

B

CONFIDENTIAL
DESPATCH BOOK
Nov. 1844
-
Sept. 1861
OUTWARD

28



Confidential

Government House Port Williams
Falkland Islands 21st Dec^r. 1848

My Lord

Whenever I have had occasion to mention Mr. Staughton the gentleman who fills the situation of Clerk to this Government I have written highly of his zeal and industry for the public service, and I was willing to hope that although his capacity ^{was limited} he would be able in time to qualify himself for all his duties.

It has given me pleasure to take the utmost pains to improve him.

From the period of his arrival he has dwelt at my house and occupied a seat at my table and I feel a friendly interest in his welfare, but it becomes my duty to state that after a trial of nearly twelve months I find him incapable of performing any other duties than those of merely copying and entering letters. In the simplest questions of Arithmetic he is at a loss, and in the most trifling duties of an Accountant and Store-keeper he makes serious errors.

H/

The Right Hon^{ble}
Lord Stanley

2

It is not necessary for me to enter into further details as he has addressed the enclosed letter to me upon the subject, praying to be excused from duties he feels himself incapable of performing.

5th Nov. 1844

In my answer to Mr. Staughton your Lordship will perceive that I cannot's misconception which appears to have arisen in his mind and which may have the tendency (I am aware quite unintentionally) of misleading your Lordship.

7th Nov. 1844

It seems to suppose that Mr. Staughton's Government rest the responsibility of the office of the keeper and Accountant upon him. I am aware that they rest upon me, and that he is unable to aid me in the details in which your Lordship might suppose it would be impossible for him to do; it is with pain I have to state that the aid he is unable to afford, and after the patience of a twelve months trial I find that even with my closest superintendence I cannot depute to him the most trifling duties of these departments with any satisfaction.

My intimate acquaintance with Mr. Staughton enables me to add that much of his distress in performing his duties arises

3

arises from a constitutionally excited or per-
haps more correctly speaking nervously an-
xious state of mind amounting to timidity
with which I am sure he will do me the jus-
tice to say I have dealt most tenderly, hoping
that he would be able to throw it off and
apply himself vigorously to his self im-
provement. The time has however now arri-
ved for me to call upon him for a punctual
and accurate performance of his duties un-
derwritten; to do this he feels himself incompe-
tent. In his opinion I am obliged to concur
and necessarily am compelled to ask
for the services of some other person to aid
me in the details of Accounts, Stores, Returns,
and reports, and general business of Gov-
ernment.

These are temporarily performed
quite to my satisfaction by Mr. Longden
the gentleman at present acting as Clerk in
my Office the confirmation of which appoint-
ment I have ventured to submit for your
Lordship's most favourable consideration.

I have the honor to be Sir

Yours

Ed. Dwyer

The first enclosure to this letter is entered in the
Mis. Letter Book to the Secy. at pages 201 & 202 the second into the Mis.
Letter Book from His Excellency at page

Confidential

Government House Stanley
Falkland Islands 16th April 1845

My Lord

I am desirous of placing your Lordship in possession of the clearest view of all the transactions which have lately transpired in this obscure portion of Her Majesty's Dominions and as I feel myself hampered by the formality and caution requisite in an official despatch I take the liberty of addressing you Lordship confidentially on the subject.

The whole may be traced to the antagonism of the Naval Service towards a Military Government and the mere circumstance of one of the Gov^t. Officers misconducting himself was seized upon by that Service in a manner the origin of which was unperceived by themselves but the effect of which was to cause them to enter upon a course of conduct disgraceful to themselves and prejudicial to the Government of the Colony.

Previous to this young man's dismissal as my Private Secretary they had not been on terms of intimacy with him. When dismissed he threw himself into a kind of opposition and was supported and backed by them. His last outrage was so gross as to

(write)

The Right Hon^{ble}.
Lord Stanley

5

unite all the Government Officers in indignation against him and the Naval Officers forgetting what was due to themselves as well as the Government of the colony, enlisted themselves on the side of a man who had insulted the latter. Their ~~cause~~^{cause}, being an indefensible one, caused their passions to be brought into play and they mingled their private feelings with their public duties. For their private offences to myself, I care not I am happy to say the Government Officers have throughout shown the forbearance of men to whom could only be considered the acts of children but the effect upon the Colonists a mass of ignorant men whose minds are under no kind of discipline it is to be feared will be far different. The opposition of Officers of the Naval Service (a Service with which the pursuits and habits of the Settlers have a peculiar Connection) must have a most pernicious influence which I fear will take me many months of arduous attention and care to remove.

I give those Officers of the Navy with whom my Government has brought me in contact full Credit for being entirely blind to the existence in their minds of the root of the mischief. No more so as I have no reason to doubt the apparent attachment & friendship of many to me as a private individual except when their passions or a fancied infringement of the honor due to their profession takes possession of their minds.

I also

6
I also sometimes imagine that my concilia-
tory disposition has been occasionally mistaken by them
for a weakness of character and a submissive deference
to their impotence. I shall be sorry if my humouring
of their weaknesses should have been so misinterpreted
and I say all this consistently with sentiments of
the highest regard for a most honourable branch of Her
Majesty's service.

A recurrence of the events which have lately
transpired is I fear too often to be expected while this "an-
"tagonism" exists, but I feel assured your Lordship will
believe I shall continue my conciliatory habit as far as is
consistent with the dignity of my Station.

Some kind of public notification on the part of
H.M.'s Gov^t. perhaps such as the one I have taken the liberty
to suggest for your Lordship's consideration in my des-
patch N^o 36 dated 16th Inst. would I conceive materially
strengthen my position and remove many of my
difficulties.

I have in that despatch expressed my opinion
that the Government of this Colony must be chiefly one
of moral influence and that any means to be adop-
ted for its aid should partake of that character.

I have &c
R. Mundy
Governor

Confidential

Government House
Stanley Falkland Islands
25th June 1846

Sir

I take the liberty of addressing you confidentially on the character and conduct of Mr. Stone the Stipendiary Magistrate of the place as there are many points connected therewith which I cannot state with sufficient freedom in a public despatch. It is also my duty to acquaint you with my reasons for not suspending him at once a step I should have taken elsewhere.

If Mr. Stone's legal qualifications I will not pretend to judge but I cannot help feeling doubtful even on that point and a reference to the enclosure to the despatches which had the honor to forward Nos 34, 37 and 40, dated 9th, 15th and 19th June last respectively will I think show that it is not without reason I hesitate in placing the reliance I could wish on his opinion. Very many circumstances besides those contained in the despatches and enclosures above referred to have combined to shake my confidence in Mr. Stone's legal knowledge.

With respect however to his character and conduct as a Public Officer I am able to form a decided opinion.

I have observed him attentively for 15 months and I am now satisfied that he is inferiorly, even, really deficient in judgment, possessing disaffected

He might be
H. C. Gladstone.

and of late utterly dissipated. - It would also become my duty to state that he is addicted to such intemperate and highly objectionable habits as to present a most pernicious example in a small community composed almost entirely of the lower class and in which I regret to say drunkenness is the prevailing vice and the rest of all that goes wrong. I need scarcely add that these habits have rendered it impossible for me to receive him into my society and have obliged the very few gentlemen here to shun him altogether.

These habits have led Mr. Moore to associate with persons whose tastes are similar to his own and also to entertain the lowest people in his own house and occasionally to join them both in their houses and at the taverns regardless of its effect on the community at large and blind to its real injury to himself. I have no doubt that this association with the lowest orders is chiefly with the view of creating a vulgar popularity among them and to concave their favour & support. A most tasteless and highly indecorous course in a Magistrate.

Accompanying the habits above alluded to there is a hypocritical assumption of virtuous motives soon with so much art and assurance as to deceive those among the ignorant who have ever seen him frequently intoxicated. I learn that on one occasion this occurred in the open day and in the street. -

Mr. Moore carefully and artfully catches into the minds of the ignorant persons (who constitute nearly the whole of the community) and of those who might be expected

* These are not Gentlemen & scarcely any middle class hence arises from local circumstances a peevish bias chief in the conduct of Mr. Moore counting the lower class already possessing an undue influence in our little social system. -

pected to have more sense, an erroneous impression of the
 greatness of his importance, for - setting aside many other cir-
 -cumstances too trifling to mention, - he entertains and I am
 willing to believe with sincerity the following strange error
 which I have endeavoured in vain to remove. -

Not viewing or treating the Government as a "whole and
 the Government as punishing over all he separates it into its diffe-
 rent branches, Legal, ecclesiastical, Political, financial,
 and executive, and as the law is the branch of chief im-
 -portance (the foundation of the rest) and as he considers
 himself the representative of the law in this Colony, he
 therefore is, and ought to be by office virtually supreme
 and should in fact direct and control and whom he
 views as representing the executive branch alone though
 nominally the head of the Govt. This absurd notion evi-
 -dently floats confusedly in his mind and has re-
 -peatedly influenced him in his public duties in such
 a way as to give much trouble. -

I consider that his natural disposition acting on
 this exaggerated idea of his office and his disappoint-
 -ment at its not being recognized or admitted in
 any way by me or any one else (except men a-
 -mong the lower class) to be one chief cause of all the errors
 he commits. -

It does not appear to me that the efforts he has
 had any other end in view than to gratify his ambi-
 -tion by obtaining powers and prerogatives which
 his office does not entitle him and which I have
 quietly but steadily resisted. Or rather I should say
 that was the principal end because he had other
 objects

object, though of a secondary nature, and for the most part flowing out of the first.

But now I am inclined to believe that being dis-appointed in the above as also in his office and the general prospects of the Colony and as it would be a "bad move" to resign he seeks to provoke me to suspend him on grounds not sufficiently great to prevent his trying to make himself out a martyr subjected to unjust and cruel treatment by me; - by which means he would hope to obtain an appointment in some more agreeable place of residence as a compensation for his suffering. Several circumstances have strengthened this opinion as to the motives for the systematic conduct he continues to pursue.

Mr. Ince has also closely united himself to a small party headed by two settlers named Whittington and Bully who ~~are~~ are in constant opposition to the Govt. and who too indolent or too indifferent to labour personally to maintain themselves or who having failed in their plans appear to be striving to make all around them as discontented and dissatisfied as themselves. I hear that Mr. Ince aids them if he does not lead them in their endeavours to fill the minds of the working class with imaginary grievances too ridiculous even to notice.

I/

* I will take the liberty of mentioning one instance. I hear from an indirect but trustworthy source that at a meeting among the lower class Mr. Ince was present drinking, singing, and dancing, and placing himself on terms of familiarity with all, and that upon an individual giving utterance to some expressions of dissatisfaction, Mr. Ince's exclamation was "never mind say boys we will
"soon!"

I trust that the influence I have obtained by 12 years residence here with the inhabitants, through trying circumstances, will not be affected to any serious degree but still it must not be forgotten that the greater portion of the inhabitants are extremely ignorant and some of them unprincipled therefore the continued residence among them of such a Magistrate as Mr. Moore would have a most beneficial effect. To keep up attention to morality and good conduct in a community such as this is and so situated is not an easy matter but example in addition to more direct means does much and the uniform good conduct and high character of a few of the settlers and the discouragement given to Mr. Moore by these persons as well as by myself and the few gentlemen in the Colony is the principal check to the injurious effects of his ill directed influence and I hope by constant watchfulness to avoid the necessity of suspending him.

My reasons for not doing so at once are that it would be a very great inconvenience to the carrying out of the details of the judicial branch of the Government to disperse even for a time with the services of the Suspendicary Magistrate (a member of the legal profession) and there is no one in the Colony whom I could conveniently appoint to

"soon get rid of him and then there will be a 'Royal favour'"
 "He stand by the poor whatever becomes of the rich" words to that effect and much other nonsense of the same kind. There are many Irishmen here, Mr. Moore is an Irishman and the observation has been made that we have a "Daniel O'Connell" among us.

act in that capacity.

I must admit, however, that should I be compelled to suspend Mr. Moore I have reason to believe that during the interval of waiting your decision he would exert the insidious influence he has obtained among the worthies in such a manner as to give much trouble and disturb the peace of our present quiet community, and this I have no doubt would be done in so covert a manner that he the principal cause would most probably elude the punishment which would be due to him and cause it to fall wholly on the individuals misled by him.

At present I have him and his measures to a certain extent under my control and as he has not yet "lost all" I trust he will avoid going to greater lengths than he has done. The length of time however he may continue in this state just short of compelling me to act decisively—is quite a matter of uncertainty.

My present position with respect to him is entirely one of a choice between two evils and I have chosen the one which appears to me the least of the two so long as the moral influence I know I possess continues as great as it is.

Under ordinary circumstances I should be unwilling to draw attention to the defects in the private character of an officer serving under me but I have considered it incumbent in me to do so in this instance and taking into consideration the nature

of

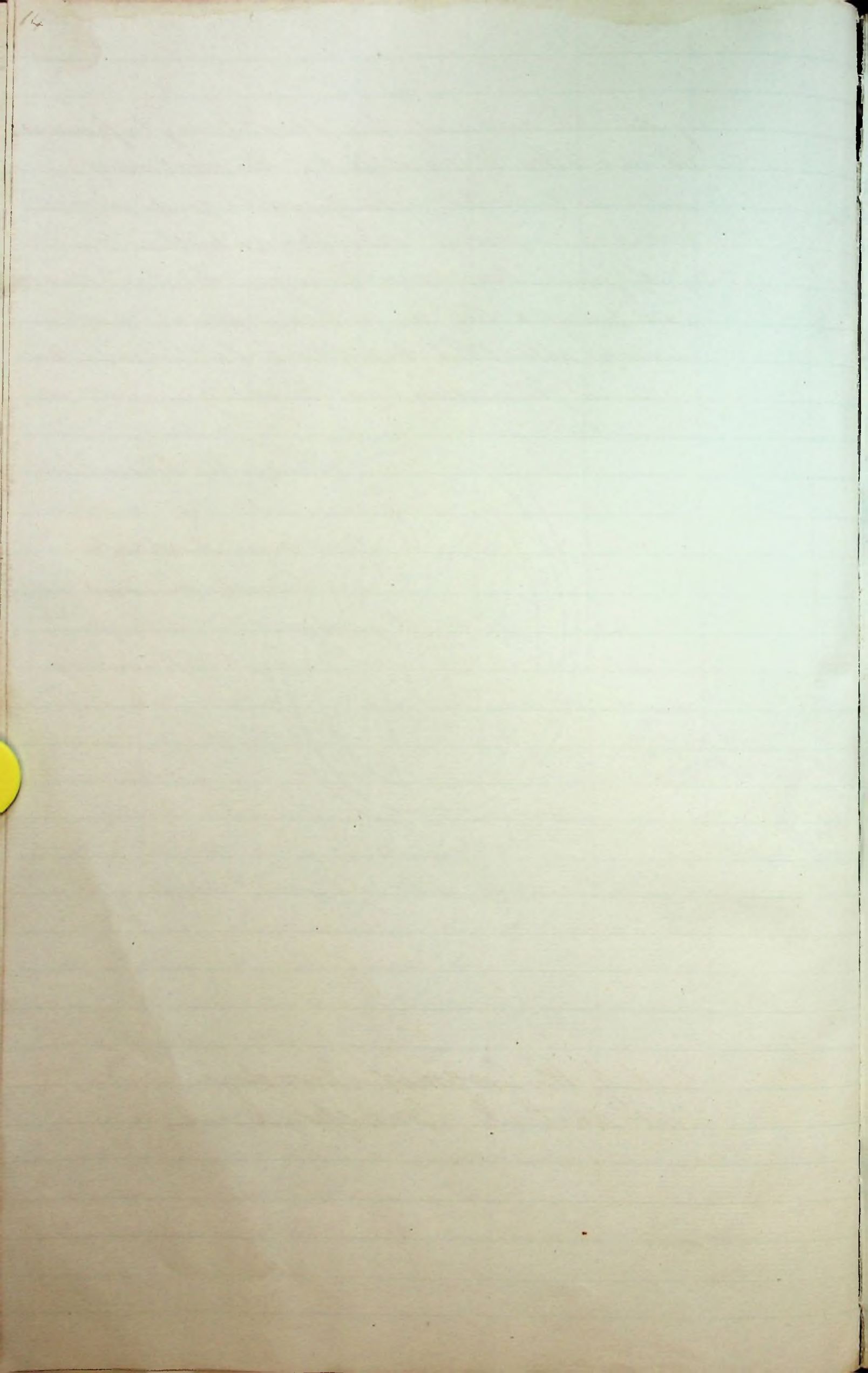
of our little community here I trust I may be permitted respectfully to suggest that in the selection of a successor to Dr. Moore the greatest regard should be paid to his private character as well as to his professional knowledge. In urging this I am aware I am taking a step by no means usual and perhaps altogether superfluous but the importance of the subject induces me to hope you will excuse it.

Have the honour to be

Sir,
 Your most obedient
 humble servant
 (Signed)

H. Moody
 Esq.

End of H. Governor Moody's
 Confidential Correspondence.



Stanley

East Falkland

11th August 1846.


This is to Certify that I hereby
Constitute and appoint William
Henry Moore Esq. as my
Attorney to act for me and
in my stead, to do all or
any act or acts he may deem
necessary about the Schooner
Alouys, now lying in this
Harbour, and hereby empower
him to Charter or freight the
said Schooner and to do
all and every such act or
acts concerning her, as if I
was myself personally present
and hereby agree to pay Mr
Moore Five per Cent on
what she may earn and
hereby give him liberty as

as a Consideration for his
Trouble to use her grates for
his own purposes should he
have occasion to do so
in bringing down his house from Anson.
In Witness whereof I have
hereunto set my hand and
Seal this 11th day of August

1846

Witnes
by Wm. Bowers
Late Master S. Galen
& owner of the Sch. Alongo

F. J. Johny
Charles M. Sipple



Jonathan Dorem

To

W. H. Morris

Owner of

Attorney

Devised Testimony of Mrs
Schwartz Steyer from
Burlington 14th of Nov. 1846.