears to have been Basses Straits, which they entered by Banks's Straits, having previously visited Oyster Bay, and ascertained the three northernmost of Schouten's Islands (within which they tried to pass) to be connected by an isthmus with the nearest point to the northern island. It also appears that between St. Patrick's Head and Banks's Strait the two ships parted company in a gale of wind, and a fog. The *Naturaliste* after having cruized off Waterhouse's Isle the time prescribed by the rendezvous, proceeded to Western Port, where they lay some time without seeing the excellent watering place Acting Lieut. Murray found on Phillip Isle during the *Lady Nelson's* last voyage, which appears to have been a principal reason for their visit to this place. It does not appear they have any knowledge of Port Phillip or King's Island, not having been to the westward of Western Port. The remainder of the *Naturaliste's* voyage is a secret. She has been supplied with four months wheat. Besides their daily consumption, they have only two months salt meat, at 2 ounces each man per diem, and the very reduced ration we were at, did not admit of my supplying them with that article ; therefore, I conclude they will soon return to the Isle of France thro' Basses Straits. By the account of an English seaman they got at Timor, who I claimed, and they readily gave up, it does not appear that they have made any other discoveries than the bay above-mentioned, and that they did not carry their survey to the eastward of Timor on the north coast of New Holland ; consequently that part and the Gulf of Carpentaria is reserved for Captain Flinders.

4. Previous to the *Naturaliste's* sailing from hence, I was highly gratified by the arrival of His Majesty's ship *Investigator*, on the 9th, and was still more pleased to find that Captain Flinders had surveyed the S.W. coast to within six degrees of Basses Straits before he met the *Geographe*, which it appears had passed through the straits after parting company with the *Naturaliste*, and that it was the Commodore's intention to come here for refreshments, in consequence of which the captain of the *Naturaliste* intends cruising off the coast till Mons'r Baudin arrives.

5. By Captain Flinders I had the honor of receiving your Grace's letter¹ respecting the *Lady Nelson* being attached to the *Investigator* while the latter remained in and about this territory, provided the public service would admit of its being done, leaving it to myself to determine according. I also received directions from the Admiralty² to put the *Lady Nelson* under the orders of Captain Flinders. As I always intended that the *Lady Nelson* should accompany the *Investigator* (well knowing the necessity of two vessels being employed on a service of that nature), which I have had the honor of informing your Grace of, and also the Secretary of the Admiralty, in my former letters, I could not hesitate a moment in obeying your Grace's wishes, the directions of the Admiralty, and my own inclinations, and am very happy to place so useful and desirable a vessel under the orders of an officer so well qualified to make the most of the service he has undertaken.

6. As soon as the *Investigator* is refitted, and supplied with the necessary quantity of biscuit, &c., Capt'n Flinders will pursue the subject of his instructions. As that officer will inform the Admiralty of his proceedings thus far, I have only to observe that I have given Captain Flinders every information I am possessed of, and shall continue to give him every assistance in carrying on the service he is employed on.

7. The charts now sent³ are forwarded more from a wish to possess your Grace of what has been done previous to the *Investigator's* arrival than to recommend it as a conclusive survey of the Straits. There are still some points to examine, which will be effectually done when Captain Flinders revisits that part of the coast ; but as Capt'n Flinders will take some considerable time to arrange his conclusive survey of those straits, I beg to suggest the

¹ See *HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 418.

² See *HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 411.

³ The charts are unfortunately missing.

propriety of the charts I have the honor to send now being allowed to be published for the advantage of ships bound to this place, until Capt'n Flinders's charts are published, as passing through those straits, instead of going round Van Diemen's Land, is of the greatest importance to vessels coming here, and for which purpose the charts are sent, I have every reason to suppose will be found sufficiently correct.

8. His Majesty's armed vessel Porpoise being refitted with new masts, &c., and having exhausted our stores of every naval store, with all which she is incompletely fitted, sails on the 27th for Otaheite, in quest of salt pork. A copy of my instructions to Mr. Scott, and a list of the articles he is supplied with for barter (which I fear will be very inadequate to purchase a large supply), I have the honor to enclose The Norfolk, Colonial brig, which sailed for Otaheite in November last, has not returned. As the Speedy, South Sea whaler, by which this despatch is forwarded, has got a full cargo of spermaceti oil on this coast, and four other whalers having nearly completed their cargoes, I have judged it proper to possess your Grace of what may be expected by that fishing being carried on upon this coast, for which purpose I have the honor to enclose a copy of three of the masters' answers to some queries I put to them.¹

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King.

[Enclosure no. 1]

Regulations to be observed by the French ship during her stay in Port Jackson

[See above, item 6, dated 27 April 1802]

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 761-764)

(*HRA*, vol. III, pp. 508-512)

¹ See *HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 760.

Governor King to the Duke of Portland

Sydney, New South Wales

21 May 1802

My Lord,

The Speedy, whaler, having filled on this coast, and put in here for a few days previous to her return to England, enabled me to forward your Grace duplicates of my last despatches, sent by Lieut't McKellar in an American schooner¹ bound to New Bedford, from whence he is to take his passage to England. As I endeavoured to make that despatch and its accompanying documents as explanatory as possible, and so short a time having elapsed, I have but little general information to communicate in addition.

I continued the reduced ration of pork until only eight weeks remained in the stores, when it became necessary to go to the very reduced ration of three ounces and a half of pork daily. The women and children have been long excluded from that part of the ration ; but I hope soon to receive a part of that supply of provisions mentioned in your Grace's last despatch, as the necessity of lessening public labor in proportion as the ration is reduced will be obvious. Our present remains, at the utmost calculation, will last only twelve weeks, and I trust that the arrival of supplies before that period will prevent our thriving stock being touched, which I shall endeavour to prevent by every means in my power, well-knowing what an immense expense has been incurred for what the colony now possesses, how soon its present quantity would be destroyed, and the great expense, losses, anxiety, and disappointment that would attend its being replaced.

Notwithstanding what I have stated in my former letters of the change which I hoped had taken place among the Irish,² sent here for sedition, and being principally concerned in the rebellion in that country, yet I am much concerned to say that the same restless and diabolical spirit still pervades them. It was but very lately some of their leaders very incautiously discovered what their intentions were, of which I had the most corroborating proofs. As some of the principals are removed to Norfolk Island, I hope the others will find it their interest to be quiet; otherways it will be absolutely necessary for me to proceed in a very summary manner to prevent worse consequences. As I am informed more Irish convicts are coming here, it may be necessary to re-embody the associations if they are troublesome, which unfortunately is attended with the expense of their provisions.

Altho' it is not my duty to press on your Grace the description of people to be sent here, yet I would humbly propose that as few as possible of those convicted of seditious and republican practices should be sent; otherways, in a very short time this colony will be composed of a few other characters, which must necessarily draw on anarchy and confusion, as nothing but the hand of authority keeps those we now have within the bounds of order. Among those deluded people, I was reluctantly obliged to send away the man I entrusted with the linen manufactory, which will be a great hindrance, until some person equal to conducting it can be sent from England, instead of the man who was drowned coming out here. Any person that is sent in that situation should be acquainted with the growth and manufacture of the flax.

From the account given by Acting-Lieut't Murray and Captain Flinders, the goodness of the soil and natural advantages of Port Phillip, in Basses Straits, I beg leave to suggest the propriety of a settlement being made at that place, as much for the purpose of separating the

¹ See *HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 760.

² See *HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 82 and note.

numbers that will be sent here when peace is made, as to make an establishment in a place so connected with this settlement; nor can there be a doubt, from the accounts I have received from those officers, of its being a much more eligible climate for raising wheat than this. This measure I should immediately adopt, but unfortunately I have no person under me that can be spared or entrusted with such a command ; but when more officers come out, perhaps I may be able to select out one that would answer for that situation, which will require a person of some abilities and perseverance. Unless I find it absolutely necessary, I shall not take this step without your Grace's approbation, and if approved of, I respectfully beg leave to submit the establishment proposed in a former letter to your Grace's consideration, which I have the honor to enclose with a marginal reference. I am more solicitous respecting forming this settlement, from the probability of the French having it in contemplation to make a settlement on the N.W. coast (of straits), which I cannot help thinking is a principal object of their researches.

I have the honor to enclose the quarterly employment returns of superintendants and officers on the civil establishment, and a return of the stock belonging to government up to the date of this despatch, referring your Grace to my separate letters A with this and my last despatch No. 6, for the details of our expenses and documents annexed thereto.

Agreeable to Lieut't-Governor Forveaux's [Foveaux's] request, I sent 400 bushels of wheat from hence for seed. The Colonial vessel that took it is returned, and exclusive of the letter and returns (copies of which I have the honor to enclose), It appear that officer is doing his utmost to reduce the expenses of that island, and to draw it from the neglected state it has been in.

I have also the honor to enclose the Acting-Judge Advocate's letter to me, requesting being supplied with a copy of the statutes at large and the sessions papers, the former of which we are much in want of, particularly the late Acts respecting sedition and seditious meetings.

Except the trouble occasionally given by the United Irishmen, I am happy to inform your Grace of the general regular and orderly behaviour and good state of health of that part of His Majesty's subjects over whom I have the honor to preside.

I have, &c.

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 764-766)

Le Commandant Hamelin au Gouverneur King

À bord du Naturaliste (sous voiles)

28 floréal an 10 [18 May 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

Je remercie votre Excellence des bontés qu'elle m'a prodiguées pendant mon séjour dans ce port. J'ai à bord les deux Français qu'elle a bien voulu m'accorder, et j'emporte avec moi pour elle la plus haute estime et la plus haute vénération.

Veillez faire agréer mes hommages à vos dames et croire que mon plus grand plaisir seroit de vous revoir en France avec elles.

Salut et considération,

Emmanuel Hamelin

Capitaine de frégate, près la porte de Dinan à St. Malo,
ou No. 8 rue Thévenot, chez le Conseiller le Comte, à Paris

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 947)

*Translation***Commander Hamelin to Governor King**

On board the Naturaliste (under sail)

18 May 1802

Governor,

I thank your Excellency for the many kindnesses you extended to me during my sojourn in this port. I have on board the two Frenchmen you agreed to give me, and I take with me the greatest esteem and veneration for you.

Please give my kind regards to the ladies and rest assured that it would give me the greatest pleasure to see you in France with them.

Yours respectfully,

Emmanuel Hamelin

Commander, by the porte de Dinan at St Malo,
or at No. 8 rue Thévenot, care of Councillor Le Comte, Paris

Robert Brown to the Right Honorable C.F. Greville

Port Jackson

30 May 1802

Dear Sir,

Tho' I have very little of importance to say relative either to our past operations or future proceedings, yet I cannot let slip the present opportunity of writing a few lines.

You probably know that we touch'd at Madeira and the Cape. At Madeira our stay was only three days. I attempted to reach the top of Pico Reviro on foot, but from want of time and proper guides fail'd.

At the Cape our stay was about three weeks. The ship was in Simon's Bay, and my longest walks were to Capetown and Table Mountain, which I ascended twice. Tho' I cannot accuse myself of idleness, yet can hardly flatter myself with having found anything new. I attended particularly to orchidae, and collected upwards of 30 species. Many of these I could have sent had an opportunity occur'd.

I have, however, requested Mr. Rielly, surgeon of the Lancaster, to send you all of that family he may be able to collect. He is no botanist himself, but will be able to get assistance at Capetown.

The charts sent home by C. Flinders by the present conveyance will give you much more accurate information of our proceedings than I can pretend to do.

I have written to Sir Joseph a very brief abstract of what I have been able to do in my department. Upon the whole the number of plants falls short of the expectations I had entertained, but except at King George III's Sound, and our next anchorage, called in the chart Bay 1, we were too late in the season for botany; unfortunately, too, in both those places I had sore legs, which prevented me from attempting any very extensive excursions.

The plants which we have found are mostly new species; there are also a few new genera. In Banksias, too, we have been very fortunate, having observed upwards of 20 species, some of which I think are superior to any hitherto known.

Dickson will be sorry to hear that cryptogamic plants are neither numerous or singular; most of the lichens observ'd are well-known species; mosses are uncommonly few.

I have been able to add one species to Dicksonia. It is arborescent, about 12 feet high, and has a very shewy frond.

We have seen both the French ships – Le Geographe at sea on the south coast, Le Naturaliste in Port Jackson. I have picked up a little information concerning their past operations, which I have sent to Sir Joseph.

I have had the misfortune to lose some of my paper from the dampness of the magazine, and what remains is far from being suff't for the whole voyage. Paper of any kind is not to be had here. I have, therefore, written to Mr. Dryander to purchase for me 8 reams of large brown paper (called Imperial crown paper). I find it, for the greater No. of plants of this country, much superior to cartridge, and less liable to be attack'd by mice, with which we are much infested.

I have found C. Flinders upon all occasions ready to give me every opportunity of collecting, but I find considerable difficulty in procuring proper, or indeed any, boxes made for my collection, or a safe place to place it in.

At present I leave all my collection with Gov'r King, who is good enough to send it to his

house at Parramatta, where it will be in less danger from the white ants.

Rob't Brown

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 775-776)

Robert Brown to Sir Joseph Banks

30 May 1802

Dear Sir,

Since our departure from England I have unpardonably neglected two opportunities, viz't, from Madeira and the Cape, of writing to you, and now that a considerable and important part of the voyage is over, I am afraid I shall disappoint expectations in not sending by the present conveyance specimens and descriptions of what I have collected in natural history. Without, however, devoting much longer time than the present opportunity admits, I should be unable to arrange even a tolerable collection of specimens accompanied by correct descriptions, while I should in some measure lose an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the production of this neighbourhood, considerably the best place for botany we have seen. I have sent a very small box of seeds – a larger one I could not procure in time for the conveyance ; and its smallness may be some advantage, as it enables Gov'r King to enclose it in a larger one, which I believe is also for you. I have ventur'd to address it to you, trusting that if it should have been directed to the Admiralty you will [make] the necessary apologies for me. The list which accompanies the seeds, and which is enclos'd in the box, is partly compos'd of nicknames given at the moment the plants were collected, and not allow'd since. Some of them, I am afraid, may mislead, and the greater part I am aware are rather barbarous, especially where I have terminated specific names in *ordes*, which I have done when uncertain whether the plant was distinct from a species already known, but upon the whole inclined to think so.

Of plants (to which I have devoted the far greater part of my time) the No. of species observ'd on the south coast is about 750. In this No. I do not include cryptogamic plants which, indeed, are neither numerous or singular. Of the 750 about 120 are common to N.S. Wales ; the rest, a very few, New Zealand, and one or two Linnean species excepted, are new species of known genera, or, more rarely, belonging to new genera of those natural orders which are most numerous in N.S. Wales, especially in the vicinity of this colony.

In zoology I have done but little, the time necessarily employed in collecting, preserving, and describing plants, preventing me from paying half the attention to the animal kingdom which its great importance deserves.

In mineralogy I have hitherto merely collected what presented itself on the surface, having never been in a situation where it was necessary to sink a shaft.

Mr. Bauer desires me to add that he has made 350 drawings of plants and 100 of animals. He has indeed been indefatigable, and has bestowed infinite pains on the dissections of the parts of fructification of the plants.

In Mr P. [Peter] Good I have a most valuable assistant; a more active man in his department could hardly, I believe, have been met with.

In attempting to transport living plants we have severely felt the want of a garden on board, the boxes which we had made for that purpose not affording a sufficient protection to them, so that of upwards of 70 species, mostly taken up in good condition, scarce more than 10 of these, unfortunately the least interesting, have been brought alive here. These I have sent to Parramatta, where they will, in our absence, be taken care of by the Governor's gardener. I also intend leaving all my collection here, and Gov'r King has promised to place it where it will be safe from the white ants, dampness, &c.

As Cap'n Flinders sends copies of his charts by the present opportunity, it is altogether unnecessary for me to enter into any account of our proceedings. It may not be improper,

however, to state what opportunities I have enjoy'd of collecting. For the situations of places mentioned I must refer to the charts, as I was not in possession of their exact position. From King George's Sound to Port Phillip in Basses Strait we have anchor'd in six different places. The time spent at anchor amounts altogether to about two months, scarce more than half of which was, as a season, favourable for botany.

At King George's Sound, 24 days ; nearly 500 sp. of plants.

Bay I, 4 days ; upwards of 100 add'l do.

Bay III,¹ a few hours

Memory Cove, 3 days ; Bay X,² 7 days ; Inlet XII,³ 3 days ; Inlet XIV,⁴ a few hours ; Kangaroo Island, 5 days ; King's Island, 1 day ; Port Phillip, 6 days. The No. of species much less considerable ; the season also too far advanced, and the country in many places entirely burnt. I did not, in all put together, add more than 150, and of these many were observ'd only with fruit.

Our other anchorages were all either under the shelter of or in bays form'd by islands of no very considerably size, our stay at each seldom exceeding one day. On most of them I landed, but in all I hardly observ'd more than 12 species, both of animals and plants, which we did not find on the main.

We have seen both the French discovery ships—Le *Geographe* at sea on the south coast, about a degree east from Kangaroo Island ; Le *Naturaliste* in Port Jackson, where she had put in a fortnight before our arrival, and which she left about 12 days ago. Of their past transactions I have learn'd a little ; of their future plan of operations, nothing to be depended on. My information comes mostly from the botanist and mineralogist of Le *Naturaliste*. From the Isle de France they made the south-west cape of N. Holland, and appear to have run along the greater part of the west coast, from which they proceeded to Timor ; from thence to their arrival at Van Diemen's Land I have learn'd nothing of their proceedings. Van Diemen's Land they seem to have minutely examin'd, especially towards its southern extremity ; they do not seem to have very accurately surveyed Basses Strait. Cap'n Baudin and the *Géographe* we met after having pass'd thro' it. He had neither been in Port Dalrymple or Western Port, nor had he discover'd Port Philip, or even King's Island. When we met him had not once anchor'd on the south coast.

Before finishing my letter I shall endeavour to procure a list of their astronomers, naturalists, painters, &c., of which they carried from France an uncommon number; but the greater, and perhaps better part, they left behind at the Isle de France, or have since lost by death.

The only botanist now remaining with the expedition is Mr. Lechnault,⁵ a pupil of Jussieu. He is a young man, and, as far as I could judge from my very short acquaintance with him, an acute observer.

There are still two mineralogists and one zoologist, who is also anthropologist. All their painters (for they had originally three) left them at the Isle of France ; two have since been appointed (by C. Baudin) who were before either assistants or employ'd in some other capacity in the expedition.

¹ Fowler's Bay.

² Port Lincoln.

³ An anchorage on Kangaroo Island.

⁴ Gulf St. Vincent.

⁵ Louis Théodore Leschenault de la Tour, botanist on board the *Géographe*. Robert Brown named the beautiful genus of Goodeniaceous plants called *Leschenaultia* after him. It almost exclusively occurs in Western Australia.

In Van Diemen's Land, Mr. Lechnault inform'd me, he had not found more than 200 species of plants.

On the west coast they do not appear to have collected very much ; however, on this subject my information was not distinct. A small collection of plants made at Shark's Bay I saw. They differ'd but little from those of King George's Sound.

I have beg'd Mr. Dryander to purchase 8 reams of paper for me, having lost a considerable part of what I brought from England by dampness, mice, &c. As this is an indispensable article, and as I certainly have not a sufficient quantity left for the remainder of the voyage, I am extremely anxious to receive it, and have therefore, least my letter to Mr. Dryander should not arrive, taken the liberty of repeating my request here. The kind of paper I wish to have is Imperial brown paper. It is fully the size of cartridge, and in many respects is much superior, both for drying and preserving specimens, especially of the rigid shrubs of this country, and, what is no small advantage in our situation, mice do not eat it.

I have also taken the liberty of sending under cover to you, in some measure to ensure their safety, two letters, one to my mother, the other to my agents.

Mr. Caley, who lives at Parramatta, I have not yet seen, but Gov'r King has written him on the subject of his going with the Investigator, which he has declin'd.

I am, &c.,

Robt. Brown.

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 776-779)

Governor King to Sir Joseph Banks

5 June 1802

Dear Sir,

By Capt. McKellar you will have learned that I retained the Lady Nelson 'till November, when, finding the Investigator did not arrive, I was unwilling to lose so much of the summer and sent her to the Straits, expecting she might fall in there with the Inves'r. The young man who commands her¹ did very well. He remained out from 9th Nov. till 28th March, and as I had closed my despatches I could say but little about what he had done at that time. However, I now have the pleasure of saying that in this trip he ascertained everything on the east, north, and S.E. sides of King's Island, which he made a very good sketch of, as well as the passage through and coves in Kent's Group. He also discovered a spacious harbour about six leagues to the westward of Western Port which I named Port Phillip after my worthy and dear friend the Admiral, who until now has not has his name bestowed on either stick or stone in the colony. I have sent Mr. Murray's journal to the Adm'ty, with a chart containing his discoveries, together with his tracks and those of other vessells that have passed thro' the Straits. I have also sent a letter respecting the Naturaliste, which arrived here April 24th, and Investigator, 9th May. Under the persuasion that you will see that letter, either at the Adm'ty or Whitehall, I shall say nothing more about it, as the whaler this goes by is in a great hurry to get home before winter, that you may not be left in darkness. The Investigator is refitting, and will sail, I hope, in a month, accompanied by the Lady Nelson, which is, and has been, a most valuable vessell to this colony and the service she is going on; and as the young man who commands her has passed for a lieut., and has hitherto acquitted himself much to my satisfaction (considering he is neither astronomer or surveyor, but aspires to both), should it occur, and an opportunity happen, I shall be much obliged by your saying a word in his favour at the Admiralty. I have wrote particularly about him in my letter to the Admiralty. As Captain Flinders will tell his own story what he has done, I think, if no accidents happen in the business he has to perform, that a complete survey will be made. The Naturaliste did not remain here more than fourteen days. We expect the Geographe here also. The Commander has been looking for the Naturaliste, and she for him. Rendezvous they had none, for while the Naturaliste was here Flinders met the Geographe six degrees to the westward of Basses Straits. Previous to the Naturaliste's sailing we had an imperfect account of peace.

By Captain Flinders I received yours of June 22nd and July 8th. With your usual goodness you inform me of the advantageous reports made of me. As it is my only study to merit your approbation, and as for others I am callous to what those about me say and think. There are two things that set me much at variance with those about me – first, my determination that the public shall not be cheated; and next, that the King's authority shall not be insulted. I could enlarge very much; however, trusting you will see my dispatches, I must refer you to them. The former system of monopoly and extortion I hope are now eradicated. Of spirits I think the inundation is going off, and industry begins to know her produce will not be sacrificed to the infamous wretches that have preyed on the vitals of this colony.

I have begun a new settlement² eight miles to the northward of Parramatta, which is doing extremely well. The country and soil is well adapted for cultivation and grazing, and extends equally good as far as the Hawkesbury. Our herds of tame cattle are increasing so

¹ Acting Lieutenant John Murray.

² Castle Hill.

fast that we are obliged to be constantly erecting new stockyards. This species of stock thrive wonderfully well.

I do not recollect what things I sent by the Buffalo besides the duck-bill, the Spanish wool, and Cayley's boxes. The first I hope got safe and perfect, as no pains or spirits were spared to preserve it. I will enquire respecting the other species, and do as you desire. I sent some rubbish by the Albion which I hope you received safe. I send by this conveyance the articles named in the enclosed list. The printed paper will explain how I came by the head. The bearer of it you will find mentioned in Collins's books. Altho' a terrible pest to the colony, he was a brave and independent character. Understanding that the possession of a New Hollander's head is among the desiderata, I have put it in spirits and forward it by the Speedy. I also send a box containing specimens of the fustic which grows in great abundance at the Coal Harbour or Hunter's River. Respecting the salt, I believe the specimens Governor Hunter gave you were good ones. I now send a large lump in a box, which I can assure you was taken from a hollow in the mountains. I did intend to have sent a party early in March, under the direction of Ensign Barallier, and to have had a chain of depôts for provisions, to ascertain the circumstance of the salt and several other objects, but the rain unfortunately set in, which will prevent this expedition taking place before next October, when I hope we shall be able to make a good job of it. Cayley has made new attempts to get to the mountains, and has once crossed the Nepean. With all his faults, which he cannot help, I believe him clever and faithful, except that he certainly supplies Colville, to whom I am informed he has sent parcels by the Speedy. Notwithstanding this, and all his eccentricities, I believe fulfilling your wishes and expectations is his constant study.

While the Naturaliste was here the mineralogist made experiments on the ferruginous stones that abound here. He says they contain too small a portion of iron for working, but that a profitable substance might be got from them for glazing porcelain. He could not discover any limestone. He says none was to be found on the S.W. coast, but the Investigator says different.

Capt. Flinders tells me that on one of the northernmost of the islands that form D'Entrecasteaux Straits or Archipelago they found a very considerable salt-pit, which would supply this colony. This is an information I will avail myself of as soon as summer approaches and I have a vessel I can send. At present the Porpoise is gone to the Society Islands in quest of salt pork, and the other Colonial vessels cannot be spared; neither would the season be favourable if they were at leisure. However, it is an object of too much consequence to pass over or neglect. I should have sent you a copy of the charts for the Lady Nelson's last voyage; but as I have requested the Adm'ty and Sect'y of State to allow them to be printed until Flinders can complete and arrange his surveys, I hope you will have some direction therein. This is rendered still more necessary from an information I have received from a vessel¹ that has returned here from sealing after being four months absent, six weeks of which time they were in a very snug place on the west side of King's Island, filling with prime sealskins and elephant oyl.

[...]

I have in a very earnest manner recommended the making a settlement at Port Phillip, for the very advantageous account given of it, both by Capt. Flinders and Lieut. Murray – its relative situation to this colony requires it. The soil is excellent, and the timber thin, added to which the security and expansiveness of the harbor seems to point it out as absolutely necessary that a settlement should be made there; nor can there be a doubt of its being a better wheat country than this, from its being in a higher latitude. So fully convinced am I of

¹ The *Harrington*, whaler, Captain Campbell.² Geographe Bay.

the utility this would be of to this colony that I would have decided on this measure before I heard from England; but the truth is, I have not a person I can spare or trust with such a commission. The great abundance of sea elephants, prime and other seals, that are throughout these Straits and all up the south-west coast, will make this a place of great resort, if the oyl of the elephant or skins are held in request, but at present we are told that the China market is quite glutted with them; however, that may not always be the case.

The whale fishing on this coast and off New Zealand may now be pronounced established. A full whaler takes these letters Home, another is almost ready to follow, and four more are filling with very good success. In order to set Government *au fait*, I have put some queries to three of the whaling masters who are now in here. The answers I have sent Home to the Admt'y and Sect'y of State, also another copy to one of the principal owners, which, of course, you will see; but I have no doubt, from the success they have had, you will observe how deserving that employ is of encouragement and protection from Government.

What political object the French have in view of exploring this coast I do not know, but I suspect they have a settlement on the west coast in view. I hear of no other new discovery they made except a very large bay¹ between Swan River and the east point of the Land of Lyons. Should that be the case, is it not more incumbent on us to make a settlement at a place so advantageously situated as Port Phillip certainly is? Mr. Brown sends a box of seeds by this conveyance. All the scientific folks on board the Investigator appear very assiduous. They talk of a walk to the mountains. With my sincere wishes for your health, and my respects to Lady and Miss Banks, I beg to assure you of the respect with which I am,

Yours, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 782-786)

¹ Geographe Bay.

Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur King

À bord de la corvette le Géographe, Port Jackson

4 messidor an 10 [23 June 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

La situation dans laquelle se trouvent vingt-trois personnes de mon équipage, atteintes de l'escorbute à un degré plus ou moins considérable par la suite du long séjour que je viens de faire en mer, me fait espérer que vous voudrez bien permettre qu'elles soient transportées dans vos hôpitaux militaires pour le rétablissement de leur santé.

Cette maladie, comme vous le savez, n'exige que du soin, de la tranquillité, un changement de nourriture, et je suis persuadé qu'elles se rétabliront promptement si vous consentez qu'elles y soient admises.

Je désirerois également, si vous le trouvez bon, établir à terre quelques tentes pour la facilité du travail de nos astronomes, dont les observations vous seront communiquées. Le lieu dans lequel s'est fixé M. Flinders me semblera le plus convenable, en supposant que vous n'y trouvez pas d'inconvénients.

Comme je serai dans la nécessité de faire plusieurs remplacements de vivres, tels que biscuit, farine, viande salée, liqueurs fortes, viande fraîche, légumes, etc., etc., j'aurai l'honneur de vous présenter la note des quantités, en vous priant qu'elles me soient fournies des magasins du gouvernement ou de ceux des particuliers, dans le cas qu'ils se trouvent.

Je suis, etc.,

N. Baudin

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 947-948)

*Translation***Commodore Baudin to Governor King**

On board the corvette Le Géographe, Port Jackson

23 June 1802

Governor,

The situation in which twenty-three members of my crew find themselves, being to a greater or lesser extent afflicted with scurvy following the long sojourn I have just made at sea, leads me to hope that you will be kind enough to allow them to be transported to your military hospitals so that they may regain their health.

This disease, as you know, requires only some care, rest and a change of diet, and I am convinced that they will promptly recover if you agree to them being admitted there.

I would also like, with your approval, to set up a few tents on shore to facilitate the work of our astronomers, whose observations will be passed on to you. The place where Mr Flinders is located appears to me to be the most suitable, provided that this is acceptable to you.

As I will need to replenish my supplies, such as biscuit, flour, salted meat, spirits, fresh meat, vegetables, etc, etc, I shall have the honour of presenting you with the list of quantities, requesting that they be supplied from the government or private stores, if they exist.

I am, etc,

N. Baudin

Governor King to Commodore Baudin

Sydney

23 June 1802

Sir,

In answer to y'rs of this date I have to inform you that I have directed the principal surgeon to receive those into the hospital who absolutely need that relief, provided they are victualled at your expense and that the surgeon receives the allowance for his medical wants.

You are at liberty to pitch your astronomical tents at the same place that the Investigator's are at.

With respect to the provisions you are in want of, every assistance shall be given you that the state of the colony will admit of.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 948)

Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur King

À bord le Géographe, Port Jackson

5 messidor an 10 [24 June 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

L'officier, porteur de la lettre que j'ai l'honneur de vous adresser, doit vous demander permission de séjourner quelque tems au Port Jackson. J'espère que vous voudrez bien m'accorder cette faveur, car nous avons tous besoin d'un peu de repos, tenant la mer depuis neuf mois. En surplus, je rendrai à la première audience que vous voudrez bien m'accorder tous les détails qui pourront vous intéresser concernant l'expédition dont m'a chargé le gouvernement français.

Je suis, etc.,

N. Baudin

*(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 948-949)**Translation***Commodore Baudin to Governor King**

On board the Géographe, Port Jackson

24 June 1802

Governor,

The officer bearing this letter which I have the honour of sending you will ask your permission to stay for a time in Port Jackson. I hope that you will be so kind as to grant me this favour, as we are all in need of some rest, having been at sea for nine months. Moreover, at the first audience it will be your pleasure to grant me, I will provide you with all the details that might be of interest to you concerning the expedition that the French government has entrusted to me.

I am, etc.

N. Baudin

Governor King to Commodore Baudin

[25 June 1802?]

Sir,

I had the honour of receiving yours of yesterday's date, and altho' last night I had the pleasure of announcing that a peace had taken place between our respective countries, yet a continuance of the war would have made no difference in my reception of your ship, and affording every relief and assistance in my power; and altho' you will not find abundant supplies of what are most requisite and acceptable to those coming off so long a voyage, yet I offer you a sincere welcome.

I am much concerned to find from Mons'r Ronsard that your ship's company are so dreadfully afflicted with the scurvy. I have sent the Naval Officer with every assistance to get the ship into a safe anchorage. I beg you would give yourself no concern about saluting. When I have the honour of seeing you we will then concert means for the relief of your sick.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 949)

Le Commandant Hamelin au Gouverneur King
Devant le Port Jackson, à bord de la corvette Le Naturaliste
8 messidor an 10 [27 June 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

L'obstination des vents d'ouest et le mauvais tems qui régnera déjà au sud de la côte méridionale de la Nouvelle Hollande, m'ayant contraint d'abandonner momentanément mon projet de traversée, je viens une seconde fois vous demander asile en ce port.

La manière amicale et généreuse avec laquelle vous m'avez reçu il y a deux mois ne me laisse pas douter l'octroi de ma demande.

Je vous ramène un soldat qui s'étoit caché à bord. D'après les promesses réitérées que je vous avois faites de n'enlever personne de cette colonie sans votre aveu, je me proposois de le remettre comme prisonnier d'état à bord du premier bâtiment anglais que j'aurois rencontré, et alors il eut infailliblement été puni comme déserteur des troupes de Sa Majesté. Mais puisque le hasard me permet de le ramener à son propre corps et de le remettre entre les mains de ses chefs, fort de leur estime, j'ose implorer d'eux sa grâce. Je l'ai demandée au Colonel Patterson, mais je n'ignore pas qu'il ne peut la donner sans votre participation ; je vous la demande donc comme une faveur qui sera un nouveau titre à ma reconnaissance. Salut et haute considération, etc.,

Emmanuel Hamelin.

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 949-950)

Translation

Commander Hamelin to Governor King.

At the entrance to Port Jackson, on board the corvette Le Naturaliste
27 June 1802

Governor,

The persistence of the westerly winds, and the bad weather which already exists on the southern coast of New Holland, having compelled me to abandon temporarily my sailing plans, I come to ask you for the second time to shelter in this harbour.

The friendly and generous manner with which you received me two months ago leaves no doubt in my mind that this request will be granted.

I bring you back a soldier who concealed himself on board. As I had promised on several occasions to take no-one away from this colony without your consent, I was planning to hand him over as a State prisoner to the first English ship I should happen to meet, when he would have been punished as a deserter from His Majesty's Armies; but as chance permits me to bring him back to his own corps and to hand him over to his officers, and as I know the sentiments of esteem the latter have for me, I beg to implore them to grant him his pardon. I asked it of Colonel Paterson, but I know he cannot grant it without your sanction; I therefore ask it from you as a favour, which will further entitle you to my gratitude.

Yours respectfully,

Emmanuel Hamelin

Le Capitaine Milius au Gouverneur King

Sydney

9 juillet 1802

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

Quelque répugnance qu'un homme délicat ait à parler de lui, souvent des circonstances l'obligent à rompre le silence. Je me trouve aujourd'hui dans ce cas, et je tiens trop à votre estime pour me résoudre plus longtemps à me taire. Je ne vous entretiendrai pas de tous les faux bruits que l'on fait courir sur mon compte ; je méprise trop la calomnie pour y répondre. Je ne toucherai donc pas une corde qui doit vous être étrangère, et qui ne produiroit sur mes sens que des sons douloureux. Il vous suffira, sans doute, Monsieur le Gouverneur, d'avoir la parole d'un officier qui fit tout pour l'honneur pour qu'on n'abuse pas davantage de votre bonté. J'ose me flatter qu'elle vous suffira pour vous convaincre de mon innocence.

Je ne vous rappellerai pas, Monsieur le Gouverneur, de la petite scène qui eut lieu chez vous et à laquelle l'absence de ma raison donna lieu, mais où mon cœur n'eut nulle part. Je vous fis mes excuses quelques jours après, et vous eûtes la générosité de me pardonner mon étourderie. Voilà la seule faute que j'ai commise, et tout le reste n'est qu'imposture.

Quoiqu'il répugne à ma plume de parler de M. Baudin, je ne pourrai jamais oublier que si j'ai été tout à coup privé de votre société c'est son ouvrage. J'ai pu lui pardonner son injustice en m'accusant journellement de nouvelles fautes qui n'ont jamais existé que dans l'imagination de ceux qui l'aigrissent contre moi, mais fort de mon innocence, je ne cherche nullement à éviter les coups qu'il me porte, et je me borne à gémir et à le plaindre.

Pardonnez-moi, Monsieur le Gouverneur, de vous importuner, mais au moment de quitter votre colonie j'ai cru devoir me justifier et réclamer votre estime dont je fais le plus grand cas.

Je vous salue très respectueusement, etc.

P. Millius

P.S. M. Thomson m'a dit que vous étiez dépositaire de mes certificats de maladie; ce sont des pièces qui me sont absolument nécessaires. Je vous serai infiniment obligé de les lui remettre ou de me faire l'honneur de me les envoyer.

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 950-951)

Translation

Captain Milius to Governer King

Sydney

9 July 1802

Governor,

Whatever reluctance a gentleman has to speak of himself, circumstances often compel him to break his silence. I find myself placed in this position today, and I value your esteem too much to remain silent any longer. I shall not tell you of all the false reports which are being circulated about me; I despise calumny too much to respond to them. Therefore I shall not touch on a subject which must be foreign to you, and which would only be a source of

suffering for me. It will no doubt suffice, sir, that you have the word of an officer who has done everything in the name of honour to prevent people taking advantage any longer of your kindness. I dare flatter myself that this word will be sufficient to convince you of my innocence.

I shall not remind you, sir, of the little scene which took place at your house, and for which the absence of my reason was wholly responsible, but in which my heart had no part. I apologised a few days afterwards, and you had the generosity to forgive my heedlessness. This is the only fault I have committed, and all the rest is but imposture.

Although it is repugnant to me to write about Monsieur Baudin, I shall never be able to forget that, if I have suddenly been deprived of your company, it is because of him. I have managed to pardon his injustice in accusing me every day of committing new faults which existed only in the imagination of those who turned him against me, but, convinced of my own innocence, I do not seek in any way to escape the blows he aims at me; I confine myself to my sorrows and to pitying him.

Forgive me, Governor, for troubling you, but on leaving your colony I felt I should vindicate myself and ask for the continuance of your esteem, which is of the greatest importance to me.

Yours most respectfully,

Pierre Milius.

Le Gouverneur King au Capitaine Milius

le 9 juillet 1802

Monsieur,

Je viens de recevoir votre lettre, et quoique je suis fort occupé à donner les ordres pour soulager les malheureux, je ne puis retarder de vous assurer qu'aucune idée discourteuse [discourtoise] à votre compte ne s'est jamais présentée à mon idée, et que j'ai un vrai plaisir de vous dire que tant à votre conduite ici dont j'ai connu a été celle d'un gentilhomme. La petite scène dont vous me parlez, comme il ne m'a pas offensé aucunement, ni personne sous mes ordres, je l'ai oublié, car je l'ai considéré à ce que je regarde une légère étourderie.

Quant aux raisons que votre commandant peut avoir de n'être sur les termes d'amitié avec vous, c'est une affaire dont je ne me suis pas mêlé, excepté qu'un malentendu existe entre vous; et comme les affaires publiques qui regarde l'expédition et les devoirs de l'hospitalité que je dois à la situation de Monsieur Baudin l'amène personnellement chez moi, il me semblait que des rencontres, situés comme vous êtes, seraient fort désagréable l'un à l'autre; c'est pourquoi je me suis empêché de vous inviter ici depuis l'arrivé du Géographe, et je vous assure que cette cause n'altera jamais l'estime et la considération avec laquelle je suis, etc.,

Philip Gidley King.

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 952)

*Translation***Governor King to Captain Milius**

9 July 1802

Sir,

I have just received your letter and, although I am busy with orders for helping some people who are in unfortunate circumstances, I cannot delay assuring you that no discourteous idea on your account has ever entered my mind, and that I have great pleasure in telling you that all I know of your conduct here has been that of a gentleman. The little scene you speak of did not personally offend me nor anybody under my command, and I have forgotten it, as I considered it but a careless mistake.

As for the reasons your commander may have for not being on friendly terms with you, it is a matter in which I have not interfered further than to note that some misunderstanding exists between you; and as the public affairs concerning the expedition and the duties of hospitality I owe to the position of Monsieur Baudin lead to him personally visiting me, it seemed to me that, given the situation, meetings would be disagreeable to both of you; this is why I have not invited you here since the arrival of the Géographe, and I assure you that this will never alter in any way the esteem with which I remain, &c.,

Philip Gidley King.

Gouvernor King to Commodore Baudin

11 July 1802

Sir,

I had the honor of receiving yours of yesterday. As the vessel¹ you request to purchase is the property of an individual, and as I have no reason to suppose His Majesty's Ministers will disapprove of my acceding to your wish, as it is for the advancement of science and navigation, I shall take upon myself the responsibility of allowing you that permission, to which I am the more inclined from the peculiarity of your situation.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 953)

¹ This boat was a colonial built vessel called the *Casuarina*, from the wood (coast she-oak) principally used in her construction.

Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur King

À bord de la corvette le Géographe, Port Jackson

23 messidor an 10 [12 July 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

D'après la visite qui vient d'être faite à bord par les charpentiers et calfats, en présence de l'ingénieur Ronsard, on a reconnu et constaté par un procès-verbal que pour les réparations à faire au doublage en cuivre, il étoit absolument nécessaire de virer ou d'échouer le bâtiment; le dommage se trouvant à une profondeur trop considérable pour y atteindre sans avoir recours à l'un de ces deux moyens.

Comme, suivant les informations que je me suis procurées, il se trouve dans Sydney Cove un lieu convenable pour l'un et l'autre circonstance, je vous prie de vouloir permettre d'y conduire le bâtiment que je me suis décidé d'échouer, comme le moyen le plus prompt pour les travaux que j'ai à faire.

Je suis, etc.,

N. Baudin.

*(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 953)**Translation***Commodore Baudin to Governor King**

On board the corvette Le Géographe, Port Jackson

12 July 1802

Governor,

From the examination which has just been carried out on board by the carpenters and caulkers, in the presence of Engineer Ronsard, it has been formally noted and confirmed that, in order to carry out the repairs to the copper lining, it is absolutely essential that the vessel be either heaved down or careened, the damaged part being at too great a depth for it to be reached without having recourse to one of these means.

As, according to the information I have obtained, there is a place in Sydney Cove that is suitable for both operations, I have the honour to ask your permission for the vessel to be taken there, having decided to have her beached, this being the most expeditious means of performing the work that needs to be done.

I remain, &c.,

N. Baudin.

Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur King

À bord de la corvette le Géographe, en relâche au Port Jackson

29 [27?] messidor an 10 [18 (16?) July 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

D'après la lettre que vient de m'adresser M. Haris, capitaine de port dans cette colonie, j'ai à vous prier de vouloir bien permettre que comme officier français, et conformément à nos ordonnances de la Marine Militaire, je puisse assembler à bord de la corvette Le Géographe un jury pour prendre connoissance du vol qui a été fait de plusieurs effets appartenant au bâtiment.

J'espère que vous voudrez bien m'accorder votre consentement à ce sujet et trouver bon que j'emploie les moyens qui pourront être nécessaires pour la régularité du jugement qui doit absoudre ou condamner les coupables s'ils sont français.

Je suis, etc.,

N. Baudin.

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 954)

*Translation***Commodore Baudin to Governor King**

On board the corvette Le Géographe, Port Jackson

18 [16?] July 1802

Sir,

From a letter that has just been sent to me by Mr Harris, harbour master of this colony, I have to ask if you would kindly allow me, as a French officer, and in accordance with our navy ordinances, to assemble a court-martial on board the corvette Le Géographe in order to investigate the case of a theft that has been made of several effects belonging to that ship.

I hope you will kindly grant me your consent in this respect and allow me to employ the means which may be necessary to ensure the legality of the verdict which is to acquit or convict the accused, if they are Frenchmen.

I am, &c.,

N. Baudin

Le Gouverneur King au Commandant en chef Baudin

Sydney

le 17 juillet 1802

Monsieur le Commandant,

En répondant à votre lettre d'hier, je n'ai aucune objection de vous assembler un juré, selon vos ordonnances, pour juger les Français de votre bord, pourvu que cette séance soit tenu, jugement prononcé et mis en exécution à bord votre corvette.

Un des gens de police vous attendrez pour vos ordres de faire venir les témoins anglais qu'on pourrait en avoir besoin, pour absoudre ou condamner les coupables.

Je suis, etc.,

Philip Gidley King.

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 954)

*Translation***Governor King to Commodore Baudin**

Sydney

17 July 1802

Commander,

In answer to your letter of yesterday's date, I have no objection to your assembling a court-martial, according to your ordinances, in order to try the Frenchmen belonging to your crew, provided that the trial be held, and the verdict pronounced and executed on board your corvette.

A police officer will await your orders to summon any English witnesses you might require in order to acquit or condemn the accused.

I am, etc.,

Philip Gidley King

Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur King

À bord de la corvette le Géographe, Port Jackson

le 3 thermidor an 10 [22 July 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

N'ayant pu parvenir à réparer en entier les avaries de notre doublage en cuivre, en ce que la mer ne s'est pas assez retirée depuis que nous sommes échoués, je me trouve dans la nécessité de virer le Géographe en quille. Ce contre-temps, qui ne laisse pas que de nous donner beaucoup d'embarras, m'oblige de vous prier de prolonger notre séjour dans Sydney Cove, et de vous demander qu'il nous soit permis de mettre le bâtiment dans le lieu où vous avez coutume de virer les votres; aucun autre endroit du port ne pouvant convenir pour une opération de cette nature.

Je suis, etc.,

N. Baudin.

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 955)

*Translation***Commodore Baudin to Governor King**

On board the corvette Le Géographe, Port Jackson

3 thermidor an 10 [22 July 1802]

Governor,

Having been unable to repair all of the damage done to our copper lining, owing to the tide not ebbing sufficiently since our vessel has been beached, I find it necessary to heave the Géographe's keel out. This unfortunate circumstance, which gives us a great deal of trouble, compels me to ask your permission to prolong our sojourn in Sydney Cove, and to allow us to take the vessel where you usually have yours careened, no other place in the port being suitable for an operation of that kind.

I am, &c.,

N. Baudin.

Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur King

À bord de la corvette le Géographe, Port Jackson

le 11 thermidor an 10 [30 July 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

J'ai bien du regret de ne pouvoir m'absenter pour profiter de la circonstance qui vous oblige de vous rendre sitôt à Oxbury. La lenteur avec laquelle vont nos travaux est cause que je perds l'occasion la plus favorable qui pouvoit se rencontrer, et c'est un grand déplaisir pour moi.

Cependant nous abattons demain (samedi), le navire en quille, et j'espère que mardi tout sera fini.

Je vous serois infiniment obligé si avant votre départ vous vouliez avoir la complaisance de me faire parvenir une permission pour prendre à bord du bâtiment anglais nommé l'Atlas, 800 gallons d'eau-de-vie du Cap de Bonne-Espérance et 150 gallons de vin rouge qu'il a à vendre.

Je vous souhaite un heureux voyage, si je ne puis vous accompagner, et vous prie de faire agréer mes respects à Madame King, sans oublier Mademoiselle Elisabet.

Je suis, etc.,

N. Baudin.

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 955)

*Translation***Commodore Baudin to Governor King**

On board the corvette Le Géographe, Port Jackson

11 thermidor an 10 [30 July 1802]

Governor,

I regret very much that I cannot absent myself in order to take advantage of the circumstance which compels you to proceed to Hawkesbury. The slow manner in which our work is proceeding is the reason why I must forgo this opportunity, which is the most favourable that could be afforded me, and this is a source of great regret for me.

However, we shall heave the ship's keel out tomorrow (Saturday), and I hope that by Tuesday everything will be completed.

I should be much obliged if, before leaving, you would kindly send me a permit to take from the English vessel *Atlas* 800 gallons of brandy from the Cape of Good Hope and 150 gallons of red wine it has for sale.

I hope you will have an enjoyable trip, although I cannot accompany you, and beg you to present my respects to Mrs King and Miss Elizabeth.

I am, &c.,

N. Baudin.

Le Gouverneur King au Commandant en chef Baudin

Sydney

le 9 septembre 1802

Monsieur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer la copie d'une lettre que je viens de recevoir de la part de Monsieur Thomson, un de nos chirurgiens sur l'établissement, et si ma requête ne soit indiscreète, je vous serai bien redevable de lui accorder la grâce qu'il souhaite. Je me suis plus porté à faire cette demande sachant qu'il est un homme fort estimable et qui s'est toujours bien comporté ici où il a resté depuis neuf ans.

Philip Gidley King.

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 956)

*Translation***Governor King to Commodore Baudin**

Sydney

9 September 1802

Sir,

I have the honour of sending you a copy of a letter I have just received from Mr Thomson, one of our surgeons in the colony, and if my request is not indiscreet, I should be much obliged if you would grant him the favour he solicits. I all the more inclined to make this request knowing that he is a very respectable man, and has always conducted himself well during the nine years he has been here.

Philip Gidley King.

Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur King

À bord de la corvette le Géographe, Port Jackson

le 27 fructidor an 10 [14 September 1802]

Monsieur,

D'après la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 9 de ce mois, à laquelle se trouve jointe une copie de celle que vous a adressée M. Thomson, je me suis entretenu avec le capitaine Hamelin de la demande que fait le médecin. L'intérêt que vous prenez à ce qu'il soit possible de lui accorder cette faveur, et la facilité qu'y trouve le capitaine Hamelin ne présentant nulle difficulté, il a été convenu entre nous qu'il y prendrait son passage, si toutefois le lieu qu'on lui destine peut lui convenir pour son logement.

Le capitaine Hamelin est chargé de faire connoître à M. Thomson cette disposition qui vraisemblablement lui sera agréable; ainsi il doit se préparer à partir incessamment et faire les arrangements qu'il jugera convenables pour les vivres et rafraîchissements dont il aura besoin pour cette traversee.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, etc.,

N. Baudin

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 956-957)

*Translation***Commodore Baudin to Governor King**

On board the corvette Géographe, Port Jackson

27 fructidor Year 10 [14 September 1802]

Governor,

On receiving the letter you did me the honour of writing to me on the 9th of this month, containing a copy of Mr Thomson's letter addressed to you, I spoke to Captain Hamelin about the request of that surgeon. The interest you have taken in his request being granted, and the ready acceptance on the part of Captain Hamelin presenting no difficulty, we have agreed that he will take his passage, provided that the space that is to be given him for his quarters is to his liking.

Captain Hamelin is to apprise Mr Thomson of this decision, which will doubtless be agreeable to him; he must, therefore, prepare himself to leave shortly, and make the arrangements he considers necessary to provide himself with provisions and refreshments for his voyage.

I have the honour of being, etc.,

N. Baudin

Governor King to Lord Hobart

Sydney, New South Wales

7 September 1802

My Lord,

Referring your Lordship to the duplicate of my letter No. 8 to the Duke of Portland, dated 9th June, 1802, also to those to your Lordship dated as p'r margin, in which I informed of the necessity of purchasing a quantity of salt meat from the master of the American ship Arthur, accompanied by a voucher, and also of the arrival of the ships as p'r margin, together with a statement of the very proper and laudable conduct of the masters of the Coromandel and Perseus, and the highly improper conduct of the masters of the Hercules and Atlas, to the convicts, &c., during their voyage from England and Ireland to this colony; also the quiet, peaceable, and healthy state of this colony at the latter date; enclosing the Commissary's return of the quantity of salt meat we then had in store, and the time it would last; that we had sufficient grain in Government's hands and that of individuals to continue two-thirds of the full ration to those supported by the Crown until next harvest; that the Geographe and Naturaliste, French ships on discovery, were here refitting, and that Capt'n Flinders, in His Majesty's ship Investigator, with the Lady Nelson, sailed from hence the 22nd July last, to prosecute the service he was ordered on by the Lords of the Admiralty.

Having been disappointed in the whaler not returning to this port by which I intended to have sent my answer to your Lordship's despatches dated 30th last January, and not deeming the present a very safe conveyance, I defer sending it by this ship. Mr. James Thomson, Staff Surgeon (who has my permission to return to England, for the recovery of his health and to arrange his private concerns, he having been nine years in this colony, and intended to go in the whaler), and as the Commodore of the French ships has signified his intention of dispatching the Naturaliste to France from hence, and having, in a very handsome manner, permitted Mr. Thomson and his family to have a passage in that ship, I am induced to send my answers to your Lordship's despatches by that officer, as I have the Commodore's promise that they will remain unmolested in his possession—a measure I should not have adopted was I not possessed of a printed copy of the definitive treaty being concluded between His Majesty and the French Republic.

As the subjects in the letters above alluded to will be fully stated in my letters by Mr. Thomson, I only shall inform your Lordship that the unfortunate survivors of the convicts sent in the Hercules and Atlas are in a state of convalescence, but too weak and debilitated to be ever of much use.

The master of the Perseus having (as he says, at the recommendation of Sir Roger Curtis) brought some cattle from the Cape of Good Hope, which are very nearly of the English breed, and being landed in an excellent state, I directed the Commissary to purchase them for the use of Government, the price of which, by the enclosed voucher, your Lordship will observe is £35 a head, which purchase, together with that of 135 gallons of spirits at 7s. p'r gallon, for the use of the Colonial vessels, I hope will be approved of, as every head of female cattle we can obtain will hasten the time of supplying ourselves with animal food.

As I have not yet signed the bills for the grain and animal food delivered into His Majesty's stores by individuals who required payment during the last quarter, *i.e.*, from March to June, and which amounts to £1,213 19s. 3d., I defer sending the vouchers for that payment until they accompany those for the quarter ending the 30th instant, which, with every other necessary document, will be transmitted by Mr. James Thomson, who will doubtless

arrive before this comes to hand. I have a pleasure in informing your Lordship the colony remains in the same peacable and healthy state as when I had the honor of writing last.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 838-839)

Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur King

À bord de la corvette le Géographe, Port Jackson
le 2 vendémiaire an 11 [24 September 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

J'ai eu l'honneur de vous adresser hier le rapport de l'officier de garde à bord du Géographe, quand on a pavoisé le bâtiment, et je vous fais parvenir aujourd'hui celui des officiers qui étoient présents à cette même époque. Vous pourrez, par ce moyen, vous convaincre qu'il n'est aucun de nous qui ne connoisse les égards qu'on doit, non seulement au pavillon de Sa Majesté Britannique, mais aussi à celui de toute nation, quelle que soit sa place dans le système politique de l'Europe.

La lettre que j'ai adressée à M. Haris, et dont je joins ici une copie, vous mettra à même de juger combien j'ai lieu de me plaindre de la conduite légère et peu réfléchie qu'il a tenue dans le rapport qu'il vous a fait ; conduite qui a occasionné de ma part une lettre de reproche et de réprimande à des officiers qui étoient loin de l'avoir méritée.

Je suis, etc.,

N. Baudin

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 957)

*Translation***Commodore Baudin to Governor King**

On board the corvette Le Géographe, Port Jackson,
2 vendémiaire Year 11 [24 September 1802]

Governor,

I had the honour of sending you yesterday the report of the officer who was on watch on board the *Géographe* when the vessel was dressed, and I send you today that of the officers who were present at that time. You will thus be able to conclude that there is not one amongst us who does not know what regard is due, not only to His Britannic Majesty's flag, but also to that of every nation, whatever its position in the European political system may be.

The letter I have written to Mr Harris, a copy of which you will find enclosed, will enable you to see to what extent I have reason to complain of the careless and thoughtless conduct he demonstrated in the report he made to you, conduct which led me to reprimand officers who were far from deserving it.

I am, &c.,

N. Baudin

[Enclos No. 1]

Le Commandant en chef Baudin à M. Har[r]is

[Enclosed with letter from Baudin to King dated 2 vendémiaire an 11]

Monsieur,

D'après ce que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de me dire hier matin de la part de Monsieur le Gouverneur, vous avez bien dû penser que je ferois toutes les démarches qui pourroient m'éclaircir sur un fait qui me paroissoit d'autant plus extraordinaire que de tous les officiers français qui sont employés dans la division que je commande, il n'en est aucun qui, comme moi, ne soit convaincu que nous ne pouvons assez reconnoître les remerciements que nous devons au Gouverneur King, au Colonel Paterson, et aux principaux habitants de cette colonie pour la manière honnête, affectueuse, et distinguée avec laquelle eux ont bien [voulu] nous recevoir.

La réponse que j'ai reçue de tous mes officiers en particulier, et que je transmets en original à Monsieur le Gouverneur, est tellement authentique et circonstanciée, que je n'ai pas vu sans regret que c'étoit sur des rapports équivoques et bien peu réfléchis que vous lui avez porté une plainte d'autant plus mal fondée qu'elle a donné lieu à un manque d'égard dont j'aurois à me plaindre officiellement si je ne connoissois pas les raisons qui l'ont occasionné.

Quoi qu'il en soit, il n'en est pas moins vrai que par trop de confiance en ce que vous m'avez dit, j'ai adressé une lettre amère et de reproches à tous mes officiers, tandis que par leur réponse, dont la véracité ne peut être contestée, ils se sont scrupuleusement conformés aux lois d'honneur, de loyauté, et de politesses qui sont la base de leur conduite.

Si vous voulez avoir la complaisance de parcourir les lois d'honneur de la Marine Française, lois que nous avons toujours respectées, vous y verrez à *l'article 11, chapitre 17, page 268, que la place d'honneur que doit occuper le pavillon d'une nation étrangère qu'on veut distinguer doit être placé du côté de Stribord à la grande vergue. La même loi ajoute, quand on ne sera pas dans le cas de faire cette distinction, cette même place ne sera jamais occupée que par un pavillon français.*

Jugez donc, Monsieur, si après avoir strictement rempli cette formalité, je n'ai pas eu droit de me plaindre amèrement de votre procédé, comme de celui de ceux qui vous ont accompagné, ou des propos indiscrets qu'on a tenus à ce sujet, propos que l'ignorance de nos usages auroient au moins dû suspendre jusqu'à une plus ample information. Vous pourriez peut-être me dire pour vous excuser, ainsi que ceux qui se sont plaints, que votre façon de paviser les bâtiments anglais n'est pas la même ; mais dans ce cas j'aurois à vous répondre que ne la connoissant pas, je ne me serois jamais permis la moindre observation, et que je n'aurois pu m'imaginer que ce fût par mépris ou toutes autres raisons aussi peu conséquentes que vous n'auriez pas placé le pavillon français dans le lieu établi par nos règlements pour le pavillon de toute nation à laquelle on doit des égards.

J'espère Monsieur, que vous voudrez bien faire connoître par une démarche honnête envers des officiers français qui ne se sont conduits que par honneur et loyauté, que c'est par erreur ou de faux rapports que vous avez douté un seul moment de leur intention, d'autant qu'aucun d'eux n'ignore les égards et la considération qu'on doit au pavillon de Sa Majesté Britannique, raison pour laquelle on l'a placé dans le lieu privilégié qu'il a occupé à bord de la corvette que je commande.

Ce qui est arrivé au Casuarina qui portoit comme moi *le pavillon anglais à sa grande vergue du côté de Stribord*, et non pas dans le lieu qu'il vous a plu d'indiquer, est trop public pour être révoqué en doute. Au surplus j'adresse à Monsieur le Gouverneur une copie de

cette lettre en ce que votre conduite dans cette circonstance a eu trop d'éclat et de légèreté pour qu'il n'en soit pas informé.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, etc.,

N. Baudin

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 958-959)

Translation

Commodore Baudin to Mr Harris

Sir,

After what you did me the honour of telling me yesterday morning in the Governor's name, you must have expected that I would take all the necessary steps to inform myself on a matter which appeared to me all the more extraordinary as, among all the French officers serving in the division which I command, there is not one who is not, like myself, convinced that we cannot acknowledge enough the thanks we owe to Governor King, Colonel Paterson and the principal inhabitants of this colony for the courteous, affectionate and distinguished manner in which they have received us.

The response I received from my officers individually, and which I am transmitting in their original form to the Governor, is so authentic and detailed that I did not learn without regret that it was on equivocal and thoughtless reports that you formulated a complaint that was all the more ill-founded as it has given rise to a want of regard, for which I should have cause to complain officially, if I did not know the reasons which caused it.

However that may be, it is nonetheless true that, through trusting to what you told me, I sent a bitter and reproachful letter to all my officers, whereas from their response, the truthfulness of which cannot be doubted, they have scrupulously adhered to the laws of honour, loyalty and politeness which are the basis of their conduct.

If you would kindly glance over the laws of honour of the French Navy, laws to which we have always adhered, you will see at *article 11, chapter 17, page 268, that the place of honour for the flag of a foreign nation which we intend to distinguish must be on the starboard side of the main yard arm.* The same law further states: *when it is not possible to make such distinction, this place will only ever be occupied by a French flag.*

You can therefore judge, sir, if, having strictly adhered to this rule, I do not have the right to complain bitterly about the way in which you have proceeded in this matter, as well as about the behaviour of those who went along with you, or about the indiscreet tales circulated on the subject, tales which, in ignorance of our customs, should at least have been withheld until further information had been obtained. You might perhaps say, to excuse yourself, along with those who complained, that your way of dressing English vessels is different from ours; but in that case I could respond that, not knowing that way, I would never have taken the liberty of passing any remarks, and I could never have imagined that it was out of contempt or for any other, equally inconsequential reason that you had not hoisted the French flag in the place assigned in our regulations to the flag of any nation to which such distinction is due.

I hope, sir, that you will kindly make it known, by taking a civil course towards French officers who behaved honorably and loyally, that it was in error and on false reports being made that you doubted their intention, all the more so because not one among them is unaware of the respect and consideration which is due to His Britannic Majesty's flag, and

this is the reason why it was hoisted in the privileged place on the corvette I command.

What happened to the Casuarina, which, *like me, flew the English flag on the starboard of her main yard arm*, and not where you had indicated it should be placed, has been made too public to be doubted. Moreover, I am sending to the Governor a copy of this letter, as your conduct in this circumstance has created to great a sensation and has been too thoughtless not to be reported.

I am, &c.,
N. Baudin.

[Enclos No. 2]

M. Brèvedent au Commandant en chef Baudin

le 2 vendémiaire an 11 [24 September 1802]

[Enclosed with letter from Baudin to King dated 2 vendémiaire an 11]

Citoyen commandant,

D'après les reproches que vous venez de me faire, je puis vous assurer sur mon honneur que j'avois fait placer le pavillon anglais dans l'endroit qu'ont fixé nos ordonnances pour les nations dont la navigation est plus étendue. Aussi, je suis d'autant plus surpris de ce que vous me dites à ce sujet que je comptois principalement me faire remarquer en donnant au pavillon anglais cette place d'honneur qu'il auroit conservée tout le jour si le patron de la goëlette l'Endeavour, capitaine Joseph Olifante, ne fût venu à bord, porteur d'un billet de votre part qui me prioit de lui donner un pavillon anglais pour l'arborer à bord de son bâtiment. N'ayant que celui qui étoit en place, je ne me suis permis aucune objection, et lui ai donné sur le champ le seul que j'avois en le remplaçant par un pavillon de signaux.

Bredevent,

Officier commandant à bord

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 960)

*Translation***Monsieur Brèvedent to Commodore Baudin**

2 vendémiaire Year 11 [24 September 1802]

Citizen Commander,

Following the reprimand I have just received from you, I can assure you on my honour that I had had the English flag hoisted at the place assigned in our regulations to the nations whose navigation is more extensive. Therefore, I am all the more surprised at what you are telling me on this subject as I thought I was instead distinguishing myself by giving to the English flag this place of honour, which it would have occupied the whole day had not the master of the schooner Endeavour, Captain Joseph Oliphant, come on board bearing a note from you, requesting me to give him an English flag, so that he might hoist it on board his vessel. Having no other than the one flying, I made no objection and gave him it at once, replacing it by a signal flag.

Bredevent

Officer Commanding

[Enclos No. 3]

M. Ronsard au Commandant en chef Baudin

À bord de la corvette le Géographe

le 2 vendémiaire an 11 [24 September 1802]

[Enclosed with letter from Baudin to King dated 2 vendémiaire an 11]

Citoyen commandant,

Le pavillon anglais a été hier hissé au tribord au bout de la grande vergue qui est la première place d'honneur qu'auroit occupée le pavillon national si j'avois été chargé du pavoisement. Les personnes qui ont rapporté au Gouverneur qu'on avoit affecté de mettre le pavillon anglais dans l'endroit le moins apparent ne sont sans doute pas à même d'apprécier l'honneur qu'on a fait à la nation anglaise.

Salut et respect,

Ronsard

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 961)

*Translation***Monsieur Ronsard to Commodore Baudin**

On board the corvette Le Géographe

2 vendémiaire Year 11 [24 September 1802]

Citizen Commander,

The English flag was hoisted yesterday on the starboard at the end of the main yard arm, which is the highest place of honour that the national flag would have occupied had I been entrusted with the dressing of the vessel. Those persons who reported to the Governor that we had deliberately hoisted the British flag in the least conspicuous place of the corvette are not in a position to appreciate the honour which was paid to the English nation.

Yours respectfully,

Ronsard.

[Enclos No. 4]

M. Freycinet au Commandant en chef Baudin

À bord du Géographe

le 2 vendémiaire an 11 [24 September 1802]

[Enclosed with letter from Baudin to King dated 2 vendémiaire an 11]

Citoyen commandant,

J'ai l'honneur de vous assurer que la place occupée hier dans notre pavoisement par le pavillon anglais étoit celle de tribord derrière. Cette place, vous le savez, n'est occupée en France que par le pavillon national, et c'est par excès de déférence que nous l'avons accordée aux couleurs anglaises.

Je vous salue, etc.,

Henri Freycinet,

Lieutenant de vaisseau.

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 961)

*Translation***Lieutenant Freycinet to Commodore Baudin**

On board the Géographe

2 vendémiaire Year 11 [24 September 1802]

Citizen Commander,

I have the honour of assuring you that the place occupied yesterday by the English flag in our dressing of the vessel was on the starboard of the main yard arm. This place, as you know, is only occupied in France by the national flag, and it was by excess of deference that we gave it to the English colours.

I have, &c.,

Henri Freycinet,

Naval Lieutenant

Governor King to Commodore Baudin

Sydney

25 September 1802

Sir,

I had the honor of receiving your letter of yesterday, enclosing the copy of a letter you had written to the Naval Officer respecting the message delivered by the former to you from me regarding the situation the English ensign was placed in on board your vessels when dressed on the 23rd instant, also three letters from officers of the *Geographe* to you containing their reports on that subject. In return I have the honor to transmit you a copy of my letter to the Naval Officer and his answer thereto, as well as a letter from him to you accounting for the conduct you reprobate so much. To that answer it is necessary I should add that upon getting up in the morning of the 23rd instant I observed the *Cassuarina* was dressed with a number of colours, and on sending a person to the hill I found that the *Geographe* was also dressed. As I was not ignorant of the occasion being the New Year's Day observed by France, I sent immediate orders to the English ships in the cove and the battery to hoist their colours in compliment to the French flag. Being engaged in business the whole of the day I did not observe the situation of the English flag on board *Le Geographe*. That on board the *Cassuarina* was removed to enable the *Endeavour* (from which vessel it was borrowed) to comply with my orders. The Naval Officer next morning gave me the information stated in his letter, in consequence of which I desired him to deliver the message he quotes, which I was induced to do for two reasons : the first was that the nations with which we are at peace and in whose port any of our men-of-war are, the flag of that nation is always shown at the fore-top-gallant masthead. Not knowing that any other regulation existed with you, I could not receive the report of the American flag (of which nation only one merchant vessel was in the harbour) being hoisted at the fore-top-gallant mast-head, the French flag at the main, and the Spanish at the mizen, without requesting an explanation, which was due to the honor of His Majesty's flag. My second reason was, knowing that neither you nor any of your officers could have any intention of showing the least inattention to the English flag, and that if any neglect was the cause of that supposed slight it would be explained.

The explanation which you have communicated to the Naval Officer, and the quotation from your instructions on that behalf, is fully satisfactory and convincing that instead of any slight being intended to the English flag the utmost attention was paid to it by the officers of your ships.

As a proof of which I have the honor to enclose a copy of the General Orders that will be made public to-morrow on that subject, as well to do away with any idea that His Majesty's flag has suffered any inattention by you or your officers as to prevent any further explanation on similar subjects.

With respect to the Naval Officer, I must confess I see no cause for the severe strictures you have made on his conduct, which has been uniformly guided by the most honorable motives and unwearied attention, not only for the accommodation and welfare of strangers, but also in watching over the police of this part of the colony, and I cannot help lamenting that your anxiety to show the attention you wished to pay the English nation should have been the cause of your writing the officers on board your ship a letter of reproach and reprimand for an affair that might have been explained in the same manner as the message was conveyed.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King.

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 962-963)

Mr J. Harris to Governor King

Sydney

25 September 1802

Sir,

I rec'd the honor of yours of this date, enclosing a translation of a letter from the French Commodore to me, and which you desire that I will inform you of the particulars alluded to in that letter, and what passed between the Commodore and me.

On the 23rd inst. I was told by Cap. Smith, the commander of an American vessel in this port, that Capt. Campbell, of the Harrington, had hauled down his colours, which you had ordered the ships in the harbour to hoist in honor of the French, and on demanding the reason was told that it was owing to the British flag not being placed in a more elevated situation, and at the same time desiring me to observe the place. Wishing to be fully persuaded as to this point, I went with Capt. Smith on board the Harrington and enquired the reason why he (Capt. Campbell) had hauled down his colours contrary to your orders, to which he replied that the English flag must be placed higher before he would again hoist his ensign.

I took him, with Capt. Smith, in my boat down the harbour to where the French ships lay, and observed, as was reported, the English flag at the main yard-arm, with the American ensign at the fore-top-gallant mast-head and a Spanish flag at the mizzen-top-gallant mast-head ; and as it was after sunset when I returned to town I did not think of mentioning it to you that night, but in conversation the following morning mentioned it to you as words of course, when you desired that I would deliver the following message to the Commodore, viz. : "That you was sorry that the British flag had not been hoisted in a more conspicuous part ; that you did not suppose that the Commodore knew of it, but that it was thro' the mistake of some of the officers on board." This I delivered, and was told by the Commodore that "he supposed the colours had been taken promiscuously out of the chest and hoisted ; that had he known that any remark would have been made thereon, he would have placed the English flag at the main-top-gallant mast-head ; but, as he did not understand enough of English or me of French, that he would wait on your Excellency and explain it to you." I heard no more about it until I rec'd his letter, in which he makes many ill natured remarks on my conduct. I have to request your Excellency will have the goodness to forward the enclosed answer to his letter (not in justification of my conduct, as I do not conceive I have erred), but to prevent any misrepresentation.

I have, &c.,

J. Harris

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 963-964)

Mr J. Harris to Commodore Baudin

Sydney

25 September 1802

Sir,

I have received your's of yesterday's date, wherein you make some animadversions on my conduct respecting a message delivered you by me by order of His Excellency the Governor, and least that other people as little disposed to do me justice or be friendly as yourself should twist or torture my words by misrepresentation, I beg leave, before I reply to the subsequent parts of your letter, to state the message which I delivered to you, viz. : "That His Excellency the Governor was sorry to say that it had been reported to him that the British flag had been hoisted at the main yard-arm on board Le Geographe and equally as low on board the Casuarina ; that being the case, he did not suppose it was done by the knowledge of you, but thro' the mistake of some of the officers on board, and he was sorry it had not been put in a more conspicuous position." This, sir, was the message which I delivered you.

You begin by stating how much you and your officers are indebted to the Governor, Lieut. Colonel Paterson, and others for civilities received from them. On this I have nothing to remark, as you must be the best judges of these things. You state having received letters from your officers (which you transmitted to the Governor) in answer to one written them by you, which are so circumstantial and authentic that you have not seen without regret that it was on a slight, unfounded, and equivocal report of mine to His Excellency that you was obliged to do so. This I will prove is unfounded on your part, as no official complaint was made by me to His Excellency, further than remarking, in general conversation, the situation in which the British flag was placed in on board your vessels, and that nothing was mentioned by me that was not a fact, and as such, from the confidence the Governor places in me, he thought it most advisable to make me the bearer of the message than write to you officially, expecting an explanation as friendly as the message. I also further assert, in direct contradiction to you, sir, that I was guilty of no imprudence or impropriety whatever, having conducted myself as an officer and a gentleman, and obeyed the orders of the Governor. If, sir, you have written a bitter letter of reproach to your officers, and of whom you say you have the highest opinion of their conduct, loyalty, and honor, &c., I cannot be answerable for your conduct in this respect, which might, perhaps, have been avoided by your explaining to me or to the Governor, what was the custom observed by the marine of your nation in dressing their ships.

Those regulations I was ignorant of, but am now much obliged by your quoting them to me, and am convinced that your officers have scrupulously attended thereto. You say that, after having fulfilled this formality (alluding to your marine laws), "if you have not a right bitterly to complain of my proceedings, as well as those who accompanied me, with regard to the improper terms made use of on that subject." I am at a loss what you allude to by "those who accompanied you." Perhaps it is the mistake you acknowledge to have been made by you respecting the masters of the merchant vessels accompanying me to His Excellency. If so, this part of yours is done away with, as they neither accompanied me to the Governor or to you ; and you well know that no person but myself was at your house when I delivered you the message from His Excellency.

It is true I profess myself ignorant of a flag of honor being hoisted at the starboard main yard-arm ; but in this I am not singular, as there is not a private soldier or sailor in this colony that does not know that the flag of a distinguished nation is always hoisted at the fore-top-gallant mast-head. But your information, and that of your officers, has been perfectly

satisfactory, and had you informed me, at the time I delivered you the Governor's message, of its propriety, my explanation thereon would have fully satisfied him, and prevented the disagreeable letter of which you complain that you was necessitated to write to your officers thro' my imprudence, as you are pleased to term it. I cannot help remarking the word imprudence, conscious that it does not rest with me, sir.

You say that you hope I will, by a civil conduct (for so I construe *démarche honneste*), convince the French officers that I never doubted their intention of the distinction due to the British flag. In what instance, sir, have you ever seen any incivility or inattention by me to either you or your officers? Did I know that I had ever been remiss in duty towards your ships, or wanting in civility to either you or your officers in any respect, no man would more readily come forward than myself to acknowledge the fault ; but knowing not to have erred, I shall decline coming forward to make any acknowledgement whatever to either you or your officers.

You state that my conduct has appeared in too public a light to be passed, and that you have transmitted a copy of your letter to me to His Excellency for his inspection.

I am much obliged to you for this last part of your politeness, as there is no part of my conduct but that I would at all times wish His Excellency to be made acquainted with, as I know him to be a man of too much honor, integrity, and justice to be biassed by any aspersion or misrepresentation, and in whatever point of view you may choose to place my conduct you will always find me ready to come forward to support it.

I have, &c.,

John Harris

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 964-966)

Le Commandant en chef Baudin à Madame King

À bord de la corvette le Géographe, Port Jackson

8 vendémiaire an 11 [30 September 1802]

Madame,

À la veille de mon départ, je prends la liberté de vous adresser cinquante pounds monnaie anglaise, que je vous prie de vouloir bien accepter pour être employées au soulagement des orphelins.

Quoique étranger à cette colonie, j'espère que vous ne me priverez pas du plaisir que je ressens d'avoir une occasion convenable à vous prouver combien j'ai de respect pour de semblables établissements, surtout lorsqu'ils sont surveillés par des personnes qui, comme vous, savent en apprécier l'utilité pour le présent et les avantages pour l'avenir.

Je suis, etc,

N. Baudin

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 966)

*Translation***Commodore Baudin to Mrs. King**

On board the corvette Le Géographe, Port Jackson

8 vendémiaire Year 11 [30 September 1802]

Madam,

On the eve of my departure I take the liberty of sending you £50 of English money which I beg you to accept, to be distributed for the assistance of orphans.

Although I am a foreigner in this colony, I hope you will not deprive me of the pleasure I have in finding a suitable opportunity of proving to you what respect I have for such institutions, especially when they are supervised by persons who, like yourself, know how to appreciate their usefulness for the present and their advantages for the future.

I have, &c.,

N. Baudin

Governor King to Sir Joseph Banks (A private letter)

Sydney

2 October 1802

Dear Sir,

I wrote you very fully by the *Speedy*, dated the last of June.¹ By the letters I have now received I heard of your being laid up, which is the reason of my not having heard from you. In my last I informed you of the Investigator's arrival here, and what she had done. She sailed from hence 22nd July to prosecute her discoveries, accompanied by the *Lady Nelson*. His first object is the Endeavour Straits and the Gulf of Carpentaria, and the north and north-west coasts if he can finish Carpentaria before the N.W. monsoon sets in, which I am doubtful of. In that case he proposes returning thro' the Straits and going to the Feejee Islands, taking the change of the monsoon for his return to survey the N.N.W. and S.E. coasts. I also informed you of the French ships coming here. The *Geographe* had no more than twelve men to work her when she arrived, including officers, the rest being in the last stage of scurvy and dysentery. I informed you of what they had done in the surveying business, which has been extensive enough, as they have circumnavigated all the west and S.W. coasts of this country, but I do not think they have examined it so closely as not to have left much for Captain Flinders to do. As he has not a sufficiency of men to work both ships and to persevere in the remainder part of his voyage, on his signifying his distress to me, and his intention of sending the *Naturaliste* to France with what he has collected, and to take only men sufficient to navigate her, I gave him permission to purchase a boat of about twenty tons, with which he means, on leaving this, to pass thro' Bass's Straits, and in some part of them he means to land for the purpose of observing the transit of Mercury. It is not till after this is completed that he dispatches the *Naturaliste*, in which ship I have procured a passage for Mr. J. Thompson, one of the assistant surgeons, and by whom I send my dispatches, together with Captain Flinders' letters. The bay Mons. Baudin saw on the Land of Lyons is quite open, they named Baye de *Geographe*, and is the only opening they saw, either at Mervyn's Cove or the Land of Endraght, except Shark Bay and Swan River. He as well as his officers describe the coasts on the S.W. and west sides as hardly accessible, from the number of small islands with which they are lined, and every appearance of sterility, which is verified by the drawings made of every part of the coast he has visited, which I have seen and are most accurately delineated. His collections in natural history are immense; he sends them all by the *Naturaliste*. Mr. Brown left six large boxes with specimens from the south coast, but with direction that they were not to be sent, but to be retained until the Investigator went Home. They are safe in my care. By my last I also sent you a copy of the discoveries made in the Straits as far as they could be ascertained. Four other ships and several small vessells have gone thro' since; nothing additional has been seen. There is a difference in the latitudes and longitudes of different observers which I shall detail to Mr. Dalrymple—I mean with respect to the exact situation of Wilson's Promontory. If Captain Flinders goes that way again he will exactly fix it. I am told King's Island is a very fine spot, abounding with seals, kangaroos, wombats, emus &c., &c. Port Phillip is also a great acquisition; and as I have urged the fixing of a settlement at the latter place, I am anxious to begin it, but unfortunately I have no person I can send there equal to the charge. Policy certainly requires us having a settlement in these Straits.

As our maritime surveying is now turned over to Captain Flinders, who has the *Lady*

¹ See Governor King to Sir Joseph Banks, 5 June 1802.

Nelson with him by the Adm'ty's directions, I had begun making discoveries into the interior by means of Ensign Barallier, who is the *protégé* of Mr. Greville. He has been one journey, and went about twenty miles from the first range of hills, till his further course was interrupted by a river running north, which is a curious circumstance, being in the mountains. He describes it as wide as the Thames at Kingston. Some native iron he also found, an imperfect limestone, and the dung of an unknown animal. Samples of everything he found will be sent by the Greenwich; and I did hope to have been able to add something further from another journey he was about undertaking, and for which purpose I had established a chain of depôts of provisions to prevent his return, but as Col. Paterson has thought proper (or I believe has been advised) to write me officially that Mr. Barallier's excursions were contrary to the Duke of York's instructions, I found myself obliged to give him up, and relinquish this highly desirable object for the present. I am concerned at it, as the young man has such ardour and perseverance that I judged much public benefit would have resulted to his credit and my satisfaction. However, so it is, and I must be content in my humiliation until I get an answer to my present dispatches, in which I am forced to state the conduct of Colonel Paterson and some of his officers. You may recollect that when you mentioned the subject of Colonel Paterson being Lieut.-Governor, I would not take any step in the business until you knew my opinion on it; that I told you as long as he acted from his own ideas and principles he would do what was right and honorable; but unfortunately he has in a former instance been advised to oppose me by those who afterwards betrayed him. His present business is of nearly the same complexion, originating in resentment of my having sent away a ship with spirits without suffering any to be landed. As I have been obliged to enter into these details,¹ if you should be able to see them I must refer you to their information, otherways I must resign myself to that direction from which I have a right to expect justice. Believe me, dear sir, that my situation here is not a very pleasant one; the obnoxious character of a reformer is no calculated to appear often on the theatre of this world. I have had the most flagrant and dishonorable abuses to do away, and I have succeeded, but at the expense of being hated by those whose interest has been hurt at these regulations without which the treasuries of Europe would not have answered the pressing demands of this colony (or rather of the vultures in it). In the path of duty and rectitude I shall invariably walk, and leave the rest to Providence and the wisdom of my superiors.

Cayley is just gone on an excursion, and you will see by his letter that he is meditating a still longer one, as he keeps all his knowledge to himself. I am hopeful you are benefitted by it. He is certainly very assiduous of late, and I hope much good will result from his journey, which is undetermined and precarious. I informed you of the refusal he gave me and Mr. Brown to his going in the Investigator. I have sent ten boxes- *i.e.* all the Porpoise's – with plants that have been established in them these twenty months. Mr. Brown said they were all new plants in England. There is also a quantity of different seeds secured in them. I propose sending them and what else I have to send by the Greenwich whaler belonging to Messrs. Enderbys, which will leave this about February next, or perhaps sooner, and as the master is very careful, I hope they will arrive safe.

November 13th. – As Mons. Baudin remained here till this day (how much longer will depend on the wind) to observe the transit of Mercury, in which the clouds frustrated them. I am able to add in continuation of this that conceiving it to be too great a sacrifice to the public interest to forego the useful service of Mr. Barrallier, and as I am allowed an aid-de-camp, I fixed on him, and had Colonel Paterson's permission for that purpose. I immediately detailed him on his exploring service.² I have just heard from him that he has fixed his depôts as far as

¹ The Governor is referring here to his voluminous despatches to the Duke of Portland, of 25 September 1801.

² King resorted to an amusing ruse to lend an appearance of military duty to Ensign Barrallier's journey in land.

sixty miles to the westward of the Nepean. I send you a copy of his letter to me, which I have this instant received, and if possible will send the intelligence that is collected by the people who are returned to Parramatta. The specimens of stones, &c., shall be forwarded to you by the Greenwich, as well as such other information as may be communicated between this and her departure, which will be about February, before which time I hope he will make some more very important discoveries inland.

We have now got about 12,000 vines in the first and second year of growth. Thus far the plants are good, and if no accident happens by blight, there is a good appearance of having some grapes this year from our old vines, but they are very few.

I am going on with a new settlement which lies in the range of Pennant Hills and Hawkesbury. I have one hundred acres in grain, three hundred head of cattle, and two hundred sheep comfortably lodged. When I say I have, I speak as the public servant, for I have not a stick or stone private property in the colony. Our harvest will turn out tolerably abundant for the long drought we have had, -nearly four months without any rain. Now that a total stop is put to the infamous business of spirits we shall do well, and every man will soon feel the good effects of independant property, contrasted with beastly drunkenness and begging. We are building good houses, and I hope shall do well. I send you a small schedule of our present state for your private information, but as I hope and request you to get a sight of my present dispatches, they will give you every information. I also beg to introduce to you Mr. James Thompson. He is a very worthy man, and is one of the surgeons of eleven years standing in the colony. He has besides been magistrate and captain of militia, or rather of the Parramatta Association. To Mr. Thompson I beg to refer you for all our news. Cayley returned before Mr. Barrallier's departure. What he has done remains secret. He has desired me to send by Mr. Thompson a paper of seeds which I enclose with this, as also his notes. He keeps his horse. I beg my best respects to the ladies of your family.

I am, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 844-847)

Paterson had complained that Barrallier's absence was an infraction of the Commander-in-Chief's order respecting officers engaging in occupations other than military ; so the Governor appointed him aide-de-camp, and sent him on an embassy to the "King of the Mountains."

Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur King

À bord de la corvette le Géographe, Port Jackson

le 27 vendémiaire an 11 [19 October 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

C'est avec peine que je me trouve encore dans la nécessité de m'adresser à vous afin d'obtenir la quantité de farine dont j'ai essentiellement besoin pour la continuation de ma campagne et le retour du Naturaliste en France.

Vous n'ignorez pas que le biscuit que m'a fourni M. Palmer est de nature à ne pouvoir se garder longtemps, et il est certain que celui que j'ai embarqué, quoique choisi avec soin, ne sera pour nous qu'une ressource passagère et très peu convenable au temps que j'ai à tenir la mer avant que d'arriver dans un établissement où il soit possible de le remplacer.

L'intérêt que vous avez constamment pris au succès de l'expédition qui m'est confiée, en nous facilitant tous les moyens de réparer nos bâtiments et notre santé pendant la relâche que nous venons de faire, me fait espérer que par une suite de vos bontés pour nous vous voudrez bien prendre ma demande en considération et nous accorder la permission de prendre à bord de l'Alexandre soixante barils de farine, quantité bien au-dessous de celle qui nous seroit nécessaire, mais que j'ai bornée le plus qu'il m'a été possible, afin que vous soyez moins gêné pour la répartition que vous pourrez avoir à faire de celle qui vous restera.

Nos consommations sur la rade ont aussi diminué nos viandes salées, et vingt-cinq barils de bœuf salé nous sont également nécessaires pour remplacer ceux dont nous avons fait usage.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, etc.,

N. Baudin

P.S. — Voulez-vous bien, Monsieur le Gouverneur, avoir la complaisance de nous faire donner deux milliers de biscuit de celui que vous avez en réserve et provenant des bâtiments anglais venant de Londres. La quantité que vous en avez pourra peut-être vous permettre de nous rendre ce service.

N.B.

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 966-967)

*Translation***Commodore Baudin to Governor King**

On board the corvette le Géographe, Port Jackson

27 vendémiaire Year 11 [19 October 1802]

Governor,

I am very sorry to be again obliged to trouble you in order to obtain the quantity of flour I absolutely require for the continuation of my voyage and the return of Le Naturaliste to France.

You are doubtless aware that the biscuits supplied to us by Mr. Palmer will not keep for a long time ; and it is certain that those I have shipped, although they have been chosen with great care, would only be a temporary resource quite inadequate to the length of time I shall

be at sea before reaching a place where I could replace them.

The interest you have always shown for the success of the expedition I have been entrusted with, in providing for us the means of repairing our vessels and regaining our health during the stay we have made in your port, causes me to hope that, to add to your former kindnesses, you will give me permission to take from on board the Alexander sixty casks of flour, which is a quantity far lower than the one which be necessary to me, but which I have cut down the most I could, so that you might not be inconvenienced in the distribution of the remaining part.

Our consumption, when in port, has also diminished our supply of salt-meat, and twenty-five casks of it are also necessary to replace what has been consumed.

I have, &c.,

N. Baudin.

P.S. — Would you, sir, be kind enough to let us have about 2,000 biscuits from those you have in reserve, brought by the English vessels just arrived from London. The quantity you have will perhaps allow you to render me this service.

N.B.

George Caley to Sir Joseph Banks (Extracts)

1 November 1802

Sir,

At present I am only able to send you a letter, which is forwarded by a passenger in the French ship *Naturalist*. I understand she is ordered by Comodore Baudin to proceed direct to France. This ship, and also the *Geographe*, have been for some months here. They were to have sailed some time ago, but now wait for to observe a transit of Mercury which will happen on the 10th instant, and then immediately depart.

[...]

I have of late been in that part of the country called the Blue Mountains, where I have met with several new plants. My principle tracts and observations I shall communicate to you by the first opportunity. Though these hills, by being seen a long way, and by the accounts of the few that have visited them, are in general considered as impassable mountains, yet I cannot rank them as such. On gaining the summit of some of the hills thar are seen at a great distance, I have found forest land of a good quality, then met with rocky ground covered with thickets, large trees, and interspersed with deep rocky valleys, but have not as yet found a hill that overlooked the first or commanded a prospect into the interior (except Mount Hunter, which has as good a view to the westward as to the eastward). These ranges of hills seem to me to begin at a considerable distance to the northward and run in the form of a crescent to Cape Howe, and from there it is not improbable but a similar range may run to Wilson's Promonotory in Bass's Straits, or sea, as between these two places is a low and level tract of land; yet in passing over these hills, I am of opinion, will not only be attended with difficulty but great hazard. For instance, should a party go out in fine weather and travel a considerable distance, and then wet weather to come on, a stop would be put to travelling farther. Remaining still consumes the provisions. If wet weather continues, hunger will force a retreat. Many of the valleys will be flooded. In travelling, through the thickets will be as bad as being up to the neck in water, and in consequence will destroy their clothing, necessaries, &c. But yet again, a party conducted under an intelligent and frugal person, provided the weather happens favourable, might gain the object of the pursuit. The Gov. has been at some pains, seemingly, to know something more of the country. He lately sent out a Mr. Barrelier, who was equipped with six or seven men, two natives, and two horses. They took their departure from Richmond Hill, and were out 12 or 13 days. I believe his object was to penetrate into the country westward. On his return I was informed that he had discovered a new river, lime-stone in great abundance, iron almost pure, and had been 50 miles or better in a western direction; but of all this I have doubts, for I have every reason to believe he has been no farther than myself, and I have not been scarcely half the above distance. The minerals I have not seen, but it is probable that they may fall into your hands, whereby the truth will at once be ascertained. The same gentleman is upon the eve of setting off again with a larger party, and instead of horses he takes out two bullocks. He means this time of fixing stations, from which a regular supply is to be forwarded. By what I already know of travelling in this country gives me room to suspect that this journey will not accomplish the design. However, trial will decide. I am so vain as to think that with another man besides myself, and a horse, that I can go further than what this party will, provided the weather is favourable. I have often lamented that being bred a horseman had been all lost labour in forwarding a pursuit in natural history, but at length I am undeceived, for as a traveller in this country it has given me an advantage over all others. When Mr. Barrelier returned I perceived his loss for the want of the like.

I am just upon the point of setting off on a journey, and should have been out at this time, only I am in want of a few articles from the Gov. If the weather is good I shall be out three weeks. I have seen high land, which is about 45 miles south from Prospect Hill. To the eastward of this I suspect Hawkesbury River will be found, and from hence I imagine its source is not far distant. From this place I mean to proceed to the sea-shore, which must also be near at hand. If I find out its source in the time I reckon, I shall proceed to the S.S.W. if the land is favourable. If not, I shall try a west course. I should have been several journeys before this time this season had I had a horse.

[...]

Soon after Gov. Hunter left here, the colony began to wear a different aspect, and I may safely say for this long time has exhibited a scene of distress. It is not to say the scanty pittance that the stores allowed in weight, but the badness of the article; —wheat frequently devoured by weavils, overrun with a species of *Lolium*, whose noxious effects was severely felt by many people; maize generally mouldy. As hand mills are chiefly in use, after a man had cleansed his grain, together with the toll taken at the above, greatly shortened his allowance. At night the generality of prisoners lay down as they rise, without a rag to cover them, except such as they wear in the day. We have had for a long time very dry weather, vegetables very scarce, wheat in general burned up for want of moisture. The colony is far too young for it to depend upon its own produce, or at least for its stores to be so empty as what they have been of late. You are likely to hear some unpleasant news between the Gov. and the Col. Little did I ever suspect such a circumstance would have taken place.

[...]

I am, &c.,
George Caley

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 881-883)

Le Commandant en chef Baudin aux Administrateurs-Généraux des Isles de France et de la Réunion

À bord de la corvette le Géographe, Port Jackson
12 brumaire an 11 [3 November 1802]

Citoyens,

J'ai eu l'honneur de vous informer de ma relâche dans cette colonie par le bâtiment américain la Fanny, capitaine Smith, qui se rend à Batavia. Les détails dans lesquels je suis entré pour vous faire connoître la triste situation dans laquelle je me trouvois alors, vous auront mis à même de juger jusqu'à quel point de détresse nous étions réduits, et combien nous avons été heureux d'avoir choisi ce port de préférence à tout autre.

L'assistance que nous y avons trouvée ; les bontés pour nous tous du Gouverneur King ; ses soins généreux pour le rétablissement de nos malades ; son amour pour le progrès des sciences ; tout enfin sembloit s'être réuni pour nous faire oublier les désagréments d'une navigation longue, pénible, et souvent contrariée par les éléments. Cependant la paix n'étoit point encore connue et nous ne l'avons apprise que quand nos malades étoient rétablis, nos bâtiments réparés, nos vivres de campagnes embarqués, et notre départ très prochain.

Quels que soient les devoirs de l'hospitalité, le Gouverneur King a donné à l'Europe entière le spectacle d'un trait de bienfaisance qui doit être connu et que j'ai du plaisir à publier.

A notre arrivée au Port Jackson les ressources en blés étoient peu abondantes et celles pour l'avenir encore incertaines. L'arrivée de 170 hommes n'étoit pas une circonstance heureuse pour le moment ; néanmoins nous fûmes bien accueillis, et quand nos besoins présents et à venir furent connus, on y suppléa en retranchant une partie de la ration journalière accordée aux habitants et à la garnison de la colonie. Le Gouverneur en donna le premier l'exemple. Par ce moyen qui honore autant l'humanité que celui qui le mit en usage, nous avons joui d'une faveur que peut-être nous eussions difficilement éprouvée partout ailleurs.

D'après de semblables procédés, qui serviront sans doute pour l'avenir d'exemple à toutes les nations, je me fais un devoir, tant par reconnaissance que par émulation, de vous recommander particulièrement M. ———, commandant le bâtiment de S. M. ———¹

Quoique ses projets ne soient point d'aller directement à l'Isle de France, il est possible que quelques circonstances imprévues le fassent relâcher dans la colonie dont l'administration vous est confiée. Témoin de la manière dont ses compatriotes nous ont traités en toute occasion, j'espère qu'il sera convaincu par sa propre expérience que les Français ne sont ni moins hospitaliers, ni moins bienfaisants ; et alors sa nation n'aura plus sur nous que l'avantage d'avoir fait en temps de guerre ce que des moments plus heureux nous permettront de lui rendre en temps de paix.

Je suis, etc.,

N. Baudin

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 968-969)

¹ Both these blanks occur in the original. The letter was evidently handed to Governor King by Commodore Baudin, in case it should be required, but was retained by King amongst his papers and never used. Had it been in the hands of Flinders when forced to touch at the Isle de France in the *Cumberland*, it might have prevented any question, real or pretended, as to his *bonâ fides*. Indeed, it is not unlikely that it was originally intended for Flinders.

Translation

Commodore Baudin to The Administrators-General of the Isles of France and Reunion

On board the corvette le Géographe, Port Jackson

12 brumaire Year 11 [3 November 1802]

Citizens,

I had the honour of informing you by the American vessel the *Fanny*, Captain Smith, bound for Batavia, of my stay in port in this colony. The details I entered into in order to let you know the sad position in which I was then, will have enabled you to judge the state of distress we had been reduced to, and how fortunate we have been in choosing this port in preference to any other.

The assistance we have found here, the kindness of Governor King towards us, his generous attentions for the recovery of our sick men, his love for the progress of science,-in short, everything seemed to have united to make us forget the hardships of a long and painful voyage, which was often impeded by the inclemency of the weather. And yet, the fact of the peace being signed was unknown, and we only heard of it when our sick men had recovered, our vessels had been repaired, our provisions shipped, and when our departure was near at hand.

Whatever the duties of hospitality may be, Governor King has given the whole of Europe the example of a benevolence which should be known, and which I take a great pleasure in recording.

On our arrival at Port Jackson the stock of wheat there was very limited, and that for the future very uncertain. The arrival of 170 men was not a happy circumstance at the time; nevertheless, we were well received, and when our present and future needs were known, they were supplied by shortening part of the daily ration allowed to the inhabitants and the garrison of the colony. The Governor was the first to give the example. Through this means, which does as much honour to humanity as it does to the man who put it into effect, we have enjoyed a favour which we would perhaps have experienced much difficulty in finding anywhere else.

After such treatment, which will undoubtedly serve in the future as an example for all nations, I consider it my duty, as much out of gratitude as by emulation, to recommend particularly to you, Mr. _____, Commander of H. M. S. _____

Although he does not propose to call at the Isle of France, it may be possible that some unforeseen circumstance might compel him to put into port in the colony, the government of which is entrusted to you. Having been a witness to the kind manner with which his countrymen have treated us on every occasion, I hope he will be convinced by his own experience that Frenchmen are neither less hospitable nor less benevolent; and then his nation will only have over us the advantage of having done in times of war what happier times will enable us to render her in time of peace.

I have, &c.,

N. Baudin

Governor King to Lord Hobart

(Despatch marked "Marine Letter No. 1", per Surgeon Thomson on the *Naturaliste*;
acknowledged by Lord Hobart 24 June 1803)

Sydney, New South Wales

9 November 1802

My Lord,

1. Referring you to the Duplicate of my Separate Letter to the Duke of Portland by the *Speedy*, I have to inform you, that His Majesty's Sloop Investigator and the *Lady Nelson*, sailed the 22nd last July to continue the Survey of the Coasts of this Country, Captn. Flinders having communicated his intentions to the Lords of the Admiralty, I shall only observe, that his first object was to examine and Pass thro' Endeavour Strait.

2. In the above Letter I informed that the *Naturaliste*, one of the French Ships on discovery had put in here for refreshments and sailed again; Monsieur Baudin, commander of the *Geographe*, and of the Expedition arrived here the 22nd June, with only Twelve Men able to work the Ship, having lost several by Death (Both Ships lost 47 Men by Death since they left France) and all the rest in the last Stage of Scurvey. Twenty Eight of the worst were admitted into our Hospital, who, with the assistance of Vegetables and Fresh Meat, all recovered.—The *Geographe* having lost some Copper off her bottom the Commandant requested permission to heave her down, which I complied with. —The *Naturaliste* returned the 3rd July having got round the South Cape, and proceeded as far to the Westward as 136° Et. of Green'h when the continuance of Westerly Gales and want of Provisions, prevented her going to the Isle of France, which I find was intended— Those Ships' wants of Salt Meat and Spirits were amply provided for by the Arrival of the American, and the full quantity of Bread and Grain they demanded was furnished by Individuals—As the Numbers on board the *Geographe* were so much reduced and the Commandant having signified his intention of sending the *Naturaliste* to France, with Men just sufficient to work her, he applied for permission to purchase a small Vessel of Twenty Tons belonging to an Individual to accompany him, during the remainder of his Voyage which I complied with, and I hope his situation will procure me your Lordship's Approbation for having granted that request. This Vessel is to be commanded by One of his Lieutenants and manned from the Two Ships—In my Letter already alluded to, I communicated the restrictions I judged it necessary to lay the Captain and Officers of the *Naturaliste* under, which were extended to the *Geographe* on her Arrival, those restrictions and the Ships having constantly lain in Neutral Bay, except when the *Geographe* was heaving down, has secured the most unexceptional conduct of our Visitors whose intercourse with the Inhabitants was thereby entirely prevented, and I have every reason to give the most satisfactory Approbation of the good Conduct of Monsieur Baudin his Officers and Ships Companies during their Stay here.

3. On leaving this I understand Monsieur Baudin intends to repass through Basses Straits, from thence he sends the *Naturaliste* to France with the very extensive collections in every Branch of Natural History that he has made on the different Coasts of this Country, he intends examining that part of the South Coast, where Captn. Flinders has preceded him, from thence he intends examining the W. and N.W. Coasts and the Gulph of Carpentaria in which I have no doubt he will be long preceded by Captn. Flinders, I understand, he then means to visit the Moluccas and from thence to return to France.

The Bay he discovered on the Land of Lyons and named by him "Baie de *Geographe*" is the only opening they saw either on Llewens Edle's or the Land of Endraght except Shark's

Bay, and Swan River; Monr. Baudin as well as his Officers describe the Coasts on the S.W. and W. sides hardly accessible from the number of small Islands and Rocks with which they are lined, and every appearance of Sterility which is verified by the drawings made of every part of the Coast he has Visited, which I have seen, and are most accurately delineated; Notwithstanding the very great collection he has made in every branch of Natural History, yet I am inclined to think from his Geographical pursuits that collecting alone is not the principal object of his Mission, as it has very forcibly struck me that they have an intention of looking for a place proper to make a similar Establishment to this, on the W. or N.W. Coast, it has also occurred to me, that they may have some intention of laying claim to Van Dieman's Land, now it is known to be insulated from New Holland; my only reason for this supposition is the length of time, and the very accurate and extensive Survey he has taken of what is called by us "Storm Bay Passage" and by the French "Le Canal D'Entrecasteaux" to whom they attribute the discovery of that passage—How far either or both these conjectures may be probable I cannot say but I judge it necessary to communicate my thoughts thereon and to request Instruction for my Conduct in case the latter conjecture should be verified.

I have already stated my Ideas respecting the Policy of forming a Settlement at Port Phillip, in Basses Straits, and in Storm Bay Passage, or Derwent River, on the East side of Van Dieman's Land, reflection on this subject confirms me in the necessity of forming Settlements at One or both those places, unfortunately I have no person I can at present Name to such a situation—Should One offer equal to that charge I shall take it upon me to Settle One or both those places for the reasons stated in my former Letter on that Subject.

His Majesty's Ship Buffalo arrived here the 16th Ulto. when I received a Letter from my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty appointing me Principal Commander of that Ship, she is now unloading, and when clear, will be immediately refitted for Sea; I also received their Lordships' Directions to consider the Lady Nelson as a Tender, attached to that ship, and to bear fifteen Supernumeraries on her Books for Provisions and Wages to man the Lady Nelson.— Altho' that Vessel is now absent with the Investigator, and probably will not return 'till next June, yet I have withdrawn her from the Colonial list of Vessels.

I intended sending Captain Flinders' Despatches to the Admiralty containing his Charts etc. as far as he has gone by the Whaler I mentioned In my General Letter of this date, but as that Vessel did not call here, I have been necessitated to send this by Mr. Thomson, who takes his passage in the Naturaliste, and as I consider it necessary to preclude Captn. Flinders present Surveys from the most distant probability of falling into other hands, I shall defer sending them until the Greenwich Whaler sails which will be about next February, and may be expected in England about next July—But as their Lordships, may expect some account of his progress, I have related his Verbal Communication to me, in my Letter to their Secretary.

I am much concerned to say that the Norfolk Colonial Brig, which sailed from hence in November last for Otaheite in quest of a Cargo of Salt Pork, in not being returned, makes me apprehensive for her safety, which I hope to find unfounded when the Porpoise returns, As she sailed in May last on the same Service I look for her next month.

I have the Honor to enclose a Return of His Majesty's Ships and Colonial Vessels, by which your Lordship will observe that the Buffalo is fitting as fast as possible for Sea but as she is just clear of her Cargo, I have not yet determined whether she will be able to go to Bombay or Bengal for Cattle and Horses, as it is too late to send her to the Cape.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(HRA, vol. III, pp. 697-699)

Governor King to Lord Hobart

9 November 1802

My Lord,

In this place I respectfully request your Lordship's reference to my general letter now sent,¹ and the enclosures to the Transport Board, for the inhuman treatment on the voyage of the convicts who came by the Atlas. The quantity of spirits and bulky private trade that master had on board having greatly contributed to the mortality that prevailed in that ship, I forbade any of the spirits being landed. For what has followed I humbly request your Lordship's candid perusal and consideration of the enclosed correspondence, and my further remarks thereon.

On receiving the French Commodore's letter, No. 1, Lieut't-Col'l Paterson being then at Paramatta, I communicated the circumstances to him, as contained in the letters, Nos. 1 and 2, and hoped he would have seen Capt'n Kemp's conduct in such a point of view as to require his making an apology to the French officers and myself, without convening and consulting the officers of the Corps, the mischief of which had been but too visible on former occasions. I was sorry to find by his letter No. 3, that he had called a meeting of the officers of the Corps, and requested me to order a meeting of the civil and military officers for the purpose of satisfying me of the zeal he has had to support me in the Government, &c.

Former examples now convinced me that all hopes of this business being settled by the Commanding Officer of the Corps himself was at an end. And knowing what was to be expected from former meetings of that kind, where several officers of the Corps were inimical to the Colonel as well as myself, I sent Adj't Minchen the note No. 5, to which I received the answer No. 6, and soon after Colonel Paterson's letter, No. 7, enclosing an apology, No. 8, which the officers of the Corps required Capt'n Kemp to make the French officers, whose answer is contained in No. 24, which I presume is sufficient proof of the idea the officers of the Corps and the French officers had of Capt'n Kemp's improper conduct towards the latter, who had every claim to hospitality and undeserving insult. Thus the explanation and reparation required by the Commodore and the French officers ended. The paper, No. 9, signed by the officers of the Corps, containing a mutilated extract of my letter to Col'l Paterson of the 4th Oct., by introducing the word "complaint," as stated in my letter, No. 14, joined to Adj't Minchen's declaration on his honor in No. 10, which totally contradicts the express sense conveyed by his words in his note No. 6, in answer to mine of No. 5, appeared so much calculated to throw doubt on what he had advanced to be true, as contained in the four first paragraphs of my letter, No. 2, to Col'l Paterson, that I found it necessary to write Col'l Paterson the letter No. 11, which, with the depositions taken in consequence thereof, and my letter, No. 14, I hoped would enable him to judge of himself and for himself, as stated in the 8th, 9th, and 10th paragraphs of my letter, No. 14. How far these substantiated proofs may operate on your Lordship's mind, I shall not presume to anticipate, as it appears Col'l Paterson, by his answer No. 16, instead of using his own opinion refers it to a General Court-Martial to determine which of the two officers had acted with candour or otherwise. Col'l Paterson having in No. 16 repeated his request of a meeting being convened of the officers, civil and military, for their testimony, &c., I declined that measure for this reason; that had I consented, my presence must have been necessary, to have stated (whatever that testimony might have been respecting the support Col'l Paterson had given me, &c.) His and the other officers of the Corps decided opposition to my endeavours to do justice in the case of L't

¹ Dated 30 October (*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 866-877).

Marshall, which is now before your Lordship, and brought on my being treated with public insult by those officers, 'till Col'l Paterson found it necessary to act for himself, but not 'till he had been prevailed upon to sign a public letter insinuating complaint against me, addressed to His Royal Highness the Duke of York's secretary, and a private letter to our mutual friend, Sir Jos. Banks, both endeavouring to traduce my public character, unknown to me 'till they were sent away. The artful manner in which these dark attacks were communicated to me (by those Colonel Paterson had consulted in writing both), and his quitting the combination entered into against me, which drew on him the duel with Capt'n M'Arthur of the Corps, must have become subjects of consideration and animadversion had I allowed of such a meeting as he requested and in which I must have stated these and other circumstances in contradiction of his assertions in giving me every assistance, &c. Delicacy to the situation he holds prevented my allowing any such meetings, having from experience and recent proof known the evil tendency of them ; but in stating these my reasons for declining his request, I feel it an indisputable justice to say, that in my occasional absences on the public service from Sydney that I have generally found everything well managed under L't-Governor Paterson's directions, assisted by Mr. Harris, as I have hitherto been, and I am well convinced and warranted in asserting that, whenever Col'l Paterson acts from his own sentiments, he does what is justly right and strictly honourable.

Soon after taking the command I found it necessary to seek the assistance of an officer to manage the police of this settlement as a magistrate under my direction and that of the L't-Gov'r's in my absence. Mr. Harris, surgeon of the New South Wales Corps, who had ever maintained the most respectable character as a gentleman, joined to an unwearied activity and intelligence, was anxious to give that unpopular and unrewarded assistance. Col'l Paterson highly approved the choice I had made, and gave his hearty consent to it. On the Naval Officer's situation becoming vacant, Mr. Harris succeeded to that office and collector of the assessments, which has enabled me to carry on several useful and extensive public works at no expense to the Crown. He was also an active member of the Jail and Orphan Committees, and was in every respect a valuable assistant to me and to the L't-Gov'r in my absence from headquarters, where Mr. Harris's duty requires his attendance as a surgeon of the Corps. The Naval Officer's duty, which may in this settlement be more properly termed Capt'n of the Port, consists in giving masters of ships the Port Orders, receiving their bonds, and enforcing the Orders relating to shipping. All this he did, much to mine and L't-Gov'r Paterson's satisfaction and to the evident public benefit and conspicuous general good of His Majesty's service, without neglecting an hour's duty as surgeon of the Corps.

Ens'n Barrallier, of the New South Wales Corps, being a good navigator, surveyor, and engineer, with Col'l Paterson's entire approbation and permission, went in the Lady Nelson to Basses Straits, a part of which and Western Port he very accurately surveyed, and brought several objects of natural history from thence, which have been transmitted to the President of the Royal Society. He went with Col'l Paterson to survey and explore Hunter's River, and afterwards acted as Engineer and Artillery Officer, having charge of the inspection and direction of the military defences, batteries, and cannon in this settlement, with Col'l Paterson's previous approbation. Since then he has made one journey into the mountains, and is the officer I have mentioned in my general letter sent with this. The different things he has collected have been sent to Sir Joseph Banks, and his charts to your Lordship as well as the Admiralty.

I have stated the public services these officers have been of, and the assistance I have received from them, to possess your Lordship how sensibly I felt L't-Col'l Paterson's remarks, contained in the documents as per margin, which I could not but consider as withdrawing Ens'n Barrallier and Surgeon Harris from the offices they had so usefully performed ; nor did I see any other mode of preventing the secret representation that

experience told me would be made, and my future humiliations, than by dispensing with every assistance that interfered with the military duty of the Corps, excepting the choice of an aid-du-camp, an orderly serjeant at headquarters, and an orderly private at Parramatta, who were named with Col'l Paterson's previous sanction.

In consequence of L't-Col'l Paterson's request, a General Court-Martial was ordered to be held on Surgeon Harris and Adjutant Minchin on the charges stated in Enclosure No. 25, which were to decide which of the two officers had acted with candour. Previous to the Court's meeting I received a message by the officiating Deputy Judge-Advocate from the officers, with the approbation of L't-Col'l Paterson, requesting that the Court-Martial be postponed. This I readily complied with, but was sorry to find it unproductive of the desired end.

Mr. Harris being first tried, the second charge against him being withdrawn in Court by the prosecutor (Col. Paterson), no part of the remaining charge being proved, the Court having judged any defence unnecessary, and its sentence having pronounced the charge against him groundless, and unanimously and most honorably acquitted him, I approved the sentence, as Mr. Harris's integrity, honor, and propriety of conduct was too notorious to be doubted. To the minutes of that Court-Martial and my remarks thereon I have to request your Lordship's reference. Adj't Minchin was afterwards tried. As I did not feel myself justifiable, in the situation I have the honor to hold, or the knowledge I had of the events, to approve the sentence, I directed a revival of it and the proceedings, stating my reasons for it. As the Court adhered to its sentence, I am obliged to refer it and the proceedings to the Royal decision, for which purpose I have transmitted it, with my further observations thereon, to the Judge Advocate-General by the bearer of this despatch, who officiated on that occasion as Deputy Judge-Advocate.

Had Captain Kemp been guided by any prudent consideration (knowing how much every soldier and convict thirsted for a moment's intoxication, and the length they would go to obtain it), he certainly ought to have informed his Commanding Officer or me of the inflaming reports he so industriously circulated, instead of which he attacks my conduct in a manner concealed from me (until occasion might make a discovery useful to him) but public to everyone else, and that at the unjustifiable expense of insulting strange officers who, by their conduct and situation, had every claim to our good offices while under our protection. To those highly injured officers he was compelled to make an apology. To me, as the Gov'r, every redress was denied by the Commanding Officer, excepting his avowal that Capt'n Kemp did wrong in not reporting what he had heard to his Commanding Officer. Had he done this, perhaps I might have been informed of it ; but neither was done, and, on my repeatedly stating these circumstances, I am told by the Commanding Officer that he has urged Capt'n Kemp for an answer. How far No. 22 would be satisfactory to me, but rather an additional insult, I shall make no other comment on than what is stated in letters Nos. 23, 26, and 27.

Respecting Mr. Harris, he has long been the object of secret resentment for his assiduity in assisting me to carry the King's Instructions respecting spirituous liquors into effect. I was sorry to find Col'l Paterson, in his letter No. 20, and in the same paragraph, where he avows the impropriety of Capt'n Kemp's conduct, censure Mr. Harris (the Naval Officer) in such harsh and contradictory terms. In answer to Col'l Paterson's censure contained in those paragraphs, the charge on which Mr. Harris was tried, the circumstances attending his trial and honorable acquittal without being asked for a defence, is the only comment I shall trouble your Lordship with, to evince that Mr. Harris has acted with candour, integrity, and strict propriety of conduct throughout the business; and should any further proof be requisite, the conviction that must have dwelt on Col'l Paterson's mind of Mr. Harris's good conduct, when he applied by his message No. 31 (joined to the inhabitants' petitions, No. 32 and 34) for his

being re-instated as a magistrate, after the censure he had applied to him in the above paragraph, appears the most unequivocal proof of the general estimation Mr. Harris was and is held in.

As those Courts-Martial were to decide whether Mr. Harris or Adj. Minchin had been acting with candor or told the truth, and as I have referred the proceedings and sentence of the latter's Court-Martial to His Majesty's decision, I shall make no further observation, but humbly and respectfully to request your Lordship's candid perusal and consideration of this letter.

And as I am obliged, in this distant part of His Majesty's dominions, to act on my own ideas in forwarding His Majesty's instructions, enforcing obedience thereto and attaining the object required of me, I am hopeful of meeting that support which my situation encourages me to solicit, for the better enabling me to persevere in executing the duties of the office I hold, with honor to His Majesty's service and benefit to the public interest.

I have forwarded to the Secretary of War the monthly returns of the New South Wales Corps, from the 31st Dec'r, 1801, to the 1st November, 1802. The last monthly return I enclose for your Lordship's information.

My reasons for making the necessary alterations in the ration (now that we can issue it complete), and the arrangement of those supported by the Crown, I have made the subject of a separate letter attached to this.

Many of the Irish convicts lately arrived having been persuaded that a settlement of Europeans exists beyond the mountains, I have sent an officer to explore them, and convince those thoughtless people of their folly, and as the abilities of Ens'n Barrallier (who now acts as my aid-du-camp) points him out as the most eligible person to send on that service, I have established two depôts in different parts of the mountains, which will enable him to persevere and obtain a more perfect knowledge of the interior of this country.

In my former letters I stated that in consequence of the trouble given by the Irish convicts I had, with the coincidence of Lt.-Col. Paterson, formed two associations¹ which were of the utmost use, until the cause for apprehension was done away, when they were disembodied, as stated in a former letter. On the late arrival of 400 Irish convicts (mostly rebels), I conceived it advisable (in consequence of the Duke of Portland's approbation of that measure, and your Lordship's strong recommendation to the same effect), to rename the officers and to re-embodied the men for one week to deliver them their cloathing and arms, after which they will be dispersed, but ready in case of any emergency to assist the New South Wales Corps. I have the honor to enclose a return of their numbers.

As a great expence has attended keeping the barracks appropriated to the civil and military in repair, being neglected when uninhabited, as well as to prevent waste, I have taken it upon me to appoint Capt'n Thomas Rowley, late of the Corps, to act as Barrack Master, for which service he is remunerated from the public stores.

Agreeable to your Lordship's directions, on Major Johnston's arrival I communicated your letter, as well as that of Col. Brownrigg to Col. Paterson, to that officer, and released him from his arrest, agreeable to your directions, as stated in my General Orders; and as I wished to settle the difference that existed between Col. Paterson and Major Johnston, they arranged their differences in my presence, and left Government House good friends. In undertaking this office, I considered it a duty incumbent on me, altho' I have not been so fortunate as to experience that attention and support I conceive I have a right to expect from Col. Paterson in the late events that have happened here.

I have, &c.,

¹ These volunteers had headquarters, one at Sydney the other at Parramatta.

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 969-975)

[Enclosure No. 1]

Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur King

Le Géographe

4 octobre 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

La plainte qui vous a été portée ces jours passés, et dont vous avez eu la bonté de me donner connoissance, étoit de nature à ne pas vous laisser douter que je ferois tous mes efforts pour découvrir jusqu'à quel point elle étoit fondée, et quels pouvoient être ceux des officiers qui servent dans l'expédition dont le commandement m'est confié qui avoient osé enfreindre vos ordres et les miens d'une manière si contraire aux lois d'honneur de notre marine militaire, lois qui vous sont parfaitement connues.

Les renseignements de toutes espèces que je me suis procurés m'ont convaincu qu'aucun officier français, soit à bord du Géographe, soit à bord du Naturaliste ou du Casuarina, ne s'est rendu coupable du délit dont il a été accusé ; mais comme des informations qui m'étoient personnelles ne satisfaisoient l'accusateur de mes officiers, j'ai donné ordre à Messieurs St. Cric et Freycinet de se rendre immédiatement chez vous, pour répondre en personne de leur conduite, ces deux officiers ayant été particulièrement désignés. Ce qu'ils ont dû vous dire vous aura mis à même de juger s'ils ont mérité d'être cités en public.

J'espère que vous aurez la complaisance de vouloir bien me faire savoir si, véritablement, ils se sont rendus coupables de désobéissance ; et s'il est prouvé qu'ils aient vendu du rum pour de l'argent, j'en ferai un exemple qui apprendra au public jusqu'à quel point nous portons la délicatesse à ce sujet, mais aussi, dans le cas contraire, je réclamerai votre justice pour que celui qui les a calomniés auprès du colonel Paterson et de vous soit tenu à des réparations analogues à celles que doivent attendre les officiers français et militaires, quand après avoir exposé en public leur conduite il est démontré qu'ils ont été injustement accusés ou malicieusement compromis. Toute affaire qui attaque l'honneur d'un officier est délicate. Vous savez que le soupçon, même sans fondement, est une injure qui se pardonne difficilement, et je ne vous dissimulerai pas que j'ai été obligé d'employer l'autorité pour éviter une scène dont les suites seroient infiniment désagréables, quels qu'en fussent les événements. Soit indiscretion, soit méchanceté, il n'en est pas moins vrai que tous mes officiers et moi-même nous sommes trouvés compromis dans cette affaire. J'en ai fait peu de cas pour ce qui me concerne, et vous savez que, bien loin de donner du rum à sa valeur dans le pays, je l'ai placé sur le prix de 10 schelin, afin que les personnes qui m'ont procuré des objets d'histoire naturelle ou des remplacements en vivres y trouvassent un bénéfice qui pût les engager à nous bien servir.

Je puis également vous assurer sur ma parole d'honneur qu'il n'a pas été descendu à terre une pinte des 800 gallons d'eau-de-vie que vous avez permis de prendre à bord de l'Atlas. Cette quantité est uniquement réservée pour nos consommations en mer.

Si celui ou ceux qui se sont plaints avoient réfléchi aux suites de leurs démarches, je dois croire qu'ils auroient été plus circonspects dans leur conduite, comme plus réservés dans leur propos ; mais puisqu'il en a été autrement, j'attends les réparations qu'on doit à l'honneur outragé, car vous ne pouvez pas douter que si quelqu'un de mes officiers venoit à s'écarter des égards réciproques que tous les hommes se doivent les uns aux autres, je ne les soumette à tout ce qu'on doit attendre dans pareilles circonstances.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, etc.,
N. Baudin

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 975-976)

Translation

[Enclosure No. 1]
Commodore Baudin to Governor King
The *Géographe*
4 October 1802

Governor,

The complaint that was made to you these last days, and which you had the kindness to communicate to me, was of such a nature as to leave you in no doubt that I would do everything in my power to discover to what extent it was founded, and which of those officers who serve in the expedition whose command has been entrusted to me could have dared to disobey your orders and mine in a manner so contrary to the laws of honour of our navy, laws with which you are perfectly well acquainted.

All of the information that I have obtained has convinced me that no French officer, either on board the *Géographe* or on board the *Naturaliste* or the *Casuarina*, is guilty of the offence of which he has been accused; but as information which was communicated to me personally did not satisfy the accuser of my officers, I ordered Messrs St Cricq and Freycinet to go at once to see you, in order to answer personally for their conduct, these two officers having been more specifically singled out. What they will have told you will have enabled you to judge whether they deserved to be publicly accused.

I hope you will be so kind as to let me know if they have truly been guilty of disobedience; and if it is proven that they have sold rum for money, I will make such an example of them that the public will learn how seriously we take such matters; but equally, should it prove otherwise, I will ask for your justice so that the man who has denounced them to Colonel Paterson and yourself will be obliged to make such reparations as are due to French military officers when, having had their conduct publicly questioned, it is proven that they have been unjustly accused or maliciously compromised. Any matter in which an officer's honour is attacked is a delicate one. You know that suspicion, even if it is baseless, is an insult which is difficult to forgive, and I will not conceal from you that I was obliged to make use of my authority in order to avoid a scene, the consequences of which would be infinitely unpleasant, whatever the events might be. It is nonetheless true that, whether it be through thoughtlessness or maliciousness, all of my officers and myself have become compromised in this matter. For my own part, I do not place too much store by it, and you know that, far from giving rum at its value in the colony, I have set a price of 10 shillings for it, so that the people qui obtained objects of natural history for me, or supplies of provisions, should derive a benefit from it that would induce them to serve us well.

I can also assure you, on my word of honour, that not a single pint of the 800 gallons of brandy that you allowed me to take from the *Atlas* has been landed. That quantity is reserved entirely for our consumption at sea.

If the man or the men who have complained had considered the consequences of their actions, I should think that they would have been more circumspect in their conduct and more mesured in their conversation; but since that has not been the case, I now await the reparation

that is due to outraged honour, for you cannot doubt that, if one of my officers were to fail to observe the mutual respect that all men owe to one another, I would subject him to everything that would be expected in such circumstances.

I have the honour of being, etc.,

N. Baudin

[Enclosure No. 2]

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

Sydney

4 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

1. I enclose for your inspection and consideration a translation of a letter from Monsieur Baudin, Commander-in-Chief of the ships belonging to the French Republic, now lying this port.

2. Before I make any observation on that letter, it is necessary I should inform you that on Thursday last, in consequence of a message I received from Monsieur Baudin, by his captain, respecting a supposed irregularity in the Naval Officer's department with respect to himself, which on explanation proved to be an error in his clerk in carrying a message he was not authorized to do, on this occasion the Naval Officer informed me that he had heard so much lately about the French officers and spiritous liquors, in which my conduct as well as his own was concerned, that he found it necessary to inform me that the Officers of the New South Wales Corps made many reflections on the Commodore and the French officers being allowed to purchase spirits from the Atlas, whilst they could not be allowed any from that ship; the Adjutant Minchin had informed him publicly that Col. Paterson had made observations on L't St. Crig, of the Naturaliste, paying away spirits at 25s. per gallon; that Capt'n Kemp had informed some of the officers of the corps, and had sent for a man named Chapman¹ to confirm it in their presence, and on the parade that he had told Capt'n Kemp that he (Chapman) had bought eight bottles of spirits from the first lieutenant of the Geographe, for which he had paid him in money at 5s. per bottle.

3. On receiving this information, which I could not but consider as an attack on my conduct in allowing the French officers that privilege and denying it to the officers under my immediate command, and giving me reason to suppose that the French Commodore had broken the word of honor he gave me before any intercourse took place with his ships, that nothing with respect to spirits should happen that could anyways deviate from the allowed rules and customs observed by the officers belonging to the colony.

4. Impressed with these ideas, I sent for the Commodore and expostulated with him upon the impropriety of his officers' conduct and his deceiving me, if privy to any such transaction. To the latter charge he assured me of his total ignorance, and that he would send the officers complained of to me. Soon after L't St. Crig came, when I sent for the Adjutant and Naval Officer. He positively denied, on his word of honor as an officer, ever having paid spirits away at that rate, being never possessed of any but his daily ration, which he did not drink, but exchanged for vegetables, eggs, and other such things as he wanted.² Adjutant Minchin said that the Naval Officer must have misunderstood him respecting Colonel Paterson's having given the information respecting Mr. St. Crig, but that he said it was some time ago talked of in the Colonel's viranda among some of the officers of the Corps in the presence of Colonel Paterson; he also said that a man (who had been a convict) named Chapman informed Capt'n Kemp that he had purchased spirits for 5s. per bottle from a French officer, describing the first lieutenant of the Geographe, which Chapman afterwards confirmed on the parade, on

¹ Marginal note by Governor King: "Has been a convict and a bad character."

² Marginal Note by Governor King: "About the time the permit was granted (17th Aug't) to the Commodore for 800 gallons of spirits from the Atlas."

being called up and questioned by Capt'n Kemp before him (Adjutant Minchin) and several other officers of the Corps. On hearing this L't St. Crig requested that Chapman might be sent for, who, on the question being put to him, whether he had purchased any spirits from the lieut. of the *Geographe*, said not from him, but that he had from another officer, describing First Lieutenant Freycinet, of the *Naturaliste*, who now commands the *Cassuarina*. I requested the Commodore to send for this officer who came the following day, and in the presence of the Adjutant, Naval Officer, Judge-Advocate, and Chapman, he heard the latter's assertion which he denied on his honor as an officer, and stated, "that when the *Naturaliste* arrived here Chapman went on board to offer his services to supply the *etat major* (lieutenant mess) with vegetables, and every other article they wanted during their stay; that they offered him their daily ration of spirits at the same rate it was allowed the officers on shore to exchange for their domestic use, *i.e.*, 20s. per gallon; that he supplied them for some time, and about five weeks ago, Chapman having conducted himself improperly, they declined having anything further to do with him, and the person who conducts the affairs of the mess (who is not an officer) was directed to settle with Chapman, when it appeared that he had drawn two gallons of spirits more than he had furnished articles for, which he required Chapman to settle, and that he (Lieut. Freycinet) has since been informed that 20s. per gallon was paid for that deficit." This being interpreted to Chapman, he asked L't Freycinet if he had not taken him to his cabin, and offered him eight bottles of spirits at 5s. per bottle, which he (Chapman) declared he could not do, as he would not be able to get his price for it on shore. To this the officer gave his word of honor, and everything that was dear to him as an officer, that no transaction of the kind alluded to had ever taken place. Chapman then asked whether he did not purchase such a quantity from his (L't Freycinet's) domestic? He said no, not from his domestic, but that he knew a domestic belonging to an under officer had sold him some.¹ Lieut Freycinet was asked by the Judge-Advocate to declare on his word of honor as an officer whether he directly or indirectly received any payment for it. He declared that he never did, and should consider himself unworthy to hold the kind of commission he does if he ever did any thing of the kind. Chapman persisted that what he had advanced was truth. He was asked to produce any proof of what he had advanced respecting those officers. Said no other person was privy to it. He then produced a written note from Mr. Colas, a surgeon's mate of the *Naturaliste* to Mr. La Tour, his messmate, to require from Chapman 20s., for which he said he received a gallon of spirits. Mr. Colas being sent for, in the presence of the above officers, says that he gave Chapman a four-pound note to pay for some articles he had furnished to the mess he belonged to, and that there was a deficiency of 20s. which Chapman could not pay, and as he (Colas) was going to Hawkesbury the next morning, he gave Chapman a written note to give his messmate the ballance, but declares he never sold any spirits to Chapman, or any other person, and defies him to prove it. Such, sir, is the result of an examination that has cost me much time, when it ought to have been otherways employed. It now remains for me to state my opinion on these subjects, which I have already done to the French Commodore. Respecting L't St. Crig, you best know how far such an observation came from you. The high character he has borne among the officers of this colony warrants my firm belief of his assertions that he is totally innocent of what may or what may not have been said against him.

5. Lieut. Freycinet has always been noticed as an amiable officer and gentleman by those I have ever conversed with respecting him. His clear and unequivocal account of the transaction has been such that I place the fullest confidence in its veracity, and his being innocent of the foul and unsupported charge brought against him by a miscreant whose villany was roused and put in action by being disgraced, and no longer employed, for his

¹ Marginal note by Governor King: "For which he was punished."

malpractices in the bargain he had made. And, as a last resource, he accuses a person who is not an officer of a similar transaction; to support it he brings a bill drawn for 20s. May not every officer and man in this colony be made the victim of such infamous accusations if such a character could bring creditable proof to support his assertions? Still this inventive genius is not at a loss for resources. He then complained of what he had said to Capt'n Kemp being in an unguarded moment, when Capt. Kemp had two servants in his store-room, listening to what he (Chapman) said. Here I dismissed the parties, and directed the Adjutant to inform you of Chapman's last assertion respecting Capt'n Kemp, and that I requested you would take the proper steps.

6. The preceding part of this letter being read before the Judge-Advocate, Adjutant Minchin, and the Naval Officer¹ (who were present at these examinations, and gave the information that produced them, and acknowledged to be true), will be the most eligible persons to clear up any doubt that may arise of their validity.

7. What Capt'n Kemp's motives were (as far as concerns the French officers) for questioning Chapman in his house, and afterwards calling him on the parade and questioning him before the adjutant and other officers of the Corps, I shall make no other comment on than that it most certainly has occasioned the present misunderstanding between the Commodore and the French officers, with myself, and every other military officer in the garrison, a misunderstanding which can only tend to do away the sense they may entertain of the attentions they have hitherto acknowledged, cause an opinion but little honorable to the character of British officers, and ultimately become the subject of a representation between His Majesty and the French Republic, a circumstance that cannot be pleasing to any. It is to obviate, if possible, these mischiefs that I transmit you the enclosed, no ways doubting but you will cause that justice to be done which the laws of honor and hospitality, due to officers belonging to ships putting in here in a state of distress, demands.

8. Having thus far discharged my duty in what regards the honor of our country (an honor equally committed to the charge of every officer holding his Sovereign's commission as to mine), I shall proceed to remark on such subjects in these proceedings as immediately concern my conduct as His Majesty's Governor of this territory; and had not the information been given by the Naval Officer as stated in the first part of this letter, my conduct and that officer's would most probably have become the open subject of animadversion, when the power of clearing it up rested with neither of us — I mean until after the French ships' departure — as no officer or other person were disposed to give me this information, and was it not for the explanation required by me of the Naval Officer respecting the irregularity complained of by the French Commodore, I make no doubt that I should have remained ignorant of it until some circumstance had brought it to light, or rather obscurity, after the French ships' departure. If you was present at any time when the hardships of the officers of the Corps said they laboured under (according to their public assertions, in your varanda and in your presence, as Adjutant Minchin says) in being prevented from having any spirits from the Atlas, while the French officers were allowed to have 800 gallons to bring on shore to sell, ought I not to have been informed of it by some officer? And whether it was before or after these reflections were used I cannot say; but as you had my unsealed answer to the master of the Atlas from Hawkesbury, where I then was, stating my reasons why I refused him permission to land his spirits, possessed as you were of that official information, and the natural idea you must have had of the disapprobation with which the impropriety of my conduct would have been viewed by Government, whose instructions I have to render every assistance to the French ships, and every thinking man in the world, had I prohibited the French Commander from purchasing 800 gallons of those spirits to enable him to prosecute

¹ Surgeon Harris.

his voyage. Had all this occurred, if you heard those reflections used, you surely would have silenced those public remarks injurious to my honor as Governor of this territory, which, it appears, was not done, or that Captain Kemp has very improperly conducted himself.

9. Waiting on your answer on these points, and the measures you may judge it necessary to pursue for affording that justice which Monsieur Baudin claims.

I have &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 977-981)

56

[Enclosure No. 3]

Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson to Governor King

Sydney

5 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

1. I have had the honor to receive your letter of yesterday, and have ordered a meeting of the officers of the Corps to enquire how far Capt'n Kemp was justified in using the expressions alluded to in that letter. As soon as their opinions are given, I shall report them to your Excellency.

2. What respects myself of having made use of Lt. St. Crig's name, I believe I have explained that to the gentleman's satisfaction; but, to prevent any misconstruction being put upon that explanation, I intend addressing the Commodore on the subject, and also to convince that I have not been wanting in attention to him or his officers, or ever deviated from the situation I have the honor to be placed in; and I hope I will be fortunate enough to assure your Excellency that the conversation which passed in my varainda was not of that nature to be noticed by me.

3. That I may be enabled to satisfy your Excellency of the zeal I have had to support you in the government (after the court of enquiry has taken place), may I request you will order a meeting of the civil and military officers in the colony, for the purpose of my asking them that question.

I have, &c.,

W. Paterson

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 982)

57

[Enclosure No. 4]

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

Sydney

5 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

I have received yours of this date in answer to mine of the 4th instant, to which I shall reply when I am possessed of the result of the measures you have judged it necessary to adopt.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 982)

58

[Enclosure No. 5]

W.N. Chapman to Adjutant Minchin

Government House

5 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

The Governor requests Adjutant Minchin will do him the favor to acquaint him of the time (as near as he can recollect) when the conversations took place in the Colonel's varanda on the hardships the officers of the colony laboured under, and also the day on which Chapman was called on the parade by Captain Kemp, and questioned before yourself and several other officers respecting his purchasing spirits for money from the French officers.

W.N. Chapman

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 982)

59

[Enclosure No. 6]

Adjutant Minchin to Governor King

Sydney Barracks

5 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

I have just received your Excellency's note, desiring me to acquaint you of the time (as near as I can recollect) of the conversations which took place regarding the hardships the officers of the colony laboured under, which happened (to the best of my knowledge) about the time your Excellency granted a permit for the Commodore to have spirits from the Atlas, and I think the questions put by Capt'n Kemp to William Chapman were about the same date.

I am, &c.,

W. Minchin

Adj't, N. S'h W. Corps

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 983)

60

[Enclosure No. 7]

Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson to Governor King

Sydney

6 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose you the opinions of the officers, who I assembled this morning for the purpose of investigating into Captain Kemp's conduct, respecting the expression he made use of, as stated in your Excellency's letter to me of the 4th inst., to me, and hoped the enclosed apology, addressed to Commodore Baudin, will be satisfactory to him as well as the French officers; and that the accompanying declarations of the officers assembled will exculpate me in not having reported to you a private conversation which I could not conceive to be a complaint, or in any degree injurious to your Excellency's character as Governor of this territory.

I have, &c.,

W. Paterson

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 983)

61

[Enclosure No. 8]

Captain Kemp to Commodore Baudin

Sydney

6 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

As the conversation relating to the officers of the French ships which you have the honor to command, respecting their selling spirits was mentioned by me as a general conversation, I therefore could have no intention of bringing a charge against either of them, and I beg leave to assure you I did not first mention it to the Governor, nor have I only related but what has been asserted by Chapman.

I beg you, sir, and the French officers under your command, will be fully assured how much I am concerned that any occurrence brought forward by me should be considered as done with a view of injuring their honor, as it is so totally different from my wishes and so unconnected with my ideas of them, which I trust my attentions to several of them has fully proved. I am further requested by my brother officers to say that the officers on board the French ships will be considered by them in the same estimation as they were on their arrival in the colony.

I am, &c.,

Anthony Fenn Kemp,

Capt'n of the N.S. Wales Corps

Endorsement by Governor King — I conceive the within apology to be highly honorable to the officers of the New South Wales Corps in requiring its being made, and that it appears a sufficient apology to those officers who have conceived themselves injured, as represented by the French Commodore's letter to me of the 4th instant.

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 983-984)

[Enclosure No. 9]
Officers to Governor King

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

In answer to the following extract from a letter sent by Governor King to Lieut-Col. Paterson, the undersigned officers totally deny making any such complaint¹ in his presence:—

“If you were present at any time when the hardships of the officers of the Corps said they laboured under, according to their public assertions, in your verander and in your presence, in being prevented from having any spirits from the Atlas, while the French officers were allowed to have 800 gallons to bring on shore to sell.”²

Ralph Wilson, Captain

Anthony Fenn Kemp, Capt.

John Piper, Capt.

Thos. Davies, Lieut.

Thos. Hobby, L't.

Wm. Moore, Lt.

Nich's Bayley, Ensign.

Wm. Minchin, Ens. and Adj't.

F. Barrallier, Ens.

J. Harris, Surg'n N. S. W. C.

Wm. Cox, paymaster.

Thos Laycock, Q'rm'r.

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 984)

¹ Note by Governor King: “*Vide* my ltter of the 4th, No. 2. No such word appears; proved by my letter No. 14.”

² Note by Governor King: “For what but an improper purpose could the omission (as Adj't Minchin says) be made? See letter No. 2, par. 8.”

[Enclosure No. 10]

Adjutant Minchin's Declaration

Sydney

6 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

I declare on my word of honor that I do not recollect ever hearing any officer complain to Colonel Patterson of their labouring under any hardships from not being allowed to have spirits from the Atlas, nor did I assert anything of that kind to Governor King, but that I told the Governor of having heard of Mr. St. Cric's paying away spirits at twenty-five shillings per gallon, in a general conversation in the Colonel's verander, where he was, I will admit, but nothing more.¹

I have, &c.,

W. Minchin,

Adj't, N.S.W.C.

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 984)

¹ Note by Governor King: "Is this not a pointed contradiction of what he asserts in his letter No. 6, and his avowal of the truth of my letter No. 2, as far as para. 6, and that also?"

64

[Enclosure No. 11]

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

Sydney

6 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

I have received your letter of this date and its enclosures.¹ Adjutant Minchin will no doubt be able to account for the different tenor of the paper enclosed with yours to his declaration of yesterday, a copy of which I enclose². When I receive an explanation on that head, I shall proceed to answer yours.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 985)

¹ Enclosures Nos. 8 and 9.

² Enclosure No. 6.

[Enclosure No. 12]

Adjutant Minchin to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

Sydney

6 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

On perusing Governor King's letter to you of this day's date respecting me, I find that His Excellency wishes me to account for the different tenor of my letter to him of yesterday, and my declaration to you of this day, and on that head I can only observe that mine of yesterday¹ to Governor King was in answer to a note I received from His Excellency², a copy of which I have the honor of enclosing, in which you will see that the Governor desires me to acquaint him with the time, as near as I can recollect, when the conversation took place in the Colonel's verander, on the hardships that the officers of the colony laboured under.³ As I was unacquainted with that conversation having taken place in your verander, you will observe, in my answer to the Governor, that I only mention at what time such conversation took place, but do not particularise where; and when I answered Governor King's note yesterday, I had not the smallest doubt but that his excellency would have taken it as I really meant⁴, which is that I had heard such conversations, that they were publick, but at what particular place I could not possibly inform him.

I trust, sir, this explanation will prove to the Governor, and to you, that I have not in my letter to His Excellency yesterday, or in my declaration to you today, either deviated from the truth or contradicted myself.

I have &c.,

W. Minchin

Ens'n and Adj't, N.S.W. Corps

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 985)

¹ Enclosure No. 6.

² Enclosure No. 5.

³ Note by Governor King: "Has he not said in the first four lines of this page, in his declarations on honor, that the conversation did not take place, &c.?"

⁴ Note by Governor King: "Does he not say in his declaration, as above, that it was in the Colonel's veranda and in his (the Colonel's) presence?"

66

[Enclosure No. 13]

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

Sydney

6 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

To elucidate truth, I have to request you will compare with my secretary the rough draft of my letter to you of the 4th inst. with the original in your possession, and that you will allow the Naval Officer and Judge-Advocate to be present; and if the copy and the original are the same, and satisfactory to them, you will, as a magistrate of this colony, have the goodness to take their depositions in proof of the tenor of the second, third, and fourth paragraphs of the above letter.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 986)

[Enclosure No. 14]

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

Sydney

7 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

1. I received yours of yesterday and the day before in answer to mine of the 4th inst., with their enclosures.

2. Captain Kemp's apology to the French officers appears to me as just as it was necessary. I have forwarded it to the Commodore with the enclosed letter.

3. Had Capt'n Kemp done his duty as an officer he would have instantly informed me of Chapman's assertions in his house. I should have been much obliged to him and would have made an instant enquiry why the King's Instructions and my General Orders were treated with contempt by strangers in violation of their Commander's word of honor. Instead of Capt'n Kemp taking that proper step, he questions Chapman again publicly on the parade so long ago as about the 17th last August (for so Adjutant Minchin says to me in his letter of the 5th instant, a copy of which you have), including a period of six weeks. What motives Captain Kemp had for this conduct I will not prejudge; but I cannot forget that on Monday, the 13th Sept'r last, Captain Kemp, in the presence of the Naval Officer, applied to me for some of the Atlas's spirits, and that I told him if any were landed he should have an equal proportion with myself and the youngest ensign in the Corps. Here was surely a time for Capt'n Kemp's giving me the information of Chapman's assertion, which, as Adjutant Minchin says, was about a month before. No, such information I never got 'till by the accident stated in my letter of the 4th, and remarks thereon.

4. I trust, sir, you will discover the impropriety of that officer's conduct in not informing me the instant he heard it asserted that the French officers were selling spirits for money, knowing it to be a disobedience of my General Orders, consequent on the Royal Instructions.

5. As to the explanation you have made to the French Commodore respecting Lt. St. Crig being ignorant of it, I can make no observations thereon, nor can I doubt but you have investigated the truth, and that a proper censure has fallen on those who have denied what they once asserted, which must be the case either with the Naval Officer or Adjutant.

6. For what purpose the word "complaint" is conceived and used in the officers and Adjutant Minchin's declaration transmitted by you, I cannot tell; no part whatever of my letter warrants it. Had open "complaint" be made, I most certainly should have heard of it, conceived myself obliged, and would have instantly explained or redressed it; but it has been conversations and assertions in public places that I notice, such as are stated in my letter to you of the 4th instant.

7. I cannot conceive any conversation before you, as Lieutenant-Governor, in your viranda¹, and in the hearing of a centinel, who might put and convey what construction he pleased on it to the barracks, to be private, when it related to the objects stated in the Naval Officers and Adjutants information to me on the 3rd instant, confirmed by both to be true when my letter to you of the 4th instant was read to them in the presence of the Judge-Advocate and my Secretary; again confirmed by his answer to my Secretary's letter to him of

¹ Marginal note by Governor King: "Experience shows that soldiers and sailors have taken advantage of less cause to be troublesome, exclusive of what might be expected from the other inhabitants of this colony."

the 5th, copies of which you have. With these proofs (which I must further elucidate) either the Naval Officer or the Adjutant has not been acting with candour, and it rests with you to which of the two you ought to give the greatest credit.

8. It might be wished that a full transcript had been made, in your officers opinion, who you convened yesterday, when they quoted the paragraph of my letter, in which they left out the parenthesis “as Adjutant Minchin says”; and that he did say so I will faithfully adduce and transcribe the following proofs: —

1. The whole of my letter to you of the 4th instant, which you consequently have.
2. The depositions of the Naval Officers, Judge-Advocate, and my Secretary.
3. My Secretary’s letter to Adjutant Minchin, of the 5th, and his answer to me.
4. His written declaration on his honor before the officers, which of course you are possessed of.

9. Examine these documents, sir, I beseech you, of yourself and for yourself. Does not the last contradict the incontrovertible evidence of the other six documents? Where am I to look for the truth? I desired an explanation of the contradiction in his letter to me of the 5th, and his declaration of the 6th instant. He says in that attempt “that he only mentioned at what time such conversations took place, but did not particularize where.” Here, sir, he is wrong; for does he not say in his declaration that he does not recollect ever hearing any officer complain (instead of assert) to Col. Paterson of their labouring, etc. Where does he find that in any part of my letter? But you may discover that he avows in his letter of the 5th to me, that he quotes the time those conversations took place respecting the hardships &c. You will also discover what he says in the latter part of his declaration which may or may not (as he chooses to interpret it), constitute the conversation he alludes to in his letter to me of the 5th, for it only relates to two subjects — that, and Captain Kemp’s questions to Chapman.

10. Now, sir, I request you to cast your eye on my Secretary’s letter to him of the 5th.¹ Is not the positive word “varanda” used? Why, then, did he not at that time, and in his answer, deny either the place or the subject of conversation? But acknowledging the latter to the full extent of the question, and passing the other over in silence, does not refute it. It carries too great a conviction with it.

11. With these documents it rests with you to take a proper notice of him who has deceived you, or me, as the veracity of the information I proceeded on, to render justice to the French officers, and to set my conduct in what regards the Atlas’s spirits in a true light, must rest with the Naval Officer, who is surgeon of the Corps you command, and the Adjutant, in doing which you will render me and yourself justice.

12. I have now only to observe that in the measures I have pursued respecting the Atlas’s, as well as all other spirits brought to the colony, I have faithfully and honorably discharged the obedience I owe my Sovereign’s Instructions, without neglecting the unasked and impartial convenience of every description of people under my command. How far that has been most impartially considered by me, with respect to the officers of the colony, will appear from the Naval Officer’s report, which I have directed him to prepare and deliver to you.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 986-988)

¹ Enclosure No. 5.

[Enclosure No. 15]

Governor King to Commodore Baudin

7 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

In answer to yours of the 4th, I beg to express the concern I feel that any circumstance should happen for a moment to suspend the good intelligence that has existed between yourself, the officers under your command, and every officer of the garrison.

I have the honour to inform you that, after a mature investigation, it appears that as far back as about the time I gave you the permit to furnish the *Geographe* with 800 gallons of spirits, Captain Kemp, of the New South Wales Corps, was told by Chapman, in his house, that the French officers were in the habit of selling spirits on shore for money, and that he questioned the said Chapman afterwards, on the public parade, before Adjutant Minchin and other officers of the Corps, whether he had not told him so.

Had this circumstance ever been communicated to me before the 2nd inst., when I sent for and taxed you with a breach of your word of honor, I should certainly have informed you of it the instant I heard it; but my ignorance thereof was as great as that of you or your officers, till your message respecting the Naval Officer brought it to light.

You will observe that I lost no time profiting by your condescension in submitting your officers to an examination before a foreign authority. The result has been highly honorable to them, which I have the honor to enclose for your information and, if you judge necessary, for their satisfaction.¹

Col. Paterson having judged necessary to convene a meeting of the officers under his command to decide on Captain Kemp's conduct, I have the honor to enclose Captain Kemp's letter of apology and my remarks thereon, which I submit to you and your officers.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 988-989)

¹ This enclosure is not available.

[Enclosure No. 16]

Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson to Governor King

Sydney

8 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

1. I had yesterday the honor to receive your letter with the enclosures, and have studiously perused the contents and compared the documents you allude to.

2. What respects Captain Kemp, Mr. Harris, and Adjutant Minchin I have communicated to them this morning. As your Excellency very justly observes, altho' Mr. Harris and Adjutant Minchin were unanimous in your presence, they most certainly have been very contradictory since, and as Mr. Harris publicly said that Adjutant Minchin's declaration to me (a copy of which your Excellency has) was correct, I could not suppose it was otherwise, and I have no other means of proving whether both of these officers have acted like gentlemen in this instance but that of bringing them to trial by a General Court-Martial. If your Excellency is pleased to order it I shall do myself the honour of furnishing you with the charges I have to bring against them; but, whatever may be the result, I hope you will not afterwards deny me what I requested in my letter, dated the 5th inst., viz., a meeting of the officers, civil and military, that I may have their testimony how far I have acted wrong in not reporting to your Excellency a circumstance which could not in any way effect your character as Governor of this territory; and from the state of discipline the regiment is in which I have the honor to command, allowing the centinel to have heard the conversation said to have passed in my varanda, it could not have been of that consequence to apprehend any danger from its being carried to the barracks, otherwise I most assuredly have taken serious notice of it at the moment, and reported it to your Excellency.¹

3. I have nothing further to observe at present, sir, not having been fortunate enough to satisfy your Excellency on this point, than this; that I have had the honor to hold His Majesty's commission unsullied for these twenty-three years, and have served in the most honorable and confidential situations in His Majesty's service. I have also had the honor to be placed in the same situation your Excellency holds, and conducted myself with satisfaction to the colony, and had the approbation of His Majesty's Ministers. And it is also pleasing at this moment my being in possession of testimonials of my good conduct in the situations I have had the honor to be placed in, and was never suspected but by your Excellency of withholding anything from those I have had the honor to serve under, where their characters was in question, or the tale-bearer of conversations for the sake of creating mischief, which can be done with no other view than to ingratiate themselves and to give trouble to others, which in this instance has been completely effected.

4. I hope your Excellency will do me the justice that I have not been wanting in giving you every assistance in support of His Majesty's Government, in doing which I may have acted contrary to the instructions I have received from His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief.² This, sir, I have done with no other view than to give you every assistance that lay in my power.

¹ Marginal note by Governor King: "A week after the date of this, the regiment refused their ration because it was necessary to issue the wheat, spoiling in the stores, before the flour; their conduct was so mutinous that the ringleader was sentenced to 200 lashes by a Regimental Court-Martial."

² Marginal note by Governor King: "Why was not this remark made when the instructions were received?"

I have, &c.,
W. Paterson

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 989-990)

[Enclosure No. 17]

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

Sydney

8 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

1. Yours of this date is now before me. I beg leave to observe that I do not notice therein any explanation from you as to my representation of Captn. Kemp's conduct, which rests with you to inform me whether you conceive he was right or wrong in not communicating to me the assertions made use of by Chapman in his house, as stated in my letter of yesterday. If he is wrong, I certainly ought to have expected the most ample apology before now. At any event I look up to you on that behalf.

2. The necessary measures respecting a General Court-Martial will be taken when I am favored with the charges you mean to bring against Adjutant Minchin and Mr. Harris.

3. Having stated so much in my letter of the 4th, and my letter of yesterday, respecting the necessity of my being informed of every subject that could give a shadow of a cause for discontent, it is unnecessary for me to make any further comment on that business than to refer it [to] that authority which will judge impartially of both our conducts. Having been unfortunate enough to present at several mutinies of serious import, where the leading causes, by being neglected in their rise, produced consequences that all concerned in them saw with regret how easily they might have been stopped had the primary cause been remedied in time.

4. I do not suspect you, sir, or any man! If I have reason to remark on any person's conduct under my command in what relates to His Majesty's service and the welfare and tranquillity of this colony, I always have and will do it in an honorable and open manner.

5. Would you have had me pass over unnoticed the open and honorable information I received from the Naval Officer on a point that, if neglected, constituted a neglect of duty on my part? Was I to tell the French Commodore that I would not attend to his claims for justice on behalf of his officers, who were determined to call Captain Kemp to a private account had not the Commodore prevented it? Had I, sir, neglected all this I should most justly have merited those representations which experience tells me would no doubt have been made.

6. How far any instructions you may have received from His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief can in any ways be a hinderance to your supporting His Majesty's Government and rendering me assistance, I am yet to learn; but that I may not put any improper constructions thereon, I must request the favour of being informed what those instructions are; and in the meantime, to evince the high respect and veneration I have for anything that can be construed into a wish of His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, I do, sir, as His Majesty's Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief of this colony, require your instant compliance and enforcement of every Order and instruction you may be possessed of from His Royal Highness, which I am well convinced will not mitigate against His Majesty's Government, or your inclination to support me in the due administration of the important trust delegated to me.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 990-991)

[Enclosure No. 18]

Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson to Governor King

Sydney

8 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

1. I have this moment the honor of your Excellency's letter of this date, and transmit to you the following paragraph of His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief's instructions to me, dated 4th of August, 1801, respecting the officers under my command, viz.: "Not being permitted on any account whatever to engage into the cultivation of farms, or in any occupation that are to detach them from their military duty."¹

2. What I meant being contrary to my instructions, as stated in the above paragraph, has been for the welfare of the colony and not to frustrate your Excellency's wishes.

3. In the latter I mean Mr. Harris and Ensign Barrallier, as they have both been frequently detached from their military duties, which I admitted of purposely for the good of His Majesty's service as well as an accomodation to your Excellency.

4. What respects officers being engaged in the cultivation of farms, when I received these Instructions² I ordered that as soon as the present crop was off the ground they must desist from the cultivation of farms in future, as stated in my regimental orderly book, dated the 10th of July last.

5. The charges against Mr. Harris and Adjutant Minchin I shall do myself the honor of transmitting to your Excellency tomorrow.

I have, &c.,

W. Paterson

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 992)

¹ Marginal note by Governor King: "It appears Colonel Paterson received these orders 10th July last, a period of three months, and this is the first time he made the objection or hinted that the duties performed by those officers militated against the Instruction."

² Marginal note by Governor King: "Was that not a proper time for any suggestions being made respecting those officers?"

[Enclosure No. 19]

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

Sydney

8 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

I had the honor to receive yours in reply to mine of this day, enclosing His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief's instructions to you; and as you construe those instructions as having a retrospect to Ensign Barrallier and Surgeon Harris, I have to request that you will instantly order the former gentleman to his duty, and that you will consider how far Surgeon Harris's doing the duty of Naval Officer interferes with his military duty. Your answer on that latter point will be necessary as soon as possible, to enable me to shew with what prompt attention I honor His Royal Highness's commands, altho' your inference of Ensign Barrallier supercedes the Royal instructions communicated by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

I beg to assure you, sir, I have no accomodation unconnected with the interest of His Majesty's service in the zealous and highly useful duties the above two officers have hitherto so honorably performed with your entire approbation.

I have received no elucidation yet respecting Captain Kemp.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 992-993)

[Enclosure No. 20]

Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson to Governor King

Sydney

9 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

1. I had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter of last night, wherein you request me to order Ensign Barrallier to do his duty in the regiment, and to know how far the Naval Officer and magistrate interferes with Surgeon Harris's military duties. When I mentioned those two officers I did not mean to deprive the public of their services; but from the unfortunate understanding that at present exists between your Excellency and me, I must beg that you will take the responsibility of their holding any other occupations than their military duties upon yourself.¹

2. I must now come to a point, and to explain to your Excellency why the present misunderstanding exists. It takes its rise from Captain Kemp, and is reported to your Excellency by Mr. Harris, with blame attached to me, which has occasioned the reflections and unpleasant constructions upon my conduct, and consequently wounded that good understanding between us that once existed.

3. Captain Kemp did wrong in not reporting to his Commanding Officer what he had heard officially from Chapman², which, I am confident, would have been settled by the officers of the regiment in an honorable manner, without the risque of its being made a private business, and would not have occasioned any explanation between yourself and Commodore Baudin. Mr. Harris's conduct is, in my mind, much worse than the former gentleman's. He gets Captain Kemp's assertions, and also another information, wherein his Commanding Officer is concerned, and carries the whole to your excellency, and you give him the credit of acting open³ and honorably to you, altho' you allow but for your having had occasion to blame him in another instance, no such information would have been given. But place yourself, sir, in my situation as his Commanding Officer. He is going with information⁴, "that the officers of the New South Wales Corps had made many reflections of the Commodore and the French officers being allowed to purchase spirits," &c., &c., as stated in your Excellency's letter of the 4th instant, and with another information with my name attached to it. I say, sir, in this instance he has neither acted openly or honorably to me⁵; he has acted, sir, with contempt and disrespect for me as his Commanding Officer. I am conscious, when your Excellency considers that part of Mr. Harris's conduct, as surgeon of the Corps⁶ I have the honor to command, you will judge how far he has acted with propriety towards me.

5. I have the honor to enclose the charges against Mr. Harris; also those against Ensign and Adj't Minchin⁷, with a letter from the latter.⁸ I have urged Captain Kemp for an answer

¹ Marginal note by Governor King: "How could I agree to this, and subject myself to future humiliations?"

² Marginal note by Governor King: "Which he publicly and most industriously circulated (see letter No. 2, Captain Kemp's apology, No. 8, and French officer's reply, No. 24)."

³ Marginal note by Governor King: "Certainly, and in the just discharge of his duty as Naval Officer."

⁴ Marginal note by Governor King: "As Naval Officer, which appears on his Court-Martial."

⁵ Marginal note by Governor King: "Had Col. Paterson been present, he would have known that the information was not concealed, or meant to be so."

⁶ Marginal note by Governor King: "He was acting then as Naval Officer."

⁷ Enclosure No. 25.

⁸ Enclosure No. 21.

to that part of your letter which relates to him, and have the honor to enclose it.

6. I beg now to assure your Excellency that, notwithstanding the unpleasant existing misunderstanding, I shall not relax in any shape, either in my civil or military situations, and shall continue to render every assistance that lays in my power for the welfare of the colony, and to support your authority as the Governor of this territory.

I have, &c.,

W. Paterson

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 993-994)

[Enclosure No. 21]

Adjutant Minchin to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

Sydney Barracks

8 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

I am much obliged by the extract which you did me the honor to favour me with from a letter of the Governor.

With respect to His Excellency's allusion, what I have said is truly just and critical, and altho' I feel hurt that such an attempt could be made towards my dishonor, I am more surprized at its cause.

To you, sir, as my commanding officer, I now complain of being so unjustly accused, and doubt not but that you will afford me an opportunity of convincing you and my brother officers that my veracity is not to be doubted, and that I have not deviated from either the character of an officer or a gentleman.

I have, &c.,

W. Minchin,

Ens. and Adj't

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 994)

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[Enclosure No. 22]

Captain Kemp to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

Sydney

9 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

I received yours this morning, and in answer thereto take the liberty of remarking that in my own opinion it would be very unbecoming me to be carrying tales backwards and forwards on such subjects as the French officers being accused of selling spirits.¹

To you, sir, as my Commanding Officer, I beg leave to apologize for any part of my conduct that appears to you to be contrary to the etiquette of the service.

I have, &c.,

Anthony Fenn Kemp,

Captain of the N.S. Wales Corps

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 995)

¹ Marginal note by Governor King: "Then why did Capt'n Kemp take such uncommon pains to substantiate and publicly assert it?"

[Enclosure No. 23]

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

Sydney

9 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

The enclosed two letters I have just received from Mons'r Baudin, to which I annex a translation. The Commodore having furnished me with duplicates, you can retain the originals, which you will observe is the French officers' answer to Capt. Kemp's apology to them.

As you judged it necessary to convene the officers of your Corps to decide on Capt'n Kemp's conduct in that respect, which produced the apology, you will have the goodness to reconvene those officers, and cause to be read to them the enclosed letter, in the original and in translation.

I have just received yours in answer to my note of last night. You will observe by the General Orders of this day, that the Court-Martial you desire is ordered for Tuesday next, when the addition of the 6th instant is made to the charges, and that, so far from taking any responsibility on myself, contrary to the meaning you attach to the Duke of York's instructions to you, I refer you to the arrangements I have this day made in consequence of your representation. I also observe Capt'n Kemp's letter to you (by no means satisfactory to me). I wished to be possessed of your opinion as a military officer, whether I can with propriety, as Commander-in-Chief (issuing the warrant for a General Court-Martial), personally prosecute Capt'n Kemp.

The remaining subjects of your letter having been so fully anticipated in my letters to you of the 4th and 6th instants, I must not only refer you to them on every point contained in yours of this date, but also request that you will lay my letter of the 6th, as well as the 4th, with their respective documents, before the members of the Court-Martial, for which purpose I have returned the charges to have the 6th instant inserted as well as the 4th instant.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 995-996)

[Enclosure No. 24]**Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur King**

Le Géographe

le 16 vendémiaire an 11 [8 October 1802]

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

La lettre que m'a adressée Monsieur Kemp, capitaine au régiment de la Nouvelle-Galles du Sud, ayant été communiquée aux états-majors assemblés, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre une copie de la réponse qu'ils ont jugé convenable d'y faire, et qui est ainsi conçue:—

A bord du Géographe,
le 16 vendémiaire an 11

Citoyen commandant,

D'après vos ordres, j'ai appelé à bord tous les officiers de la division en appuyant le signal d'un coup de canon. Je leur ai communiqué la lettre que vous a écrite Monsieur Kemp, capitaine au régiment de la Nouvelle-Galles.

Tous les officiers français, persuadés que Monsieur Kemp avoit le premier donné lieu à l'accusation fautive portée contre eux et avoit employé tous ses moyens pour en fournir les preuves, avoient senti d'autant plus vivement la déloyauté de ce procédé qu'ils devoient moins s'y attendre de la part d'un officier anglais. Ils ont vu avec plaisir que Monsieur Kemp n'a jamais eu l'intention de porter atteinte à leur honneur. Ils en reçoivent l'assurance, parce qu'il entre dans leurs principes de ne jamais douter de la vérité d'un officier. Ils eussent désiré que Monsieur Kemp, connoissant mieux la délicatesse des officiers français, n'eût pas, en les répétant, accredité les propos d'un homme obscur qui ne fussent jamais parvenus ni à Monsieur le Gouverneur ni à nous s'ils n'eussent passé par une bouche qui devoit leur donner de la vraisemblance.

Les officiers de l'expédition française sont sensibles aux témoignages d'estime de Messieurs les officiers du régiment de la Nouvelle-Galles, et les assurent que celle qu'ils leur portent en retour ne sauroit être atterrée par des torts particuliers.

Ronsard
Freycinet aîné
Freycinet jeune
St. Cric
etc., etc., etc.

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 996)

Translation

Commodore Baudin to Governor King

The Géographe

16 vendémiaire Year 11 [8 October 1802]

Governor,

The letter addressed to me by Mr Kemp, Captain in the New South Wales Corps, having been communicated to the assembled officers, I have the honour of transmitting to you a copy of the reply they deemed it suitable to make, which is as follows:–

On board the *Géographe*

16 vendémiaire Year 11 [8 October 1802]

Citizen Commodore,

In compliance with your orders, I called aboard all officers of the division, signalling this by a cannon shot. I communicated to them the letter written to you by Mr Kemp, Captain in the New South Wales Corps.

Persuaded that Mr. Kemp was the first to have made the false accusation against them, and that he had used every means available to him to prove it, all the French officers felt the dishonesty of this behaviour even more keenly as it was something they would never have expected from an English officer. They noted with pleasure that Mr Kemp never intended to impugn their honour. They accept this assurance because it is one of their principles never to doubt the word of an officer. They would have preferred that Mr Kemp, knowing the scrupulousness of French officers, had not credited, by repeating them, the remarks of an unknown man that would never have reached the Governor or ourselves if somebody who was bound to lend them some semblance of truthfulness had not passed them along.

The officers of the French expedition deeply respect the professions of esteem made by the officers of the New South Wales Corps, and assure them that the esteem they hold for them in return could not be vitiated by any individual wrong.

Ronsard

Freycinet, the elder

Freycinet, the younger

St Cric

etc., etc., etc.

[Enclosure No. 25]
Order for Court-Martial

9 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

It being expedient for His Majesty's service that a General Court-Martial should forthwith be assembled, for the purpose of trying John Harris, Esquire, surgeon of the New South Wales Corps, on the following charges, to be exhibited against him by Lieutenant-Colonel William Paterson, commanding the said Corps, viz.: –

Charge 1st. — “ John Harris, Esquire, surgeon, New South Wales Corps, charged by the Commanding Officer with ungentlemanlike conduct, in accusing Ensign and Adj't Minchin of having advanced a circumstance which Ensign an' Adj't Minchin denies, viz.: — ‘That of having informed His Excellency, Governor King, that some of the officers of the Corps had complained of their labouring under hardships in the Commanding Officer's varanda, and in the Commanding officer's presence.’”

Charge 2nd. — “For disrespect to his Commanding Officer, in not informing him of a circumstance, ‘as stated in the first charge,’ which effected his character, and has occasioned a very serious misunderstanding between him and His Excellency the Governor.”

And also for the purpose of trying Ensign and Adjutant Minchin, of the New South Wales Corps, on the following charge, to be exhibited against him, by Lieutenant-Colonel William Paterson, commanding the said Corps, viz.: – “Ensign and Adj't Minchin, with ungentlemanlike conduct in denying that he ever told Governor King that the conversations of the officers of the Corps labouring under hardships, passed in the Commanding officer's varanda, and in the Commanding Officer's presence, as asserted by John Harris, Esquire, surgeon in the same Corps, and in His Excellency's, Governor King's letters to me of the 4th and 6th instant, October.”

By virtue of the powers delegated to me, I do hereby nominate, constitute, and appoint you, the undermentioned officers, to compose such General Court-Martial; and do direct and require you severally, respectively, and personally, to attend at the quarters of Captain Ralph Wilson, in Sydney, on Wednesday next, being the thirteenth day of this instant, October, then and there, after guard mounting in the forenoon of the same day, to proceed to the tryals of the said John Harris, Esquire, and Ensign and Adjutant Minchin.

Philip Gidley King.

To Captain Ralph Wilson, President; Captain John Piper, Lieutenant Thomas Davies, Lieutenant Thomas Hobby, Lieutenant William Moore, Ensign Nicholas Bayly, Ensign Francis Barrallier.

To James Thompson, Esquire, Staff-Surgeon, appointed to officiate as Deputy Judge-Advocate on this especial occasion.

A true copy.

Ralph Wilson,

Capt'n and President

Jas. Thomson,

Officiating Dep'y Judge-Advocate

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 997-998)

[Enclosure No. 26]

Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson to Governor King

Sydney

10 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

In answer to your Excellency's letter of yesterday, wherein you request my opinion as a military officer whether you can, as Commander-in-Chief issuing the warrant for Court-Martial, personally prosecute Mr. Kemp.

I find no difficulty to inform your Excellency that it is customary for the accuser to prosecute against a prisoner. How far that may be consistent with your situation as Governor concerning Captain Kemp does not rest with me as a military officer to instruct you.

With the greatest respect to your Excellency's authority, I beg leave to state, as commanding the New South Wales Corps, that the detail of the regiment rests with me alone, and in not noticing this I should be remiss in my duty, in consequence of your Excellency naming the officers for the Court-Martial in your General Orders of yesterday.

I have, &c.,

W. Paterson

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 998-999)

[Enclosure No. 27]

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

Sydney

10 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

I have received yours of this morning. From your answer to my question contained in my letter yesterday I can only guess that if you mean it as an opinion it coincides with mine, that it is not consistent for me to prosecute Captain Kemp personally; and as experience has dearly taught me the fallaciousness of deputing another person to prosecute in my stead, having failed in my application to you as Commanding Officer of the Corps on the subject of Captain Kemp, I must represent that officer's whole conduct to an authority from which I hope for that justice I cannot obtain here.

I can assure you, sir, that I had no intention of doing yesterday what I have never attempted – interfering with the detail of the regiment under your command. As it appears wrong to you, I request you will regard it as unintentional, as I thought your being the prosecutor it would be more delicate your not having anything to do with the detail that might on that occasion put in or exclude any officer from sitting. To that error I beg you would impute any seeming impropriety on that head. I believe the only person omitted was Lieut. Brabyn. My reason for it was his being on the Paramatta detachment under Captain Piper, who, being of superior rank to Lieut. Brabyn, I named him. But that anything I have done may not be construed into impeding the course of justice I send you the precept I meant to issue, and have to request you will make such alterations as you may deem proper; and that as many officers as possible may be assembled, I dispense with the officers on my guard attending during the days of the trials.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 999)

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[Enclosure No. 28]

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

Sydney

11 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

The hitherto well-conducted police of this settlement being now abandoned by the removal of Mr. Harris, it is incumbent on me, and necessary for the welfare of this settlement, that I should charge you with the administration of that department.

You will observe by the General Orders of this day that every person concerned with the police do make their daily and constant occasional reports to you in the first instance, which you will enquire into; and in all cases where punishments are necessary you will convene the magistrates and report your decision to me if at Sydney; but if I am at Parramatta, or any other outsettlement, you will consider yourself at liberty to inflict any punishment under 100 lashes. Any arrangements you may judge necessary to offer for my approbation, and which you may judge conducive for preserving the good order of this settlement, I shall most readily attend to it.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 999-1000)

[Enclosure No. 29]

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

11 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

Governor King, in answer to Colonel Paterson's message by Lieut. Hobby, requests the names of the officers in writing for to-morrow's Court-Martial, with the exception of Capt'n Kemp, for the reasons stated in the General Orders of today; of one officer for the command of the Parramatta Detachment, where there are 2,980 convicts and inhabitants; and of Ensign Laycock, if he is not of age to sit at a Court-Martial.

The officer of the guard who does not choose to dine with the Governor is at liberty to quit his guard from 3 o' clock 'till the evening parade.

Members for the General Court-Martial ordered to assemble tomorrow: –

Capt. Ralph Wilson, President.

Captain John Piper.

Lieut. Thos. Hobby.

Ensign N. Bayley.

Lieut. Thos. Davies.

Lieut. Wm. Moore.

Ensign F. Barrallier.

F. Hobby,

Lieut. and Act'g-Adj't, New South Wales Corps.

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 1000)

[Enclosure No. 30]

Deputy Judge-Advocate Thomson to Governor King

Sydney

Tuesday, 12 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

I applied this morning to your Excellency (with the approbation of Lieut.-Colonel Paterson) to postpone the General Court-Martial which was to have sat this day on John Harris, Esqr., Surgeon, and Ensign and Adjutant Minchin, of the New South Wales Corps, at the particular request of the officers who were to compose that Court, and who were of an opinion that an explanation might prevent the disagreeable necessity of a Court-Martial, and, also, that I myself might have an opportunity of examining more minutely the charges against those officers, the nature of the evidence in support of those charges, and the defence the prisoners meant to advance.

I have now to inform your Excellency that the efforts of two officers who were selected for the purpose of effecting the explanation required have proved unsuccessful, and, from what I have myself seen, I am clearly of opinion that the charges are so grounded that a General Court-Martial must take place, which I have communicated to Colonel Paterson, who desires me to request your Excellency to put in orders for the General Court-Martial to sit tomorrow.

I have, &c.,

Jas. Thomson,

Officiating Deputy Judge-Advocate

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 1000-1001)

[Enclosure No. 31]

Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson to Mr Thomson

Sydney

13 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

L't-Colonel Paterson requests Mr. Thomson will deliver to his Excellency Governor King the following message: –

That tho' it appeared to the Colonel that His Royal Highness the Duke of York might see an impropriety in Mr. Harris, surgeon of the New South Wales Corps, holding the situation of Naval Officer, and that it might be contrary to his instructions, yet at the same time there did not appear to him the same impropriety in his doing the duty of a magistrate, and which he could fill without in any way being considered as detaching him from regimental duty; and as Mr. Harris had already filled that office with great credit to himself and with much benefit to the police of the colony and the good of His Majesty's service in general, the Colonel, as Lieut.-Governor and Commanding Officer of the New South Wales Corps, has to request his Excellency the Governor will reinstate him again in the office of magistrate, but that the Colonel does not ask this from any view of throwing on Mr. Harris any duties which might fall upon himself as L't-Governor.

W. Paterson

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 1001)

[Enclosure No. 32]

Petition to Governor King

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

The most humble petition of the inhabitants of Sydney, –

Respectfully sheweth: –

That they feel it a duty incumbent upon themselves to address you, and represent that, from the first moment John Harris, Esq're, was appointed a magistrate, they have to return him thanks for his assiduity in administering justice, and his unremitting attention to the high situation he held; his vigilance in detecting vice, and his faithful representation of all such matters as came before him. Under his magisterial eye we have enjoyed perfect security in person and property. We could lay down in safety, knowing that Mr. Harris was always awake. His ear was always ready to hear the tale of the unfortunate, and the public voice is, that he administered justice most impartially.

Your Excellency's petitioners are induced thus to trouble you in acknowledging the goodness, the rectitude of conduct, the fair and impartial decisions of John Harris, Esq're, as a magistrate and Naval Officer; and if they are allowed a voice, they crave to observe that none can exceed that gentleman in discharge of the important Colonial duties entrusted to his care and management.

The petitioners unanimously join in request that your Excellency will be pleased to hear thus their brief prayer, wishing that John Harris, Esq're, may be still continued in his magisterial capacity to rule over us under your Excellency's directions, because under his directions we have lived happy and protected; his vigilance has guarded us in person and in property, and we trust that the voice of a few, tho' greater in power than us, will not affect the character of a gentleman that we suppose and have every reason to think invulnerable.

That he may not feel the least diminution of your Excellency's confidence, but that he may be restored and enjoy the highest honours you can bestow, we most respectfully and most ardently pray, &c.

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 1001-1002)

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[Enclosure No. 33]

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

16 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

Before I answer your written message delivered to me by Mr. Thomson, containing your request for Mr. Harris to be reinstated as a magistrate, I have to request being informed whether you consider his receiving the rents, assessments, &c., being one of the committee for managing the Gaol and Orphan Funds and institutions, as militating against the meaning you have attached to His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief's instructions to you, as all this business is transacted at Sydney where his duty as surgeon of the New South Wales Corps requires his attendance.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 1002)

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[Enclosure No. 34]

Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson to Governor King

Sydney

16 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

I answer to your Excellency's letter respecting Mr. Harris holding the different situations therein contained, I do not conceive that either of them detaches him from his military duties, and it will give me great pleasure to find him reinstated in all those situations.

I have, &c.,

W. Paterson

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 1002)

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[Enclosure No. 35]

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

Sydney

16 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

Sir,

I have the honor of answering your written message to me by Mr. Thompson of the 13th inst.

Persuaded as I am and ever have been of the honor, integrity, and unparalleled assiduity of Mr. Harris in the different offices he has filled with your consent and approbation, yet, sir, when I recur to the last paragraph of your second letters to me of the 8th instant¹, and to the first, third and fourth of yours of the 9th instant², with my answers thereto; and when I consider the duty of a magistrate may eventually call Mr. Harris to Paramatta or Hawkesbury, which would certainly interfere with his duty as surgeon of the Corps you command, I am sorry, on reflecting over those circumstances, that I cannot consider myself justifiable (without subjecting that officer to censure and myself to experience fresh humiliations on that head), in acceding to your request, and the petition of the inhabitants of this settlement to reinstate Mr. Harris as a magistrate, which office, you justly observe, he has already filled with great credit to himself, and with much benefit to the police of the colony, and the good of His Majesty's service in general.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, 1003)

¹ Enclosure No. 18.

² Enclosure No. 20.

[Enclosure No. 36]

Proceedings of Court-Martial

13 October 1802

[Enclosed with letter from King to Hobart dated 9 November 1802]

At a General Court-Martial, held at Sydney, In His Majesty's territory called New South Wales, on the 13th day of Oct'r, 1802, by virtue of a precept under the hand and seal of His Excellency Philip Gidley King, Esq're, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the said terrortory and dependencies, &c.

Present: — Captain Ralph Wilson (president), Captain John Piper, Lieutenant Thomas Davies, Lieutenant Thomas Hobby, Lieutenant William Moore, Ensign Nicholas Bayly, Ensign Francius Barrallier (members of New South Wales Corps).

James Thomson, Esq'r., officiating Deputy Judge-Advocate.

The precept for assembling the Court, and also the warrants constituting and authorizing Capt'n Ralph Wilson to sit as President of the Court, and James Thomson, Esq're to officiate as Deputy Judge-Advocate for the occasion, being read, the Court and Judge-Advocate being sworn, John Harris, Esq're, Surgeon of the New South Wales Corps, charged by Lieut.-Colonel William Paterson, commanding the New South Wales Corps, with:

Charge 1. — Ungentlemanlike conduct, in accusing Ensign and Adjutant Minchin of having advanced a circumstance, which Ensign and Adjutant Minchin denies, viz., that of having informed His Excellency Governor King that some of the officers of the corps had complained of their labouring under hardships in the Commanding Officer's varanda and in the Commanding Officer's presence.

Charge 2. — As stated in the precept and warrants, being withdrawn by the wish of Lieut.-Colonel Paterson and desire of the prisoner.

The charge being read, and the prisoner asked whether he is guilty or not guilty of the matter of accusation, pleads he is not guilty.

The prisoner made objections to any written documents or papers being produced in evidence against him.

The Court cleared on the question to deliberate on the propriety of admitting as evidence the written papers, are of opinion, that the written documents produced by Colonel Paterson as prosecutor, should be admitted as the best evidence that can be had.

Mr. William Neate Chapman, Secretary to His Excellency, being called upon and sworn, deposed to the following questions from Lieut.-Colonel Paterson: —

Q.1. — Examine those depositions, letters, and documents, and say whether they are originals or exact copies of them, as they have either been wrote by you or passed through your hand as the Governor's Secretary?

A. — The letters endorsed on the back No. 1 of the 4th October¹, No. 8 of the 6th October², and No. 9 of the 7th October³, to be originals; and the several depositions, No. 10, are true copies.

The Court being cleared, and on opening, required of Colonel Paterson to produce to them such extracts from the papers before the Court, as he may find necessary to substantiate

¹ Enclosure No. 2.

² Enclosure No. 6.

³ Enclosure No. 10.

the charge.

The Colonel produced the following extract from His Excellency's letter of the 7th October¹, viz.: – "Either the Naval Officer or Adjutant Minchin has not been acting with candour, and it rests with you to which the two of you ought to give the greatest credit."

Mr. Chapman, again being called in, deposed to the following questions from the prisoner: —

Q. 1 — Can I take it on you to say that I ever informed the Governor that the officers of the New South Wales Corps had complained to the Lieut.-Colonel of any hardships they laboured under, as stated in his charge against me?

A. — No; never.

Q. 2. — Did you consider what I said to the Governor as a complaint tending to involve Colonel Paterson in any difficulty whatever, or as an information incumbent on my duty as Naval Officer, which concerns the Governor's General Orders in respect to spirits?

A. — I conceive it as information incumbent on you to give to the Governor officially as Naval Officer.

Q. 3. — The length of time I have been about the Governor's person, have you ever heard me repeat or give any information respecting any officer whatever to their prejudice?

A. — No; on the contrary, I always observed Mr. Harris studiously avoided using any officer's name, except in endeavouring to do him a service.

Q. 4. — Have you not heard the Governor, as well as the Lieut.-Governor, express themselves in terms of high approbation at my conduct as a magistrate, and other offices I have held with their approbation?

A. — Yes; I have heard them both more than once speak to that effect.

The Colonel stated that he had nothing farther to bring forward in support of the prosecution.

The Court being cleared, and having considered the evidence in support of the prosecution, are of opinion there is no necessity for putting the prisoner to the trouble of making any defence; and it appears to the Court that the charge exhibited against John Harris, Esqr., Surgeon of the New South Wales Corps, is groundless, and do therefore unanimously and most honorably acquit him.

Ralph Wilson,
Capt., N.S. Wales Corps,
President.

I approve the above sentence of honorable acquittal.

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, pp. 1003-1005)

¹ Enclosure No. 14.

Government and General Order

14 November 1802

A guard boat with three privates to row guard round the French ships until their departure. The first boat to go off at sunset from His Majesty's ship Buffalo, to row until ten o'clock; the red cutter to go from Government wharf at ten o'clock to relieve the Buffalo's boat; the red cutter to be relieved by Mr. Harris's boat at two o'clock; and in that succession until the French ships leave the port. In the two latter boats three privates are to be sent. Their orders are not to suffer any other than the French ships' boats to approach. Any boat or canoe attempting it to be stopped and brought up when the boat returns from the relief.

Philip Gidley King

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 904)

Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur KingÀ bord de la corvette le *Géographe*, Port Jackson

le 26 brumaire an 11 [17 November 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

En partant de cette colonie, je laisse à la nation française l'obligation de vous faire les remerciements qui vous sont dus, comme Gouverneur, pour tout ce que vous avez fait, tant pour nous que pour le plus grand succès de notre expédition; mais c'est à moi de vous témoigner combien votre amitié m'a été et me sera précieuse pour l'avenir, si vous voulez bien me permettre de me rappeler à votre souvenir toutes les fois que l'occasion s'en présentera.

La franchise et la loyauté des vos procédés envers moi ne me laissent pas douter que vous ne m'accordiez la permission que je vous demande, d'autant que les occasions de pouvoir vous rencontrer, après mon départ de ce port, seront vraisemblablement rares; ce sera donc une satisfaction pour moi de correspondre avec vous dans quelques pays que les événements puissent me conduire. C'est, comme vous le savez, le seul moyen que les hommes qui s'aiment et s'estiment puissent employer, et sera aussi celui dont nous ferons réciproquement usage, si de mon côté j'ai pu vous inspirer par ma conduite les mêmes sentiments dont la vôtre m'a pénétré.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, etc.,

N. Baudin

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 1005-1006)

*Translation***Commodore Baudin to Governor King**On board the corvette *le Géographe*, Port Jackson

26 brumaire Year 11 [17 November 1802]

Governor,

On leaving this colony, I leave to the French nation the obligation to thank you in the manner you are due, as Governor, for everything you have done, for ourselves and for the complete success of the expedition; but it is for me to tell you how precious your friendship has been to me and will remain in the future, if you will kindly permit me to remember myself to you whenever the occasion presents itself.

The frankness and the fairness of your dealings with me leave me in no doubt that you will grant me the permission I seek, the more so as opportunities to meet with you, after I leave this port, will in all likelihood be rare; it will therefore be a source of satisfaction to me to correspond with you from whatever countries circumstances may lead me to. This is, as you know, the only means available to men who share friendship and mutual admiration, and it will also be the means we will reciprocally employ if, for my part, I have been able to inspire in you by my conduct the same sentiments with which your own has inspired me.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

N. Baudin

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

18 November 1802

Governor King's compliments to Lieut.-Governor Paterson. Understanding that he is in possession of some information respecting the intentions of the French nation settling on Van Diemen's Land, requests the Lieut.-Governor to furnish him with what information he possesses on this head, in order that Governor King may take the necessary steps, which he cannot but lament he had not an opportunity of doing before he closed his despatches, this information having but just reached his ears from the Acting Principal Surgeon.

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 1006)

Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson to Governor King

L't Col'l Paterson presents his compliments to Governor King. The conversation was so general among the French officers respecting their making a settlement in the Straits of d'Entrecasteaux that the Colonel could not suppose it was unknown to Governor King, otherways he should have communicated the moment he heard of it, nor did he consider it anything more than commonplace conversation.

Tuesday Morning, 18th November 1802

One of the officers who spoke of it sent Colonel P. the accompanying charts.

(*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 1006)

Governor King to Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson

18 November 1802

Sir,

I have received your note informing me of the general conversation of the French officers respecting making a settlement in the Straits of d'Entrecasteaux. Had I ever heard it, I certainly should have required a positive explanation from the French Commodore, and would have taken a vessel up to have preceded any attempts of that kind they might have in contemplation. As I have been kept ignorant of it until these ships' departure, it only remains for me to counteract them. It is therefore necessary that an officer of the rank of Captain, and as many non-commissioned officers and privates as can be accommodated, should be sent by a conveyance that I hope will be able to leave this in seven days, in order to assert His Majesty's claims, and dispossess any party that may be landed there.

I shall beg leave to retain the chart given to you by the French officers (until a copy can be made) who spoke of the settlement intended to be made.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 1007)

Governor King to Commodore Baudin

Sydney

23 November 1802

Sir,

You will be surprized to see a vessel so soon after you. You know my intention of sending a vessel to the southward to fix on a place for a settlement, but this has been hastened by a report communicated to me soon after your departure, "that the French intended to settle in Storm Bay Passage, somewhere about what is now called Frederick Hendrick Bay, and that it was recommended to you by the Republic," as a proof of which a chart, pointing out the situation (Baye du Nord), was, as Colonel Paterson informs me, given him a short time before you sailed by a gentlemen of your ship. You will easily imagine that if any information of that kind had reached me before your departure I should have requested an explanation; but as I know nothing of it, and at present totally disbelieving anything of the kind ever being thought of, I consider it but proper to give you this information in case the Cumberland should fall in with your ships. The commander of that vessel has my directions to communicate to you the orders he is under.

Myself and family join in the kindest good wishes for your health, and shall long remember the pleasure we enjoyed in your society. We request you will offer our good wishes to Capt'n Hamelin and all your officers.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 1007)

Governor King to Lord Hobart

Sydney, New South Wales

23 November 1802

My Lord,

A few hours after the French ships were out of my sight I was informed that some of the French officers during their stay here had informed L't-Col'l Paterson and others that it was the intention of the French to make a settlement in what is called by us "Storm Bay Passage," and by the French "Le Canal d'Entrecasteaux," on the east side of Van Diemen's Land. As I understood Col'l Paterson was in possession of the circumstances I required his information, as I had no other idea on that subject other than what I have stated in my marine letter of the 9th instant, and which proceeded alone from the circumstance of the time they were employed in surveying that part. Col'l Paterson's answer I have the honor to enclose. I have lost no time in expediting the Cumberland, armed colonial schooner. She sails this day, and from the arrangements I have made His Majesty's claim to that part of this territory cannot be disputed. Your Lordship will observe by No. 1 that the officer I have entrusted with this expedition is directed to proceed immediately to Van Diemen's Land, which is an instruction I have given him to communicate to Mons'r Baudin if he falls in with him, as I know his intention is to go immediately through Basses Straits, and whatever may be in contemplation it cannot be performed by him. How far he may have recommended it to the French Government I do not know. It seems by Col'l Paterson's information that they do intend it. It is my intention, as soon as the Porpoise arrives, to dispatch her with a small establishment to the most eligible place at Storm Bay Passage, and one at Port Phillip or King's Island. Your Lordship's instructions on these points I shall be glad to receive as soon as possible.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(HRNSW, vol. IV, p. 1008)

Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur King

À bord de la corvette le Géographe, Isle King

le 3 nivose an 11 [24 December 1802]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

L'arrivée du Cumberland m'aurait surpris par le contenu de la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire, si M. Roben [Robbins] qui le commande n'avoit par sa conduite fait connoître le véritable motif pour lequel il a été si précipitamment expédié, mais peut-être est-il venu trop tard, car plusieurs jours avant qu'il arbora sur nos tentes son pavillon nous avions laissé dans les quatre points principaux de l'isle à laquelle je conserve votre nom des preuves de l'époque où nous l'avons visitée.¹

L'histoire qu'on vous a faite et dont on soupçonne M. Kemp, capitaine au régiment de la Nouvelle-Galles du Sud, être l'auteur est sans fondement. Je ne crois pas non plus que les officiers et naturalistes qui sont à bord puissent y avoir donné lieu par leur discours, mais dans tous les cas vous deviez être bien persuadé que si le gouvernement français m'avoit donné ordre de m'arrêter quelques jours au nord et au sud de la terre de Dieman, découverte par Abel Tasman, j'y aurois resté, et sans vous en faire un secret.

Le 17 le Naturaliste a mis à la voile, et doit se rendre en droiture en France.

Malgré toutes mes recherches avant le départ il s'est trouvé trois hommes cachés à bord du Géographe,² cinq autres étoient sur le Naturaliste et trois sur le bâtiment américain la Fanny dont le mauvais temps nous a séparés. J'ai, comme nous en étions convenus, mis sur l'Isle King les huit hommes qui nous concernoient; on leur a donné un peu de pain et quelques vêtements. Vous trouverez ci-joint leurs noms, ou du moins ceux qu'ils nous ont donnés: –

Charles Williams.

George Viller.

John Coleman.

James Gibone.

Mecquete Donnis.

John Cavenaze.

James Fline.

John Honatré.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, etc.,

N. Baudin

(HRNSW, vol. IV, pp. 1008-1009)

¹ Note by Governor King: "If Monsieur Baudin insinuates any claim from this visit, the island was first discovered in 1798 by Mr. Reid in the Marther, afterwards seen by Mr. Black in the Harbinger, and surveyed by Mr. Runay in February, 1802."

² Note by Governor King: "Most of these found means to go on board the Géographe before she left the island."

Translation

Commodore Baudin to Governor King

On board the corvette *le Géographe*, King Island

3 nivose Year 11 [24 December 1802]

Governor,

The arrival of the Cumberland would have surprised me by reason of the contents of the letter you did me the honour of writing, if Mr Robbins, who is commanding her, had not made known by his conduct the real reason for which he had so suddenly been sent out; but he has perhaps come too late, as, several days before he hoisted his flag over our tents, we had left on the four main points of the island (which I continue to name after you) proof of the date of our visit there.

The story you were told, of which we suspect Mr Kemp, Captain in the New South Wales Corps, to be the author, is baseless. Nor do I believe that the officers and naturalists aboard can have given rise to it by their conversation, but in any case you must have been quite sure that, if the French government had ordered me to stop for several days in the north or south of Van Diemen's Land, discovered by Abel Tasman, I would have done so, and without keeping it a secret from you.

On the 17th the *Naturaliste* set sail, and is to return directly to France.

In spite of all my searches before my departure, three men have been found aboard the *Géographe*, five others on the *Naturaliste*, and three on board the American vessel the *Fanny*, from which we have been separated by bad weather. I have, as we agreed, put the eight men ashore on King Island; we have given them a little bread and some clothes. You will find below their names, or at least the ones they gave: –

Charles Williams

George Viller

John Coleman

James Gibone

Mecquette Donnis

John Cazenave

James Fline

John Honatré

I have the honour of being, etc.,

N. Baudin

Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur King

Anse des Éléphants

le 3 nivose an 11 [24 December 1802]

Après avoir répondu à votre lettre comme au capitaine-général des établissements anglais de la Nouvelle-Galles du Sud, je vous écris comme à Monsieur King mon ami, et pour lequel j'aurai toujours une considération toute particulière. Ce n'est qu'à ce titre que je vais entrer avec vous dans différents détails et vous dire franchement ma façon de penser, mais rien de tout ce que contient cette lettre ne doit être relatif avec la politique des gouvernements, et encore moins avec vos prétentions erronées sur l'isle de Diémen, que vous ne connoissiez pas plus que moi, quand vous l'avez comprise dans les limites modestes que la prévoyance vous a fait prendre pour votre nouveau territoire. Cependant chacun sait que Tasman et ses héritiers ne vous l'ont pas léguée par testament, aussi devez-vous vous attendre qu'un peu plus tôt ou un peu plus tard ils vous diront sans doute: *Sic vos non vobis nidificatus*, etc.

Dans ma façon de penser je n'ai jamais pu m'imaginer qu'il y eût de justice et même de loyauté de la part des Européens à s'emparer au nom de son gouvernement d'une terre vue pour la première fois quand elle est habitée par des hommes qui n'ont pas toujours mérité les titres de sauvages et d'anthropopages qui leur ont été prodigués; tandis qu'ils n'étoient encore que les enfans de la nature et tout aussi peu civilisés que le sont actuellement vos montagnards d'Ecosse ou nos paysans de la Basse Bretagne, etc., qui s'ils ne mangent pas leurs semblables, ne leur sont pas moins [p. 827] nuisibles. D'après cela il me paroît qu'il seroit infiniment plus glorieux pour votre nation comme pour la mienne de former pour la société les habitants de son propre pays sur lesquels on a des droits, plutôt que de vouloir s'occuper de l'éducation de ceux qui en sont très éloignés en commençant par s'emparer du sol qui leur appartient et qui les a vus naître. Ce discours n'est pas sans doute d'un politique, mais au moins il est raisonnable par le fait; et si ce principe eût été généralement adopté vous n'auriez pas été obligé de former une colonie par le moyen d'hommes flétris par les lois et devenus coupables par la faute du gouvernement qui les a négligés et abandonnés à eux-mêmes. Il s'ensuit donc que non seulement vous avez à vous reprocher une injustice, en vous étant emparés de leur terrain, mais encore d'avoir transporté sur un sol où les crimes et les maladies des Européens n'étoient pas connus tout ce qui pouvoit retarder les progrès de civilisation, qui ont servi de prétexte à votre gouvernement, etc.

Si vous voulez réfléchir sur la conduite qu'ont tenue les naturels depuis le principe de votre établissement sur leur territoire, vous verrez que leur éloignement pour vous, comme pour vos usages, a été occasionné par l'idée qu'ils se sont faite des hommes qui vouloient vivre avec eux. Malgré vos précautions et les châtimens qu'ont subis ceux des vôtres qui les ont maltraités, ils ont su distinguer vos projets pour l'avenir, mais trop faibles pour vous résister la crainte de vos armes les a fait émigrer, ainsi l'espoir de les voir se mêler parmi vous est manqué et vous resterez bientôt paisibles possesseurs de leur héritage car le petit nombre de ceux qui vous environnent n'existera pas longtemps.

Je n'ai nulle connoissance des prétentions que peut avoir le gouvernement français sur la terre de Diémen ni de ses projets pour l'avenir; mais je crois que ces titres ne seroient pas mieux fondés que les vôtres. Cependant s'il suffisoit, comme vous l'avez adopté en principe, d'avoir exploré parfaitement une terre pour qu'elle appartienne à celui qui l'a fait connaître le premier, vous n'auriez rien à prétendre. Pour bien se convaincre que ce ne sont pas les Anglais il ne faut que jeter les yeux sur les plans idéals qu'en a dressés votre géographe Arrowsmith et les comparer avec ceux de Beautemps Beaupré, qui ne laissent que peu de

choses à désirer.

J'étois bien persuadé que l'arrivée du Cumberland avoit tout autre motif que celui de m'apporter votre lettre, mais je ne croyais pas qu'elle fût pour arborer un pavillon anglais précisément dans le lieu où étoient établies nos tentes longtems avant son arrivée. Je vous avoue franchement que je suis fâché que cela eût lieu. Cette cérémonie enfantine étoit ridicule, et l'est devenue plus encore par la manière dont le pavillon fut placé, car il avoit la tête en bas et l'attitude peu majestueuse. Comme je fus à terre ce jour-là, j'ai vu par moi-même ce que je vous dis. Je pensai [p. 828] d'abord que c'étoit un pavillon qui avoit servi à passer de l'eau et qu'il étoit au sec, mais voyant un homme se promener autour je fus informé de la cérémonie qui avoit eu lieu le matin. Je me donnai bien de garde d'en parler à votre capitaine, mais nos savants avec lesquels il dîna en firent des plaisanteries, et M. Petit, dont vous connoissez le talent, une caricature complète. Il est vrai que le garde pavillon étoit à peindre. J'ai déchiré cette caricature aussitôt qu'elle me fut présentée, avec défense d'en faire de semblable pour l'avenir.

La précipitation que vous avez mise à faire partir le Cumberland est cause qu'il manquoit de tout. J'ai donné à M. Robben [Robbins], sans égard au placement de son pavillon sur no[s] tentes, ce qu'il m'a demandé en poudre à canon, toile à voile, fil, aiguilles, plomb et ligne de sonde, vieux cordage, etc. Notre forge a travaillé deux jours pour lui. Je n'ai pu lui remplacer une ancre qu'il a perdue, n'en ayant pas qui pût lui convenir.

Le lendemain de mon arrivée j'ai envoyé le Casuarina visiter les isles Hunter et celles qui sont au sud de l'isle King. Nous en avons déjà reconnu trois avant que d'arriver au mouillage duquel je vous écris.

Je vous préviens qu'à environ deux lieues dans l'est-nord-est du petit islot que vos pêcheurs appellent Eléphant Roc, il y a un haut fond sur lequel la mer ne brise que rarement. Il est plus facile à reconnoître par l'élévation de la lame dans cette partie quand la mer est calme que de toute autre manière. Nous n'avons trouvé que cinq et six brasses d'eau dans les environs, mais un grand remous de marée se voyait à un mil dans l'est, et je présume qu'il y a très peu d'eau. Comme la nuit se faisoit et que le temps n'étoit pas commode puisqu'il nous avoit forcés de partir du mouillage, j'ai remis à une autre époque plus de précision pour le gisement de ce danger qu'il sera prudent d'éviter jusqu'à ce qu'il soit mieux connu.

Je suis très fâché que l'isle King porte votre nom en ce qu'elle me semble n'être d'aucune utilité et n'offrir qu'une ressource passagère pour la pêche du loup-marin et du phoque que les pêcheurs appellent éléphant de mer. Nous en avons fait le tour entier et bien reconnu la côte. Cette isle n'a ni port ni baye dans sa partie orientale qui puisse mettre les bâtiments à l'abri quand les vents sont du sud-sud-est au nord-nord-est en passant par l'est. La côte occidentale n'est pas plus favorisée, et celle du sud encore moins. Dans la partie nord-ouest il se trouve un endroit passablement bon, si toutefois le fond est net. Le mouillage est formé par une pointe avancée de l'isle et deux autres islots un peu au large qui amortissent l'effet des vagues du ouest au nord-ouest. En dehors des deux petites isles dont je viens de vous parler est un grand récif à fleur d'eau et [p. 829] avancé au large qu'il faut avoir soin d'éviter en venant de l'ouest. Deux autres récifs au milieu desquels il faut passer pour se rendre au mouillage sont assez visibles pour ne pas être à craindre.

L'anse des Eléphants n'est propre qu'à ruiner les armateurs en ancres et en cables; j'en ai abîmé deux dans ce mouillage, le Naturaliste un, et le Cumberland y a laissé une ancre. Par treize brasses la sonde rapporte constamment un fond de sable fin, mais par le moyen de la drague je me suis assuré qu'il n'est que de roches et seulement couvert d'une couche de sable peu épaisse. Par onze brasses la couche de sable est un peu plus forte, mais on sent encore les roches. Par huit elles sont moins communes, cependant on en trouve encore à quelques distances les unes des autres. Malgré tous ces changements ce sera toujours un très mauvais

fond et sur lequel on ne doit pas compter. Avec cent brasses de cable je n'ai pu tenir contre une brise modérée de l'est et me suis vu forcé de mettre sous voiles en le filant par le bout. Les courants de la marée sont d'environ deux mil par heure dans leur plus grande vitesse. Il s'en faut de beaucoup que les marées soient assujetties à des heures réglées et leur durée dépend des vents qui règnent. J'ai remplacé à une aiguade passablement mauvaise l'eau que j'avois consommée depuis mon départ du Port Jackson. Je crois qu'elle ne se conservera pas. Comme la mare qui la contient a peu de courant elle est de couleur rougeâtre, ayant sans doute passé sur des endroits ferrugineux; elle n'a néanmoins aucun mauvais goût. Toute la côte le l'Anse des Eléphants est bordée de récifs qui n'en rendent pas le débarquement facile. Pour l'effectuer un peu à son aise il faut avoir l'attention d'échouer son canot entre deux roches et de le haller promptement à terre sur le sable, autrement il seroit bientôt rompu.

Il y a toute apparence que dans peu vos pêcheurs auront épuisé les ressources actuelles que leur offre cette isle dans la pêche du loup-marin et de l'éléphant de mer. L'un et l'autre ne tarderont pas à vous abandonner leur pays si on ne leur laisse pas le temps de réparer les pertes qu'ils éprouvent journellement par la guerre destructive qu'on leur fait. Ils commencent déjà à être beaucoup moins communs que dans le principe, et dans peu vous entendrez dire qu'ils ont entièrement disparu, si vous n'y mettez ordre.

Nous n'avons pas été heureux pendant notre séjour sur cette isle; un mauvais temps presque continuel nous y a suivis. Trois fois j'ai été forcé de prendre le large. Nos naturalistes qui ont séjourné vingt jours à terre n'ont pas fait fortune. Cinquante-cinq plantes nouvelles sont tout ce que nous emporterons, car je ne compte pas quelques mauvais coquillages et autres objets peu conséquents. Nous avons environ vingt espèces d'oiseau qui ne sont pas dans les environs du Port Jackson. Une remarque particulière est que nous avons recueilli les mêmes plantes ramassées à la Baye des Chiens Marins entre le 27 et le 28^e degré de latitude sud. L'émiou, [p. 830] le umbat et le kangourou ne sont pas rares, mais la chasse n'en est pas facile. Une très grande quantité de serpents venimeux la rend dangereuse pour les hommes, et les chiens en deviennent souvent la victime. Il n'est pas moins difficile de pénétrer dans le bois tant il est épais et embarrassé par des sous-arbrisseaux et autres plantes herbacées.

La latitude de l'islot ou roc de l'Anse des Eléphants est par 39° 69.20', et la longitude par plusieurs observations astronomiques de 162° 12', méridien de Paris, conséquemment l'isle est plus à l'est qu'on ne la suppose. Si nos géographes avoient été plus diligents je vous aurois envoyé une copie du plan qu'ils sont à en faire, mais il n'est encore que peu avancé.

Je vous prie de bien vouloir présenter mes respects à Madame King et me rappeler à son souvenir, de même qu'à celui de Mademoiselle Elizabeth, et à toutes les autres personnes dont j'ai eu le plaisir de faire la connoissance chez vous. Je m'attends de recevoir une de vos lettres à l'Isle de France, et je désire que par la suite nous nous rencontrions à Londres ou à Paris. Le Naturaliste est parti pour commander le dîner que vous aurez à payer, malgré que les vents de ouest ayent beaucoup régné.

Je suis, etc.,

N. Baudin

(HRNSW, vol. V, pp. 826-830)

Commodore Baudin to Governor King
Elephant Cove [Sea Elephant Bay]
3 nivose Year 11 [24 December 1802]

After responding to your letter as to the Governor General of the English settlements of New South Wales, I now write to you as to my friend Mr King, for whom I shall always have a particular regard. It is in this capacity only that I will enter into various details with you and tell you frankly what my way of thinking is; but nothing contained in this letter will relate to government policy, and still less to your ill-founded claims to Van Diemen's Land, which you knew no better than I did when you included it within the modest limits that foresight had you claim for your new territory. On the contrary, everyone knows that Tasman and his heirs did not bequeath it to you, so you should expect that sooner or later they will say to you *Sic vos non vobis nidificatus*, etc.¹

To my way of thinking, I have never been able to conceive that there was any justice or even fairness on the part of Europeans in seizing, in the name of their government, a land they have seen for the first time when it is inhabited by men who did not always deserve the titles of "savages" and "cannibals" that have been lavished on them, whereas they were still only nature's children and no more uncivilised than your Scottish Highlanders of today or our peasants of Lower Brittany, etc., who, if they do not eat their fellow men, are no less harmful to them for all that. From this it seems to me that it would be infinitely more glorious for your nation as for my own to train for society the inhabitants of the countries over which they each have rights, rather than undertaking to educate those who live far away by first seizing the land that belongs to them and to which they belong by birth. This kind of language is no doubt not that of a politician, but it at least makes sense in practical terms; and if this principle had been generally adopted you would not have had to form a colony of men branded by the law and made criminals through the fault of a government which has neglected them and abandoned them to themselves. It thus follows that not only do you have an injustice to reproach yourself with, in seizing their land, but you have also transported to a land where the crimes and diseases of Europeans were unknown everything that could retard the progress of civilisation, and that was used as a pretext by your government, etc.

If you would reflect on the conduct of the natives since you first settled on their territory, you will see that the distance they keep from you and from your customs was brought about by the idea they formed of the men who wished to live with them. In spite of your precautions and the punishments you dealt out to those who mistreated them, they were able to discern your future projects, but, being too weak to resist you, the fear of your weapons has made them leave their land, so that the hope of seeing them mix among you is lost, and you will soon be left the peaceful possessors of their birthright, as the small number of them living around you will not last for long.

I have no knowledge of any claims the French Government may have on Van Diemen's Land, nor of any future projects; but I think its claim would be no better founded than yours. However, if it were sufficient, according to the principle you have adopted, to have completely explored a country for it to belong to the person who first made it known, you would have no claim at all. To convince yourself that it is not the English, you have only to cast an eye over the idealised maps drawn up by your geographer Arrowsmith and compare them with the ones done by Beautemps-Beaupré, which leave very little to be desired.

¹ "Thus do you, birds, not for yourselves build your nest" (Virgil).

I was quite sure that the arrival of the *Cumberland* had a motive other than that of bringing me your letter, but I did not think that it was to raise an English flag in the place where we had set up our tents well before her arrival. I will frankly admit that I am vexed this took place. This childish ceremony was ridiculous, and was made even more so by the way the flag was hoisted, as it was upside down and looked less than majestic. As I was ashore that day, I saw with my own eyes what I am describing. I first thought that the flag had been used to strain water and that it was drying out, but on seeing an armed man making his rounds I became aware of the ceremony that had taken place that morning. I was extremely careful not to mention it to your captain, but our scientists, with whom he dined, made jokes about it, and Mr Petit, whose talent you know, made a complete caricature of it. It is true that the flag sentry was worth a picture. I tore up this caricature as soon as I was given it, and prohibited the making of any others like it in the future.

The suddenness with which you had the *Cumberland* leave is the reason she was short on just about everything. Unconcerned by the placement of his flag over our tents, I gave Mr Robbins what he requested in gunpowder, sailcloth, thread, needles, lead and sounding line, old rope, etc. Our forge worked two days for him. I was unable to replace an anchor he had lost as I did not have a suitable one.

The day after my arrival here I sent the *Casuarina* to visit the Hunter Islands and those which are to the south of King Island. We had already charted three before arriving at the anchorage from which I write.

I need to alert you to the fact that, about two leagues east-north-east of the little islet your fishermen call Elephant Rock, there is a shoal over which the sea only rarely breaks. It is easiest to spot by the height of the waves there when the sea is calm. We found only five and six fathoms of water in the area, but a large tidal eddy could be seen a mile to the east, so I presume there is very little depth. As night was falling and the weather was not favourable, since it had forced us to leave our anchorage, I left it to another time to determine more accurately the bearings of this danger, which it would be prudent to avoid until it is better known.

I am quite vexed that King Island bears your name in that it seems to me to be of no use whatsoever and to provide only a temporary resource for fishing sea lions and the seal the fishermen call sea elephants. We have made a full circuit of it and properly charted the coast. The eastern part of the island has no port or bay in which vessels might shelter when the winds are from the south-south-west to the north-north-west passing through the east. The west coast is no better favoured, and the south even less so. In the north-western part there is a fairly good place if, however, the bottom is clear. The anchorage is formed by a projecting point of the island and two other islets a little out to sea which cushion the effects of the waves from the west to the north-west. Entering, while not difficult, is not without its dangers. Besides the two small islands I have just mentioned, there is a large reef just above the surface of the water that is further out to sea, which one must be careful to avoid when approaching from the west. Two other reefs which must be passed to reach the anchorage are visible enough not to occasion any fear.

Elephant Cove is only good for ruining shipowners in anchors and cables; I have damaged two in anchoring here, the *Naturaliste* one, and the *Cumberland* has lost an anchor. At thirteen fathoms the sounding lead constantly reports that the bottom is fine sand, but using a dredge I found that it is only rocks covered by just a thin layer of sand. At eleven fathoms the layer of sand is a little thicker, but you still feel the rocks. At eight there are fewer rocks, however you still find them at various distances from each other. In spite of all these variations this will always be a very bad bottom and one not to be trusted. With a hundred fathoms of cable I was not able to hold against a moderate breeze from the east, and found

myself forced to set sail while paying the cable out to its end. The tidal currents run at about two miles per hour at their fastest. The tides are far from regular and their duration depends on the prevailing winds. I replaced the water I had used since leaving Port Jackson at a fairly poor watering place. I do not think it will keep. As the pool it comes from has little current, it is reddish in colour, having no doubt passed over some ferruginous spots; nonetheless, it has no unpleasant taste. The whole of the coast of Elephant Cove is edged with reefs that make landing difficult. To carry this out with a degree of comfort you must take care to beach the boat between two rocks and haul it promptly onto the sand, otherwise it will soon be broken up.

There is every appearance that your fishermen will soon have exhausted the resources currently available on the island for fishing seal and sea-elephant. Both of these will soon abandon this home to you if they are not allowed the time necessary to replace the losses they experience daily in the destructive war being waged on them. They are already much less common than they were initially, and soon you will hear that they have disappeared completely if you do not rectify the situation.

We had no luck during our stay on the island; almost continuous bad weather followed us there. Three times I was forced to stand off. Our naturalists, who stayed ashore for twenty days, did not collect much. Fifty-five new plants are all we are taking away with us; for I am not counting a few mediocre shells and some other trivial objects. We have around twenty species of birds that are not found around Port Jackson. One particular point worth noting is that we collected the same plants here as we picked at Shark Bay between the 27th and 28th degrees of latitude South. Emu, wombat and kangaroo are not rare, but they are difficult to hunt. The very great number of poisonous snakes makes hunting difficult for the men, and the dogs are often the victims. It is no less difficult to penetrate the bush as it is so thick and encumbered by undergrowth and other herbaceous plants.

The latitude of the islet or rock of Elephant Cove is $39^{\circ} 69.20'$, and the longitude taken from several astronomical observations is $162^{\circ} 12'$ from the meridian of Paris; consequently the island is further to the east than is supposed. If our geographers had been more diligent I would have sent you a copy of the chart they are making of it, but as yet very little has been done.

Please kindly give my respects to Mrs King and remember me to her and Miss Elizabeth, and to all the other people I had the pleasure of meeting at your house. I expect to receive a letter from you at the Ile de France, and I hope we will meet up later in London or Paris. In spite of the prevailing westerly winds, the *Naturaliste* has departed to order the dinner that you will be paying for.

I am, etc.,

N. Baudin

Lord Hobart to Governor King

Downing Street

14 February 1803

Sir,

The accounts you have transmitted of the importance of the harbour on the southern coast of New South Wales, in Bass's Streights, to which you have given the name of Port Phillip, and your representation of the excellence of the climate and promising appearance of the country on that coast, and also of the advantageous situation of the island called King's Island, have induced me to consider, with great attention, the expediency of forming, from the country, a settlement in that quarter, subordinate and dependent upon the Government of New South Wales.

It seems to be fully ascertained by the vessels that have already passed those streights that the sea abounds with the seal and the sea elephant, and the attempts that have already been made to fish there have been sufficiently successful to afford encouragement to prosecute that pursuit.

It is also evident that the attention of other European powers has been drawn to that quarter of the world, and it need scarcely be observed that the establishment of any foreign power on that part of the coast might, in the event of hostilities, greatly interrupt the communication with Port Jackson, and materially endanger the tranquillity and security of our possessions there.

The settlement under your Government is now beginning to assume a form which renders it capable of receiving a system of internal improvement – equally necessary for its prosperity, and for the object of its establishment. Nothing, I am convinced, can tend more to enable you to proceed with effect in the measures you have adopted for this purpose than the leaving you for a time uninterrupted by any addition to the number of that description of persons who form the greatest obstacle to the introduction of order and industry.

It has, on these considerations, been determined by His Majesty that a settlement should be immediately formed at Port Phillip, and that, as soon as a detachment can be sent from thence, a subordinate establishment should be made on King's Island.

The experience acquired by Lieutenant-Colonel Collins, late Judge-Advocate of New South Wales, during his long residence there, and the great attention he has shewn to the transactions of that settlement, from its first formation, have pointed him out as a proper person to be entrusted with the charge of founding the new settlements. For this purpose he has received His Majesty's commission of Lieutenant-Governor thereof, and has been furnished with the inclosed Instructions. His Majesty's ship Calcutta has been appointed to receive on board Lieutenant-Colonel Collins, together with the convicts who are to proceed to Port Phillip, and a part of the stores necessary for the settlement ; and the ship Ocean has been taken up by Government for the purpose of carrying out the remaining officers of the establishment, the settlers, and those stores and implements which could not be received on board the Calcutta.

By perusing Colonel Collins's Instructions you will perceive that the intended settlements are considered as dependencies upon your Government, and that the Lieutenant-Governor is placed under your orders.

It will be sufficiently obvious to you that for some time after the settlement of this colony no persons should be sent from Port Jackson to Port Phillip in consequence of misconduct,

and that for the purpose of forwarding the establishment it will be necessary that you should supply Lieutenant-Colonel Collins with the assistance of any persons or any stores that he may require, and that you may think it necessary and proper he should receive ; and in particular with breeding stock of every description, and to as large an extent as circumstances may permit.

The Calcutta, after landing at Port Phillip the persons and stores intended to remain there, and after affording such assistance and protection as Lieutenant-Colonel Collins may think it necessary to require, will proceed to Port Jackson in order to receive on board the timbers which, in conformity to the instruction conveyed to you in my letter of the 29th of August, 1802, will, I trust, be prepared to be put on board of her. The ship Ocean, being taken up upon freight, is to be discharged at Port Phillip as soon as possible after she is unladen, and is to proceed to China.

I have, &c.,

Hobart

(HRNSW, vol. V, pp. 833-834)

Commander Flinders to Sir Joseph Banks

H.M.S. Investigator, off Island Timor

28 March 1803

As I make no doubt, Sir Joseph, you will see the papers I have transmitted for the information of the Admiralty, it is unnecessary for me to repeat what we have done since leaving Port Jackson, our proceedings and discoveries being detailed with sufficient minuteness. As yet we are barred out of the interior part of New Holland, neither the Gulph of Carpentaria or the inlets we have yet examined having any river falling into them. Would I could make a river, then should not the very center of this great country escape our examination; but if no river or strait exists, I fear our utmost exertions will not find any. Perhaps the most advantageous thing we have done for navigation, is to have ascertained by experiment the possibility of sailing safely through Torres' Strait in three days. I have not yet made the proper examination of this strait, but as some use may perhaps be made of our discovery in the meantime, I have given the best direction I am able for passing through with expedition and safety.

In the Gulph we had met with many marks of former visitors, though none recent, and as these could not be the French ships, we were very desirous to learn whom they could be and what was their business. At Cape Arnhem our desire was gratified; they were Malays from Macassar. I should be inclined to think that if the East-India Company have had any intention of making a settlement on New Holland, the harbours of Cape Arnhem, the wild nutmegs, and perhaps the trepang, which seems to bring the Malays a good many thousand dollars annually from the Chinese, might be additional incitements. In detailing the information from the Malays I had an eye to the Company, supposing it would reach them from the Admiralty.

Finding the harbours to be numerous upon the north coast, the productions somewhat valuable, the soil getting better, and the rise of tide greater, as we advanced westward from the Gulph, I felt much interest in prosecuting its examination; but the rotten state of the ship, and the retreat of the sun to the northward, made it necessary to get through Bass's Strait to Port Jackson before the winter gales set in there.

In England, and during the passage out, I attributed the weak state of the ship to her large ports and the ill putting together of her frame, but now it should appear to have arisen more from so large a proportion of the timber being rotten. She made 7 inches of water per hour soon after crossing the equator, but from lightening her upper works, and a thorough caulking at the Cape, she did not any more admit so much during the passage to Port Jackson. For a few hours she made more than 10 inches near the Prince of Wales Islands, and I had her caulked at the head of the Gulph, on which occasion it was that the rotten state of the planks and timbers in every part of her was discovered.

I am steering to put into Timor for a few days, for the reasons mentioned in my letter to the Admiralty, and it need not excite surprise that there should be some appearance of scurvy amongst us, having been only eight months from Port Jackson, for at that place the ship's company had fresh meat only once, on the King's birthday, and no other vegetables than what the Governor humanely gave them once and sometimes twice a week. Ships stationary there can do better by cultivating a garden sufficient for their supply, but we cannot do this.

I hope to arrive at Port Jackson before June, and that the Governor will let me have either the Buffalo or Porpoise to finish the survey, or else that a ship may arrive which can be either hired or purchased, both to do that and to carry us afterwards to England. I place more dependence upon the latter than on the former case.

To an observation of mine that the Investigator would not last out the voyage, I think, Sir Joseph, you once replied that the Admiralty must then send out another ship to me; but the dread of remaining idle for so long a period as until a ship might arrive from England deters me from thinking of it. I am taking some trouble to collect and make a table of accurate observations of the sun's altitude at noon to the north and to the south, both with a view to greater accuracy in our latitude, and also from supposing that it might tend to a correction of the quantity of horizontal refraction by which the dip of the horizon is corrected in our tables. The difference between the latitudes deduced from the two sides will indeed be affected by other errors than the horizontal refraction, of which that arising from the oblate spheroidal figure of the earth will be one; but as my opinions upon the matter must be very crude, I shall content myself with furnishing facts, happy if they can be made of any utility. The table will be completed on our arrival at Port Jackson, and will then be sent to Dr. Maskyline with the corresponding heights of the thermometer and barometer.

Aware that ignorant people may sometimes notice things which by the philosopher may be turned to utility, the fear of being laughed at will not prevent me from stating some facts which show a much greater relation between the height of the barometer and the sea and the land winds than has been supposed. I rather mean winds of some extent than local sea and land breezes. In a letter to Dr. Maskyline from Port Jackson I mentioned something of this before, and on completing the circumnavigation of New Holland shall collect the facts into a table and forward them to him.

I have taken the liberty, Sir Joseph, of inclosing to you a list of some errata we have found in Mendoza's excellent table of versed sines. May I beg its presentation to the learned author, with my respectful compliments? From conviction of its superior advantages I have altogether adopted his mode of calculating the longitude from observed lunar distances.

You have indeed many anxious well-wishers, Sir Joseph, on board the Investigator; for, besides the gratitude which your attention and favour to many of us has excited, we know of no one who after you, will think at all of us or our labours, and truly we are somewhat ambitious of notice from those whose attention confers both information and credit.

I remain, &c.,

Mattw. Flinders

(*HRNSW*, vol. V, pp. 77-79)

Sir Joseph Banks to Governor King

Soho Square

8 April 1803

My dear Sir,

The manifold packages you have had the goodness to forward to me have always, owing to you friendly care in addressing and invoicing them, come safe and in good condition to my hands. Among the last was the head of one of your subjects, which is said to have caused some comical consequences when opened at the Customs House, but when brought home was very acceptable to our anthropological collectors, and makes a figure in the museum of the late Mr. Hunter, now purchased by the public.¹

The seeds from Mr. Brown make a most valuable addition to our gardens. Those from Caley were this time very interesting. He had collected several new sorts from the banks of the Hawkesbury, and altogether sent home to me 170 sorts. I must say I am glad he did not chuse to embark on board the discovery ships.² As there is plenty of people with them to collect, he will do me better service if he travels into the parts near you that have been the least visited.

Flinders's charts have not arrived. I fear the ship that brought them must have been lost, or have proceeded to America, if she was American. It is a great misfortune to the voyage, for the success of what has been done has not been so well impressed on the minds of his friends as would have been had the charts been forthcoming, and his enemies suspect idleness on his part, or some other bad reason, for omitting to send them.

I am sure, sir, everybody here who interest themselves in the success of the voyage are under much obligation to you for the liberal protection you have given to Flinders, and the constant assistance you have given on all occasions to the undertaking. Flinders speaks warmly of your friendship, and I beg you will accept my best thanks for your goodness on this occasion.

This will be delivered to you by an old friend, Col. Collins, who is come to extend the bounds of you dominions by establishing a new colony at Port Phillip and the opposite island.³ I think the reason given by Lord Hobart for this measure is excellent – “If you continually send thieves to one place,” said my Lord, “it must in time be super-saturated. Sydney, I think, is now completely saturated. We must let it rest and purify for a few years, and it be again in condition to receive.” I conclude an effort will soon be made to form a communication between the two colonies, as I do not suppose that by the road they can be more than 500 miles assunder.

The mass of salt you sent to me is wholly free from the mercurial salts which I found in the last parcel sent by Capt. Hunter. I have no doubt, therefore, that some wag of choice years put the sublimate amongst it as a practical joke. It is singular if detached pieces of such a magnitude are found and no regular bed yet discovered. Such a bed must exist and will in time be met with.

I do not know what the French mineralogist means by a substance fit for the glazing of china which may be got from you ferruginous stones. Be so good, therefore, as to send me

¹ In his letter to Banks of 5 June, 1802 (*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 784) to which the above was evidently an answer, King mentioned that he was sending to Banks a “New Hollander’s head” in spirits.

² The *Investigator* and *Lady Nelson*.

³ King Island.

some of these stones that I may procure an analysis of them.

The political situation of Europe is troublesome and turbulent in the extreme. The French nation wishes to be at rest ; the Chief Consul wishes to be at war ; and in order to bring about this event he assails us with uninterrupted affronts of the most serious nature. Flesh and blood can scarce bear it, and I fear this nation will no bear it much longer. We have already had a message from the King to say that the French are arming, and have refused to say for what purpose, which has put the spirit of this nation very much up. How it will end I cannot foresee, but it cannot go on – well as long as the Chief Consul lives.

Believe me, &c.,

Jos. Banks

(*HRNSW*, vol. V, pp. 834-836)

Governor King to Sir Joseph Banks (A private letter) (Extracts)

Sydney

9 May 1803

Dear Sir,

[...]

You give me joy of the better state of the colony and of the credit I have obtained by bringing it into its present condition. The approbation of two, or even one, honest and honourable man like, yourself, will at all times fully compensate me for the anxiety, trouble, opposition, and insult I have received in the just – I dare avow, honourable – discharge of my duty.

If I have destroyed the most oppressive monopolies – destructive and insupportable extortion – encouraged every species of useful industry, and secured many deserving, industrious people from the dreary habitation of a jail, for debt contracted with them whose cupidity prevailed over every possible consideration which ought to have attached to their situation ; if I have obtained several, and nearly completed all, these objects, it has been at the expense of every comfortable consideration to myself and family. However, I have faithfully done my duty, and will persevere in it as long as I hope to remain here, which the assassinating attacks I have received from them, from whom I ought to have expected a different line of conduct, makes me desirous may be of as short a duration as possible.

[...]

Of his [Flinders'] voyage thus far, I send Home his charts to the Admiralty which he left in my charge, not having had a better opportunity, or indeed any one that I could any way call safe, till now. Whilst the Investigator lay here, Flinders used much dispatch in refitting. His scientific gentlemen were busily employed in their several pursuits. Mr. Brown and Bauer, &c., visited the confluence of the Grose, Nepean, and Hawkesbury, and were indefatigable. They left two boxes of plants which they had collected on the south coast, which are now in the Government gardens at Parramatta and doing extremely well. They also left several boxes (which I got made for them) of dried plants, &c., from the south coast, which now occupy a dry room in the Government House at Parramatta, as being the safest and driest place, but with the strictest injunction from Mr. Brown that not one of them was to be sent Home until some account was had of the Investigator, or that she returned here. Should any accident have happened to the ship I shall still be at a loss who to send them to as they are not directed, nor is any instruction left.

In my last I informed you all about our French visitors. They were received by us with that attention and hospitality which would have made the most lasting impression on their minds, and I am bold to say would have equalled the impression made on your coadjutor, Cook's, mind by the hospitalities of Major Béhm¹ and his countrymen.

[...]

Whilst the French ships lay here I was on the most friendly footing with Mons'r Baudin and all his officers. What idea he had of my attention to him and his you will observe by the enclosure,² which I request you will make what use of you please, as he gave me twelve copies at parting. *Entre nous*, he showed me and left with me his journals in which were contained all his orders from the first idea of his voyage taking place, and also the whole of

¹ Governor of Kamtchatka.

² See *HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 968 (letter from Baudin dated 12 brumaire an 11 [3 November 1802]).

the drawings made on the voyage. His object was (by his orders) the collection of objects of natural history from this country at large and the geography of Van Diemen's Land. The south and south-west coast, as well as the N.W. and north coast, were his particular objects. It does not appear by his orders that he was at all instructed to touch here, which I do not think he intended if not obliged by distress. With all this openness of his part, I could only have general ideas on the nature of their visit to Van Diemen's Land. I communicated it to Mons'r Baudin, who informed me that he knew of no idea that the French had of settling on any part or side of this continent. They had not been gone more than a few hours when a general report was circulated that it had been the conversation of the French officers that Mons'r Baudin had orders to fix on a place for a settlement at Van Diemen's Land, and that the French, on receiving his accounts, were to make an establishment at "Baie du Nord," which you will observe in D'Entrecasteaux's charts is what we call "Storm Bay Passage," and the French Canal D'Entrecasteaux. It seemed one of the French officers had given Col. Peterson a chart and described the intended spot. I required the Col.'s informant, who gave it. Without losing an instant a Colonial vessel was immediately equipped and provided with as many scientific people as I could put into her and dispatched after Mons'r Baudin. The instructions I gave the midshipman who commanded her was to examine Storm Bay Passage and leave His Majesty's colours flying there with a guard, and that it was my intention to send an establishment there by the Porpoise.¹ This order you will observe was a blind, and as such was to be communicated to Mons'r Baudin, as my only object was to make him acquainted with the reports I had heard and to assure him and his masters that the King's claim would not be so easily given up. The midshipman in the Cumberland had other private orders not to go to Storm Bay Passage, but to follow the French ships as far as King's Island, and that he was to make the pretext of an easterly wind forcing him into the straits ; and as he was enjoined to survey King's Island and Port Philip, that service he should perform before he went to Storm Bay Passage. This had the desired effect. He overtook the Géographe and Naturiliste at King's Island, the day the Naturiliste parted company with the Géographe on the former returning to France, and as an officer of the colony was going passenger in her, the mid. was instructed to give him privately a packet for the Admiralty and Lord Hobart, in which I believe was one for you. These letters contained the particulars. The mid. was received by Mons'r Baudin with much kindness. In the later's answer to me he felt himself rather hurt at the idea "that had such an intention on his part existed that he should conceal it," &c. However, he put it on the most amicable footing, altho' the mid. planted His Majesty's colours close to their tents, and kept them flying during the time French ships stayed there.

The necessity of dividing our numbers and establishing another port has long presented itself to my consideration. It would have been done some time ago, but unfortunately at the time I had no person I could entrust with such a command. On the Glatton's arrival I received several letters of recommendation with a young man, one the lieutenants of that ship, whose connexions I believe you recollect.

He is the son of Capt. John Bowen, who was Lord Howe's master in the Queen Charlotte on the 1st June, '94, and is nephew to Lieut. Richard Bowen who was killed at the unsuccessful attempt at Teneriffe. You may remember him as commanding the ship that carried Gov'r Phillip Home. I have, at Captain Colnet's recommendation, and of course permission, given him an order to superintend and command the intended settlement which I have fixed on at Ridsen Cove, near the head of the Derwent, in the Storm Bay Passage, which I was induced to do from Bass's and Flinders's description of it, but shall leave it to Mr. Bowen to fix on a more eligible spot if one presents itself. The Porpoise and Lady Nelson will

¹ See the Instructions to Robbins (*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 908) and Baudin's letters to King (*HRNSW*, vol. IV, p. 1008; vol. V, pp. 826-830).

carry the first settlers there as soon as possible after the Glatton's departure. As he is a steady young man, I hope we shall have good accounts of his essay. I Will thank you to tell Cayley whether you wish him to go there for the purpose of collecting as he does not think he has near gleaned the harvest here. I have wrote respecting the Van Diemen's settlement to my Lord Hobart and the Admiralty, which I trust will be approved of for various reasons of a political as well as of a beneficial nature.

I do not blame Lieut. Grant so much for the villainous transaction respecting the loss of my dispatches, as I deprecate the infamy of those who had preconcerted the plan. Before the vessel he went in left the colony, it was told me that such an event would happen, and the master's conduct prior to his leaving this fully justified the report. I would not suffer the vessel to leave the port before a bond of £500 was given that neither Lieut. Grant or the dispatches should be molested. Under these circumstances, and Lieut. Grant's knowledge of the master, he ought to have been more guarded, as I gave my positive directions that the vessel should be seen a certain way to sea, and the box was not given from my possession before the vessel was under weigh. However, the plan was too well laid and bound with ill-got gold to fail. Let the villain enjoy the success of his infamy. As to any publication of Mr. Grant's, I believe nothing original or new can arise from his pen without the aid of auxiliary fiction.

I received no account of the value of the fleeces I sent by the Buffalo until your last by Glatton. You will see that it is published in our weekly paper. The sheep increase and thrive exceedingly well ; they also improve greatly in their wool. As yet we have got nothing better than a blanketting, of which we make a great deal. Unfortunately, it is individuals who possess the Spanish rams ; and I believe they do keep the breed as pure as possible. I have got some half and fourth bred rams in Government flocks which will and does make a great change in the fleece, but as they are distributed among the settlers it will be more equally expanded.

[...]

I am frequently attacked with our old friend the gout, which I think is turning into an acute rheumatism; but, thank God, I am never so ill as to neglect or avoid any portion of my duty, except at times I am disabled from going out for a fortnight, after which I return quite fresh to the charge.

I have, &c.,

Philip Gidley King

(*HRNSW*, vol. V, pp. 132-137)

Le Commandant en chef Baudin au Gouverneur King

À bord de la corvette le Géographe, Isle de France

1^{er} fructidor an 11 [10 August 1803]

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

Je m'empresse de profiter d'un bâtiment américain, qui, après avoir recueilli la partie de son équipage laissée sur les Isles Saint Paul et Amsterdam, a le projet de se rendre au Port Jackson pour y vendre des pelleteries et différents autres objets qu'il transporte dans votre pays.

Depuis que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous voir, j'ai employé neuf mois à l'exploration de la côte de la Nouvelle Hollande qui est enfin terminée, mais non pas sans quelques lacunes.

Dans ma seconde relâche à Timor, j'ai été informé du passage de M. Flinders et du mauvais état dans lequel étoit son bâtiment. Je désire bien sincèrement qu'il se soit rendu chez vous sans de nouveaux accidents.

Le Naturaliste, à compter de l'Isle King, a mis quarante-et-un jours pour se rendre à l'Isle de France d'où il est parti de suite. Il doit être rendu depuis longtemps en France. Ses collections en animaux vivants et plantes étoient en fort bon état. Monsieur et Madame Thomson se portoient bien, et ont éprouvé pendant leur séjour tout l'agrément qu'ils pouvoient désirer.

À l'entrée du Golphe de la Carpentarie j'ai perdu Monsieur Bernier, notre astronome, que nous avons tous regretté et qui vous étoit connu. De mon côté j'ai été deux fois malade, et même à un tel point que les médecins ont souvent décidé que ma carrière étoit terminée, mais ils se sont trompés, et depuis mon arrivée je commence à me rétablir.

J'ai fixé mon départ pour la France au mois de décembre prochain. On prétend qu'actuellement il existe quelques discussions politiques entre votre nation et la mienne; mais j'espère que le nuage qui s'est élevé se dissipera sans que l'on entende gronder le tonnerre. Dans tous les cas, je me recommande à votre amitié, et vous prie de songer que nous serons toujours amis.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, etc.,

N. Baudin

Ayez la complaisance de faire agréer mes respects à Madame King et à Mademoiselle Elizabeth, comme aussi de me rappeler au souvenir de Monsieur et Madame Paterson, Monsieur et Madame Belassy, Chapman, Palmer, etc.

Le Casuarina, malgré les mauvais temps, m'a toujours accompagné, et est comme moi dans le port.

(HRNSW, vol. V, pp. 201-202)

Translation

Commodore Baudin to Governor King
On board the corvette *le Géographe*, Isle de France
1 fructidor Year 11 [19 August 1803]

Governor,

I hasten to seize the opportunity provided by an American vessel which, after having collected the part of her crew she had left on the Islands of St. Paul and Amsterdam, plans to go to Port Jackson to sell some furs and other articles in your country.

Since the time when I had the honour of last seeing you, I have spent nine months exploring the coast of New Holland, which work is at last completed, but not without some gaps here and there.

During my second stopover in Timor I was informed of the visit there of Mr Flinders and of the poor state of his ship. I sincerely hope that he has reached you without any further misfortune.

The *Naturaliste* took forty-one days to go from King Island to the Isle de France, from where she departed almost immediately. She must have arrived in France a long time since. Her collections of live animals and plants were in excellent condition. Mr and Mrs Thomson were well, and enjoyed their short sojourn here very much.

At the entrance to the Gulf of Carpentaria, I lost our astronomer, Mr Bernier, whom you knew and whose loss we have all regretted. As for me, I have twice been taken ill, and so badly that the doctors frequently concluded that my career was at an end, but they were wrong, and since my arrival here I have been slowly recovering.¹

I have fixed my departure for France for the month of December next. It is claimed that political issues currently exist between your nation and mine; but I hope that the dark cloud that has arisen will pass by without us hearing the grumble of thunder. In any event, I remind myself to your friendship, and pray you to believe that we shall always be friends.

I have, &c.,

N. Baudin.

Kindly give my regards to Mrs King and Miss Elizabeth, and remember me to Mr and Mrs Paterson, Mr and Mrs Belassis, Chapman, Palmer, &c.

In spite of the frequent bad weather, the *Casuarina* has always accompanied me, and is now in port here.

¹ The doctors were unfortunately not mistaken. Baudin never fully recovered. He died on 16 September, 1803, before this letter had reached King.