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EST. 1850  
SECRETARY

1st October 1850

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CONFIDENTIAL  
DESPATCHES  
TO SECRETARY  
OF STATE FROM  
GOVERNOR  
13 November  
1877 to  
20 April 1893

29



Confidential

G. H. S. T. G.

24<sup>th</sup> March 1881

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential despatch of the 29<sup>th</sup> January last transmitting to me a copy of a report which Mr. Gallagher made by your Lordship's request on the subject of a letter from Mr. James Smith relative to the piece of land near Stanley known as the Peninsula.

2. As I have not seen the letter in question, I can only gather its import from Mr. Gallagher's report, but as Mr. Smith has withdrawn his objections and submitted to the arrangements proposed by the Government it is not necessary that I should enquire further into the matter.

3. In my Despatch No 33 of the 16<sup>th</sup> March instant, which was in reply to your Lordship's despatch No 2 of the 29<sup>th</sup> January last, I have informed you of the manner in which the matter was arranged, the particulars of which are contained in the Minutes of the Executive Council, the copy of which I hope to be able to transmit either

by this opportunity or by the next regular mail.

4. I may add that Mr. Smith behaved respectfully in his interview with me, and that I have informed him - as Your Lordship requested - that you had received his letter, and that complaints with respect to the Falkland Islands Government must be forwarded to you through the Governor.

I have to

(Yrs) J. Kerr.

The Right Hon.

The Earl of Kimberley

The Colonial Office

G. H. S. T. J.

22<sup>nd</sup> December 1881.

Confidential

My Lord

It has come to my knowledge that Mr. Collins, the Colonial Treasurer has been deceiving me with reference to his accounts, and I am now engaged with Mr. Bailey and Dr. Hamilton - the only available public officers, in examining his books and vouchers.

2. One of his books of account cannot be found and the sums said to have been paid to him for Customs duties do not agree with the entries in his cash book.

3. I have ascertained also that by his gross negligence Customs duties amounting to upwards of

of £300 on goods imported by the Falkland Islands Company remained unpaid and that he had no account of it. The goods on which the duty was due had been imported between February and September 1880. I applied to the manager of the Company for a statement of their importations of dutiable goods in order to compare it with the Treasurer's accounts, when the arrear was discovered & the money was paid to me yesterday.

4. Until I have more thoroughly examined the accounts I am not prepared to charge Mr. Collins with actual fraud but I have a strong suspicion that he is dishonest and appearances are very much against him.

5. The arrival of the mail steamer two days before her time has prevented the completion of my inquiry in time to report fully to your Lordships, but I shall lose no time in preparing charges and taking measures for the suspension of Mr. Collins from his Office.

6. Whatever may be the extent of his misconduct there can be no doubt that Mr. Collins has been so grossly negligent that it will be impossible to retain him in his office.

7. I shall be obliged to assume the duties of the several offices which Mr. Collins fills until your Lordships can make a new appointment, and in the mean time I am glad to have the assistance of my son Mr. Alan Herr - a student of the Middle Temple who came out here in the last mail steamer for a few months change of climate after a severe illness, and who is now acting temporarily as Clerk of the Councils, and in the Government offices.

8. I think it was a mistake to reduce the salary

of the Treasurer, and to abolish the office of Government Clerk, and that the Colony is able to bear an additional £400 per annum, to allow of the appointment of a Treasurer at £350 per annum and a Clerk at £250 per annum.

It is difficult to live respectably here on less, even for single men, but it might be possible to appoint an officer on half pay - who would be suitable for the office of Treasurer and who could be entrusted with the administration of the Government in case of the death or absence of the Governor.

q. I will report more fully to your Lordship in a numbered despatch by the next mail on this subject which I lose no time in making you acquainted with  
The Rt Hon.

I have &c

Earl Kimberley

signed G. Kerr.

+c. +c. +c.

Governor.

G. H. S. J. J.

18<sup>th</sup> January 1882.

Confidential

My Lord

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential Despatch of the 9<sup>th</sup> April last requesting me to furnish you with a confidential report of the manner in which Mr. Collins performed the duties of his several Offices.

2. Owing to the criminal misconduct of Mr. Collins, your Lordship's despatch only came into my hands a few days ago, and I have already in my despatches - Confidential of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, and No. 10 of the 14<sup>th</sup> January instant - fully informed you of the facts & circumstances which led, first to the interdiction of Mr. Collins, and afterwards to his trial and conviction for felony.

3. Although up to the beginning of last month, I had entire confidence in his honesty & truthfulness, I had never been able to get Mr. Collins to keep his accounts

accounts in a regular & business like manner; he wrote rapidly well and he had a good knowledge of figures, but he had no method, he had had no training for the duties of the offices which he filled, and he was very indolent.

4. When I came here I found the Office in such a state of confusion that I could get no information without a great deal of trouble. Mr. Collins kept no books except the cash book, trusting to a reference to accounts & vouchers for making out his accounts with the Post Office, War Office & Board of Trade.

There was no Customs Book, and the Customs Duties were collected by means of the Bills of entry which were often mislaid.

5. I insisted upon proper books being kept and I believed Mr. Collins to be honest and in earnest when he made up the large arrear of accounts to be transmitted to the Audit Office and the other Departments. He was always working at these returns till just as the mails were to be made up and he brought them to me only in time for me to write a covering despatch and to make a very cursory examination of them - in which however I several times found errors and omissions which I caused him to rectify. He always complained of the press of work arising from his numerous offices, and suffered a good deal from ill health - on both of which accounts I made some allowance for his backwardness. I never doubted that the accounts were correct and that they had been regularly sent.

6. I was so surprised at the cessation of all correspondence with your Lordship that I delayed writing to you - as I had intended - to ask you if you would sanction a better arrangement for

filling the offices held by Mr. Collins, and could transfer him to a subordinate situation in a Government office in one of the larger colonies - where I thought he would have done good work under proper supervision.

7. I think that the offences of which Mr. Collins has been guilty have not arisen from any original dishonest intention but that by his indolence and carelessness he had got his accounts into such a state of confusion that he knew they could not be audited and that he kept them back in the hope of being able, by finding mislaid vouchers, to get them set right, and that then in his fear of detection he abstracted the despatches from the Post Office to delay the inevitable exposure.

8. Mr. Collins probably hoped to escape before his offence was discovered but the opportunities for leaving the colony secretly are rare, and his courage must have failed when chances occurred. He had asked me for permission to visit Ruppell Island for a short time on account of his ill-health, and had I allowed him to go there he could easily have escaped in one of the coasters or sealing vessels to Punta Arenas and from thence to the West Coast of America.

9. I am confirmed in my opinion that what Mr. Collins did was rather the result of cowardice than of dishonesty - as the mistakes and omissions in his accounts were quite as much against himself as in his favour, and that - except as regards the deficiency in the postage stamps there is no apparent defalcation.

10. As far as I knew Mr. Collins did not seem to live beyond his means - small as these were - he did not gamble and he did not seem to have any expensive habits, he had no money or valuables when he was arrested, and he was owing about £ 230 to the local

merchants and shopkeepers.

II. The sentence which was passed upon him on his conviction for secreting and embroiling Post letters, was a very severe one and had the Act 27 & 28 Vict cap 47. "To amend Penal Servitude Acts" been in force in this Colony I would not have sentenced him to more than five years; but the Act 7. Will 4 and 1 Vict cap 36 which is in force here and under which the prisoner was convicted, fixes the penalty at seven years transportation for which by the Penal Servitude Ordinance No 4 of 1876 seven years Penal Servitude was substituted and the Court had no discretionary power except as to imprisonment for three years, which would not only have been insufficient but would have rendered it necessary to keep the prisoner in the Colony to undergo his sentence, which although it would have ~~more~~ intensified the punishment would in every respect have been undesirable. I think however that the term might by the merees of the Crown be reduced to five years.

The Rt Hon.

Earl Kimberley.

sc. &c &c.

I have the

Signed G. Kerr.

Governor.

G. H. S. T. J.

1<sup>st</sup> July 1882.

Confidential

My Lord

An application from the settlers on West Falkland for the appointment of an Assistant Colonial Surgeon for that part of the Colony gave me an opportunity for ascertaining the ability and willingness of the Colonists to supply the amount which will be required to supplement the revenue for the next ten years — at the end of which time the increased rent from renewed leases will be sufficient for the wants of the Colony.

2. It was admitted by everyone that the Colony is sufficiently prosperous to bear the whole of the expenditure required for colonial purposes, including the mail service.

£1500.

£1000.

£500.

3. The sum required is fifteen hundred pounds in addition to the present annual revenue, One thousand pounds for the mail service and five hundred pounds for the salaries in the Government Offices and for the assistant surgeon who is petitioned for.

4. It was suggested that the sum required might be raised by a small land-tax on all the land in the Colony - both Freehold and Leasehold (about one penny on every six acres) or by an export tax of half a farthing a pound on wool.

5. I thought it would be well before submitting the question for your Lordship's decision to ascertain the feeling of the Colonists generally, and I asked those who were in Stanley to meet me, which they did at the Government Office on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June.

6. I explained to them what was required, and informed them that I had received instructions to place the whole of the sum required for the Mail Service upon the Colonial Estimates and as we were entering on the last of the three years for which aid had been promised from Imperial funds, and the Colony was sufficiently prosperous to provide for its own wants, it was unlikely that such aid would be continued, nor had we any right to ask for it.

7. There was no difference of opinion as to the necessity for raising the additional revenue, but they could not agree as to the source from which it should be supplied, and asked me, before I took any further steps in the matter to give them time for discussion and for ascertaining the opinions of some of those who live at a distance.

8. There has not been time yet to take the sense of the

generally on the subject, but I think the general feeling will be that a small land tax will not only be the most certain and regular but the least objectionable imposition.

9. One or two persons have declared very strongly in favour of a tax upon wool, notably Captain Packe, who has leased much more land than he has been able to utilise and who has now on the West Falkland a station of about seventy thousand acres, on which the wild cattle are still roaming, whilst many others of his stations are very thinly stocked - hence - having a very large area of land and a very small proportion of sheep - he would have to pay more on a land tax than on wool.

10. I enclose a copy of a paper which Mr. Cobb - the Manager for the Falkland Islands Co - has sent me expressing his views, which I think will be very generally concurred in.

11. Those stations on which the rent is raised to Twenty Pounds per section would not be liable to a land tax.  
£ 20.

12. I will write to your Lordship in a numbered despatch by the next mail upon this subject, and I hope that you will approve of the course I have taken to provide for the future self support of the colony  
The Rt Hon.

I have the  
Earl Kimberley.

signed G. Kerr

Governor.

G. H. S. F. I.

13<sup>th</sup> March 1883.

Confidential.

My Lord

I think it right to inform you that since forwarding my despatch No. 44 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, in which I recommended Mr. G. M. Dean of Stanley

and Mr. J. L. Waldron of Port Howard in the West Falkland to be unofficial members of the Legislative Council. I have received several applications expressing a wish that I would recommend Mr. G. E. Cobb - the Colonial Manager of the Falkland Islands Company - as one of the unofficial members.

2. I have reason to believe that these applications are inspired by Mr. Cobb himself, as those from the West Falkland are from Messrs Holmested & Blake, and from Mr. Ballion; Mr. Blake is Mr. Cobb's brother-in-Law and Mr. Ballion is the tenant of Speedwell an Island of the Falkland Islands Company. The other is from persons in Stanley and is signed chiefly by employees of the company, but having also the signatures of Captain Packer and Messrs Dean & Sons. Mr. Dean has since informed me that he and some others signed it on solicitation, and under the impression that two unofficial members besides himself were to be nominated.

3. On submitting the names of persons for your Lordships approval I selected those whom I believed to have the greatest personal influence in the Colony. In the case of Mr. G. Dr. Dean because he is the senior resident partner of the oldest and wealthiest trading house in the Colony - large landed proprietors and sheep farmers and the commercial agents and creditors of most of the other sheep farmers, and also because he has already been for many years a member of Council, as his father was before him. I have found him a counselor reasonable in his views, and his intimate acquaintance with the affairs of the colony, in which he has lived since his childhood, renders him the most suitable person for selection. As a member to be chosen from the residents of the West Falklands Mr. J. L. Waldron takes the first place; and unlike most of the other sheep farmers, who were for the most part adventurers, he embarked a large capital in establishing

establishing and stocking his stations; he is a man of large and enlightened views, and by his considerate and liberal treatment of his shepherds and labourers - who are all permanently settled on his property - he sets an example, which, if the Falkland Islands Company and other large employers would imitate, they would much improve both the moral and material welfare of the inhabitants.

4. When the last commission of the peace was issued, I placed the name of Mr. Charles Montague Dean - the junior resident partner of the house of Dean & Sons - next to that of his brother Mr. G. M. Dean in order that when in the absence of his brother, he becomes the managing partner he might also be eligible to succeed him in the Legislative Council. On that occasion Mr. Cobb called on me and expressed his discontent because his name was placed below that of Mr. C. M. Dean in the commission, and he informed me that one of his predecessors in the Agency of the Falkland Island Company had held a seat in the Legislative Council. I explained that I thought it better that a person having a direct personal stake and interest in the Colony, if otherwise qualified, should be eligible for a seat in the Council, than an Agent, who had only a vicarious interest and who might at any time be superseded.

5. My personal relations with Mr. Cobb have been most agreeable, but I have been careful not to yield to the assumption by the Company which he represents, of an unfounded claim to have been the pioneers of the sheep farming industry, and of a representative position generally.

6. The Falkland Islands Company have enjoyed advantages beyond any of the other settlers.

Most of their shepherds and labourers were sent out by the aid of the emigration commissioners as emigrants, and they held land orders to enable them to settle on independent freeholds. The Company possessed themselves of these land orders and thus acquired a large tract of territory without any money payment and the so called emigrants have been simply the servants of the Company and should have been brought out, as in the case of the servants of the other settlers, at the expense of their employers.

7. The same grasping and selfish policy pervaded the commercial business of the Company: For a long time they had the mail service and with it the trade through Monte Video entirely in their hands. They were thus able to crush all competition in trade except in the case of Dean & sons, thus establishing a monopoly from which they derived great profit by keeping up the prices of all imported goods to most unfair rates. It was only by the successful effort of my predecessor to establish steam communication that this injurious monopoly was put an end to, competition became possible and prices were at once reduced to a fair standard.

8. The official correspondence of this Government discloses the meddling habit and factious attitude which both Mr. Cobb and his predecessors have always displayed, & I need only refer your Lordship to the letter of Mr. Callaghan to the Colonial Office dated in London on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 1880 a copy of which was sent to me in Lord Kimberley's despatch No 26 of the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 1881. The opinion which Mr. Callaghan expressed in that letter respecting Mr. Cobb, was formed after an experience of four years as Governor, under circumstances which gave him ample opportunity of estimating the motives and character of that gentleman.

q. As this is a subject which I think it is my duty to lay before your Lordships in explanation of my motive for preferring Mr. Dean to Mr. Cobb as a member of Council notwithstanding the agitation which the latter gentleman has ~~excited~~ excited, it is yet so personal in its nature that I have thought it better to avoid referring to it in a numbered despatch unless an absolute necessity should arise for doing so.

The Rt Hon.

Earl Derby.

+e +e +e.

I have the

signed T. Kerr.

Governor.

G. H. S. F. J.

20<sup>th</sup> Oct 1883.

Confidential.

My Lord

am by Desp:  
Conf 19 Dec:  
1883  
W. G. W.

I regret to have to report that it will probably be necessary for me to permit Mr. Green the Colonial Secretary and Treasurer of this Colony to proceed to England by the next homeward mail steamer on leave of absence on account of serious indisposition. I fear that this rigorous climate has had an injurious effect on Mr. Green's health, and the Colonial Surgeon informs me, that although he had hoped for his recovery as the season advanced, he finds no improvement, but, that on the contrary his indisposition has increased, and that if he is not much better before the departure of the next mail steamer it will be absolutely necessary that he should proceed to England by her.

As it is very uncertain whether Mr. Green will be able to return resume his duties or not, I would suggest that in the event of it becoming necessary to appoint a successor, a person of sufficient legal knowledge and experience should be elected, so that the Office of Police Magistrate may be permanently combined

with that of Colonial Secretary and Treasurer, and that the officer appointed should be competent also to preside in the Supreme & Vice-Admiralty Courts in the event of the death or absence of the Governor.

He should also possess a competent knowledge of accounts, a qualification in which I am sorry to say the present Government Clerk is very deficient. The sum of Four Hundred & fifty pounds a year would be available as a salary for the combined offices by adding the salary of Police Magistrate to that of Colonial Secretary and Treasurer, there would also be some allowances and fees as Coroner and Registrar amounting to about fifty pounds a year more. Should Mr Green be obliged to leave I propose to appoint Dr T. G. Hamilton, the Colonial Surgeon, to act as Police Magistrate with a seat in the Legislative Council, and to appoint Mr Brandon, the Colonial Chaplain, to a seat in the Executive Council. I would myself perform the duties of Colonial Secretary and Treasurer with the assistance of the Government Clerk.

Although Mr Green's constitution is not sufficiently robust to endure a prolonged residence in this severe climate, I hope that your Lordship may find it possible to promote him to a suitable post elsewhere when his health is sufficiently restored.

The Rt Hon.

Earl Derby.

te te te.

I have &c.

signed J. Kerr.

Governor.

L.N.S.Y. 9.

9<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1883.

Confidential.

My Lord

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential Despatch of the 12<sup>th</sup> of September last, transmitting for my consideration a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office having reference to my proposal

to pass an Ordinance for regulating the issue of Licences for fishing on the Coasts and in the waters of this Colony.

2. As it appears to be possible that the passing of such an Ordinance might lead to protests on the part of the Government of the United States, and of raising a troublesome & unnecessary controversy, I think it will be prudent to abstain from any further Legislation on the subject of the Fisheries at present.

3. The operation of the Close Season Ordinance and the frequent visits of Her Majesty's Ships of War will in time have the effect of preventing the intrusion of foreigners, and I will grant formal permissions, to such of the Colonists as apply for them, to take seals during the open season on the coasts of the districts which they own or occupy.

The At Hn.

I have &c.

Earl Derby.

Signed. G. Kerr

~~He~~ te.

Governor.

G. H. S. F. J.

14<sup>th</sup> January 1884.

Confidential.

My Lord

The deaths of the Colonial Secretary and the Police Magistrate having removed both the official members of the Legislative Council, and Mr. J. S. Waldron the unofficial member residing in the West Falkland Island having expressed his intention of resigning his seat, it is necessary that I should suggest for your Lordship's consideration a reconstruction of the Board in order that there may be as little delay as possible in proceeding with such legislation as is required.

The arrangement by which the Colonial Secretary and the Police Magistrate should be the two

official members, could not be continued if those offices are to be held by the same person, as I have recommended in my despatch No. 101 of the 6<sup>th</sup> of November last. In which case I would suggest that the Colonial Secretary and the Colonial Surgeon should for the present be the official members. A difficulty has arisen with reference to the second unofficial member who, in accordance with the instructions contained in Lord Kimberley's despatch No. 93 of the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1882, should be taken from the West Falkland. Mr. Waldron, the gentleman appointed on my recommendation has resigned his seat. and there is no resident in the West Falkland who is willing to accept the nomination, in consequence of the difficulty of attending the meetings of the Council from such a distance and with such long intervals of communication.

The only person residing in Stanley who represents any of the land or lease holders in the Western Island is Mr. Herbert Mansel, (Captain Packe's Agent & Manager) a gentleman of ability, and in every respect fitted for the nomination. I will write by the next mail in a numbered despatch on this subject, which I lose no time in bringing to your Lordship's notice.

The Rt Hon

Earl Derby.

+c

+c

+c.

I have re

signed S. Kerr.

Governor.

G.H. S. & G.

16<sup>th</sup>. June 1884.

Confidential.

My Lord

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, a copy of a secret and Confidential despatch which I have just received from the British Minister at Buenos Ayres; from it it appears that the Government of the Argentine Republic proposes to revive a claim to the sovereignty of these Islands.

The Rt Hon.

Earl Derby. H.G.

I have re.

Signed S. Kerr

Governor.

G.H.S.J.I.

Confidential6<sup>th</sup> April 1885.

My Lord

I have the honour to inform you that Señor Carlos Moyano, Governor of the Territory of Santa Cruz in South East Patagonia, part of the territories of the Argentine Republic, arrived in Stanley by the mail steamer from Punta Arenas in January last, and left the Colony by the steamer of the 11<sup>th</sup> of March last.

Señor Moyano was accompanied by Mr Richmond - an Englishman who has resided for many years in the Argentine State - as his friend and interpreter. They informed me that the object of their visit was solely for the purpose of endeavouring to procure a supply of sheep from the Colony for stocking the settlements on the Santa Cruz River, the entrance of which is only about 300 miles distant from Stanley.

The Santa Cruz settlements of the Argentines border on the Chilean Territory on the Straits of Magellan, which is now being settled by sheep farmers and this has doubtless prompted Governor Moyano to endeavour to develop the resources of the Argentine settlements in a similar manner.

I have thought it my duty to inform your Lordship of the visit of this

Argentine Officer and of its avowed object  
in order that it might not be misconstrued  
in relation to the recent confidential  
communication from Mr. Monson respecting  
the revival of the claims of the Argentine  
Government to the possession of this  
Colony. This subject was never alluded to  
by Srñor Moyano, and I am of opinion  
that his visit was undertaken on his own  
responsibility and solely for the purpose  
which he intimated.

The Right Hon.

Earl Derby R. G.

&c &c &c

I have the

Sgt. J. Kerr.

Governor.

Confidential.

G. H. S. F. J.

1<sup>st</sup> June 1885.

My Lord

I regret to be under the necessity of applying to you for six months leave of absence on account of serious indisposition, with reference to which I transmit herewith a certificate from the Colonial Surgeon.

2. I am sorry that I did not make this application before the approach of the winter, but I had hoped that your Lordship would have found it possible to extend to me the kindness shewn to several of my predecessors, by shortening my term of office in this Government without prejudice to further employment under more favourable circumstances.

circumstances.

3. The chief obstacle to my departure on leave is the difficulty of making provision for the Administration of Justice, as there is no one in the Colony with any legal experience or aptitude for presiding in the Supreme Court. In every other respect the affairs of the Colony are in such a settled condition that it will not be difficult to make arrangements for the temporary administration of the Government in the manner indicated in the Letters patent.

4. I would be glad if your Lordship would be pleased to telegraph — at my expense — to Her Majesty's Minister at Monte-Video your sanction for the leave I require, which however I shall only avail myself of under circumstances of the most pressing urgency.

The Rt Honble

Earl Derby K.G.

sc. sc. sc.

I have &c.

Sgd J. Kerr

Governor.

G. H. S. J. D.

24<sup>th</sup> October 1885.

Confidential.

My Lord

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential Despatch of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September last, approving of my taking leave of absence from the Falkland Islands for six months; and informing me that you had telegraphed

to the British Consul at Monte Video in the following words:

"Tell Governor Falklands leave granted."

This telegraphic message was forwarded to me by the present mail, therehaving been no other opportunity since the 25<sup>th</sup> of August last of forwarding mails from Monte Video.

As the winter is now over and I have nearly recovered my ordinary health, I propose, with your sanction - to continue my administrative duties and defer my departure from the Colony until the 1<sup>st</sup>. of March 1886, when the next winter season will be commencing. Should you be of opinion that my administration of the Government of the Colony has been such as to entitle me to expect promotion, and an opportunity should occur for transferring me to a colony with a less rigorous climate, before the time arrives for my departure on leave of absence, it would be well that my successor should arrive as soon as possible after his appointment. It is impossible to make any satisfactory local arrangement for the temporary Administration of the Government or for the Administration of Justice, and in the latter department the presence of an Officer with a sufficient knowledge of Law is essential as an important and complicated case in connexion with an intestate estate will be brought in the Supreme Court for settlement early in the ensuing year.

I have

sc. sc. sc.

I have &c  
S<sup>q.d</sup> G. Kerr  
Governor.

Confidential

G.H.S.F. I.

30<sup>th</sup> November 1885.

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular Despatch "Secret" with its enclosure, having reference to the "Protection of Telegraph Cables in time of War"

Colonel the Rt Hon

I have &amp;c.

Frederick Arthur Stanley M.P.

S<sup>q.d</sup> G. Kerr

sc. sc. sc.

Governor.

Confidential

G.H.S.F. I.

7<sup>th</sup> December 1885

Sir

I have the honour to inform you that Mr Brooks the Colonial Secretary and Treasurer of this Colony applied to me on the 1<sup>st</sup> instant for leave to proceed to England by the mail of the 18<sup>th</sup> instant on six months leave of absence on "Urgent Private Affairs" - the nature of which is stated in the correspondence copies of which I transmit herewith.

Mr Brooks to Governor

1<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>th</sup> 1885

Governor to Mr Brooks

1<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>th</sup> 1885

Mr Brooks to Governor

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec<sup>th</sup> 1885.

This application has been considered today in Executive Council, when Mr Brooks stated that in addition to the six months leave then applied for he wished to have the term

extended to twelve months by the Secretary of State. It was considered inexpedient to grant the leave applied for before the end of the year or until he had prepared the annual Financial Statement and completed, as far as possible, the Annual Blue Book.

The arrangements for the performance of the duties of Treasurer which Mr. Brooks proposed, were not satisfactory, but as I did not wish to place any obstacle in the way of his proceeding to England by the first opportunity after the completion of the accounts for the present year, I signified my willingness to take upon myself the responsibility of the duties of Treasurer, until a better arrangement could be made, although it might delay my own departure on leave of absence longer than I had intended.

Mr. Brooks informed me that as he could not be permitted to leave by the present mail he was uncertain as to following up his application for leave at a later date.

Colonel the Right Honourable  
Frederick Arthur Stanley M.P.  
+c. +c. +c.

I have &c  
Sgd J. Kerr  
Governor.

Confidential

G.H.S.G.J.

10<sup>th</sup> December 1885.

Sir

It is my unpleasant duty to report to you the following circumstances concerning the conduct of Mr. E. P. Brooks in connexion with his duties as Post Master of this Colony.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of December instant I was informed by Mr. Brandon the Colonial Chaplain

Chaplain, and afterwards by Dr. Hamilton the Colonial Surgeon, both members of the Executive Council - that Mr. Brooks had divulged the contents of a post letter which had been returned to him from the London Dead Letter Office by the mail of December 1884 to be returned to the sender, the addressee not having been found.

It was stated that this information had not been given to me at the time the circumstance occurred from a repugnance to bringing a charge of such a nature against a fellow Councillor, but as it was probable that I would soon proceed to England on Leave of Absence, and that Mr. Brooks might possibly be entrusted with the administration of the Government in my absence - a possibility which they viewed with much uneasiness on account of his maddlesome and mischief-making habits, and his offensive conduct to themselves and others, which had isolated him from the society of the place - they thought it their duty to inform me of this matter in order that I might see how unfit Mr. Brooks was to be placed in the responsible position of Administrator of in a small community like this where he had made himself so much disliked and distrusted.

The circumstances respecting the divulging the contents of a post letter were reported to me as follows:

I was reminded that Mr. Henry Waldron of the West Falkland - who is well known to every one here, and who is often in communication with the Local Government - sailed for

England in July 1884. The Steamer was many days behind time and Dr. Waldron had expressed much annoyance at the delay, which would prevent his being able, as he had intended, to attend a Swedenborgian meeting in England. One afternoon soon after the arrival of the mail in December 1884, Mr. Brooks was at the house of Dr. Hamilton (where Mr. Jameson, the Government Clerk, was also present) and said "that he had a good joke against Dr. Henry Waldron — that he had opened " a letter from him addressed to a woman in St. Johns Wood, London, which had just been returned " through the Dead Letter Office, from which he found " that it was not really for the purpose of — " attending a meeting that he had gone to England " but to keep an appointment with this woman, " who in the meantime had changed her residence " and could not be found." — Mr. Brooks then proceeded to relate what he said were the contents of the letter.

Mr. Jameson corroborated Dr. Hamilton's statement and I communicated to Mr. Brooks as soon as possible, the substance of the above allegation, in a letter, a copy of which I transmit herewith, as well as a copy of Mr. Brooks' letter in reply, and also my acknowledgement of it.

It is true, as Mr. Brooks states in the concluding paragraph of his letter, that he has never taken any oath in his Office as Post Master, and indeed there is no local Post-Office Ordinance, but I conceive that, as Mr. Brooks has assumed the Office and performed the duties of Postmaster, he is morally, if not legally, bound to maintain the

Governor to Mr. Brooks

7<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1885

Mr. Brooks to Governor

8<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1885

Governor to Mr. Brooks

9<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1885

the secrecy which is required to be strictly observed in the Dead Letter Department of the Post Office.

As my informants in this matter are members of Council, and as they have for so long a time been silent respecting it I have found it impudent to deal with it in Council, particularly as there has been for a very long period a complete estrangement (except with reference to Public business) between Mr. Brookes and myself in consequence of his disrespectful manner and conduct - a matter which I have hitherto refrained from reporting to the Secretary of State as I wished to avoid the trouble and annoyance of an unpleasant correspondence on a subject which is in some degree of a personal nature.

Colonel the Rt Honourable  
Frederick Arthur Stanley, M.P.  
sc. sc. sc.

I have &c  
Sgd. G. Kerr.  
Governor.

Confidential

G.H. S.G. J.

18<sup>th</sup> December 1885.

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt on the 17<sup>th</sup> instant of your Circular Despatch "Confidential" with its enclosures, having reference to Ships of War.

Colonel the Right Honourable  
Frederick Arthur Stanley, M.P.  
sc. sc. sc.

I have &c  
Sgd. G. Kerr  
Governor.

Confidential. +

G. H. S. F. S.

21<sup>st</sup> August 1885.

Sir;

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Lord Derby's Confidential Circular Despatch of the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1885, having reference to the exercise of the power vested in a Governor, of remitting a sentence inflicted by a Court of Justice, without having first obtained from the Judge who tried the case, an expression of his opinion as to the justice or expediency of such remission.

Colonel the Rt Hon

I have &amp;c

F. a. Stanley. M. P.

S 8<sup>d</sup> T. Kerr.

&amp;c. &amp;c. &amp;c.

Confidential.

+

G. H. S. F. S.

24<sup>th</sup> October 1885.

Sir;

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential Circular Despatch of the 31<sup>st</sup> July last, having reference to Ships of War in Commission.

Colonel the Rt Hon.

I have &amp;c.

F. a. Stanley. M. P.

S 8<sup>d</sup> T. Kerr.Confidential.

G. H. S. F. S.

13<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1886.

Sir;

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential Despatch of the 23<sup>rd</sup> December last, having reference to my departure on leave of absence.

Colonel the Rt Hon.

I have &amp;c.

F. a. Stanley. M. P.

S 8<sup>d</sup> T. Kerr.

+

The two above despatches were by an oversight not copied into the Book in proper order. Th. P. S.

Confidential.

G. H. S. T. 9.

18. May 1816.

My Lord.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Confidential Despatch of the 13<sup>th</sup> of March, & to transmit herewith the reply of Mr. E. P. Brooks, Colonial Secretary and Postmaster, to the charge made against him of having divulged the contents of a dead letter.

2. I also forward a copy of the statement made to Governor Kerr by Mr. Cameron, the Government Clerk, as Mr. Brooks alludes to it in paragraph 4 of his reply. I found this statement unsigned, but on reading it over to Mr. Cameron, he affirmed its correctness in every particular and signed it without hesitation.

3. It will be noticed that he corroborates Mr. Brooks's assertion as to the contents of the letter having been communicated to the Colonial Surgeon in confidence. Dr. Hamilton denies this; but I am disposed to think that at any rate the conversation was intended to be private, and this may perhaps be held to palliate, though it does not of course excuse, the indiscretion of which Mr. Brooks was guilty.

4. That gentleman has assured me repeatedly that he deeply regrets his conduct in the matter, though he states that he was not at the time aware of the full extent of its impropriety, and I may add that I feel

feel confident that the distress of mind which he has suffered in consequence, will suffice to render him careful to avoid any similar error in future.

5. I must state in justice to Mr. Brooks, that since I assumed the administration of the Government here, I have had no complaint whatever to make of his conduct; our official relations have been perfectly satisfactory, and he has performed all his duties with regularity, efficiency, and despatch.

6. Under these circumstances I venture to hope that Your Lordship — taking into consideration Mr. Brooks previous services and the punishment he has already undergone through long suspense and anxiety of mind — may be disposed to take as lenient a view of the case as the interests of the service will permit.

The Oct. 10th.

I have the

Earl Granville R. G.

Sgt. Arthur Barkby.

G.H.S.F.D.

18 - December 1888

Confidential

My Lord

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential Despatch of the 5<sup>th</sup> October last, and in reply to your Confidential Circular Despatch of the 9<sup>th</sup> April last, which transmitted a copy of an instruction (D) relating to deportation which it was proposed to put in force, by telegram from home in the event of outbreak of war, and requesting me to inform you whether I had the power

power by local law to prohibit the exportation of the articles mentioned, and, if not, whether such a law could be passed at once, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that none of the articles mentioned in the list referred to are now to be found in this Colony, nor are they likely to be under existing circumstances.

2. Should it be necessary at any time to pass a prohibitory Ordinance, it could be done without delay, but at present there is no such law.

3. I regret very much that I did not at once reply to that circular despatch, but I thought that it did not apply to this Colony, which is so far out of telegraphic communication, and which is entirely destitute of warlike stores, and I therefore <sup>only</sup> acknowledged its receipt by Schedule, dated on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June last.

ans by 8 of S: 20<sup>th</sup> Feb: 1889 I have the  
The Right Honourable (sd) J. Kerr  
Lord Rutherford F.C.B.S.

Confidential

my Lord

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G. H. S. F. J.

16<sup>th</sup> March 1889

I regret to have to report to you the very unsatisfactory conduct of Dr. Samuel Hamilton, Colonial Surgeon, a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, and President of the Board of Health.

1. For a long time past I have had no confidence in Dr. Hamilton as an adviser in

in Council, not only from his notorious want of reticence, but from the hostile and disrespectful manner which he has repeatedly exhibited.

3. There has been a very bitter feeling of hatred and dislike for a long time between the Colonial Secretary and Dr. Hamilton, for which both are in some degree to blame, but with this difference, that the dislike of the former is not manifested in such a manner as to interfere with official intercourse or the transaction of public business, whilst Dr. Hamilton, in his excitement is unfit to take part in the business of the Executive Council, and he has occasionally extended his feeling of hostility to myself.

4. In my despatch No. 108 of the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 1887, I had to report on his very unsatisfactory behaviour as President of the Board of Health on the question of the Water Supply of Stanley, and I now transmit some extracts from the Minutes of the Executive Council as an illustration of his most unusual conduct, and in my despatch No. 49 of the 8<sup>th</sup> of March instant, I have reported to your Lordship the action which I took in support of the opposition to the vote, which by your direction I proposed in the Legislative Council for a grant from the proceeds of the sale of Crown Lands, in aid of the New Church in Stanley. \*\*\*

5. With reference to Dr. Hamilton's conduct as a medical officer I propose to report to your Lordship in a separate Confidential Despatch by the mail which will follow this by H.M.S. Flamingo on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March instant.

I have &  
J. S. T. Kerr.

Answer xx.

A.Ken. x x x  
1 July 1889

I would have felt it my duty to suspend Dr. Hamilton and bring charges against him in the Executive Council but as he is the only medical man in the settlement, such a course would not have been convenient.

Confidential

G. H. S. F. I.

23<sup>d</sup> March 1889

Audit

My Lord

With reference to your confidential despatch of the 20<sup>th</sup> of September last and the Circular despatch of 18<sup>th</sup> September last, both of which relate to the audit of the accounts of this Colony - I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the arrangement by which the Comptroller and Auditor General performs all the duties connected with the audits of the accounts appears to be quite sufficient and satisfactory.

2. With the exception of the Treasurer and his clerk, there is no officer in the service of the local government who is competent to check or inspect the accounts, and the only local supervision of the receipts and payments is that which is exercised by the Governor in person no payments are made unless with his approval in writing, and all accounts transmitted to the Audit Department are inspected by him, and verified by his signature.

I have the

(S) T. Kerr

The Right Honourable  
Lord Rutherford, G.C.M.G.

~~+ Confidential~~

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W.W.

G.H.S.7.D.

25<sup>th</sup> March 1889

Dr Hamilton my Lord book 2 p 16

In continuation of my confidential despatch of the 16<sup>th</sup> of March instant, having reference to the conduct of Colonial Surgeon Hamilton, I have the honour to direct your attention to the unsatisfactory position which he occupies as a medical practitioner.

2. In my despatch No. 56 of the 13<sup>th</sup> of March instant, on the subject of Mr. Dean's letter concerning the employment of a midwife and nurse, allusion was made to the repugnance which delicate females feel with respect to his attendance in his professional capacity; and it is within my own knowledge, that in the case of one lady, Dr. Henstree, the late assistant Colonial Surgeon at Darwin was from time to time called to attend and prescribe for her.

3. Dr. Hamilton might be useful in a Colony where there would be a choice of medical practitioners within the reach of the inhabitants, and I regret, that in the interest of this colony, it was not found expedient to comply with his request to be removed, which I transmitted to the Secretary of State in my despatch No. 115 of the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1885.

4. Before the appointment of Dr. Hamilton as Colonial Surgeon, there were always two medical officers resident in Stanley, the Colonial Surgeon, and the Naval Surgeon attached to the detachment of marines, and both found re-employment, although at that time the population

population was only about half of the present number, and under the present circumstances I think it would be prudent and expedient to revert to a similar arrangement.

£ 200.

5. The salary of the Assistant Colonial Surgeon, - two hundred pounds a year, which lapsed on the departure of Dr. Hauston, might be made available for the payment of a second surgeon in Stanley, who would divide the practice with the Colonial Surgeon, and be available for visiting the inhabitants of the Berkeley Sound and Salvador districts, who are now beyond the reach of medical aid, as Dr. Hamilton never quits Stanley.

6. The salary and emoluments of practice in Stanley would probably be sufficiently attractive to procure the services of two competent surgeons, and I have reason to believe that Dr. Hamilton during his ten years service, has saved a very large sum.

7. I regret that my Confidential despatch of the 16<sup>th</sup> instant, was sent away without Schedule or docket - It was written hurriedly as the mail was closing, after an unusual amount of correspondence, and without the assistance of a Private Secretary.

I have &

(sd) J. Kerr,

The Right Honourable  
Lord Kentsford F.C.M.J.

Confidential

My Lord

G. H. S. F. J.

23<sup>d</sup> May 1889.

I have

I have the honour to inform you that I am sending by this mail to the care of the British Minister at Montevideo, the following telegraphic despatch to your Lordship.

Chapelries  
Fistulides  
Apathy  
Drearfully.  
Drafting  
winter  
Incensors  
Changeably  
Principality

Secretary of State for the Colonies, London  
Governor of the Falkland Islands  
Applies for leave of absence  
by an early mail  
to escape from  
winter  
locum tenens  
Colonial Secretary  
reply by telegraph

2. I regret that I did not apply for leave of absence at an earlier date, but the weather has already become so severe that my health is suffering from it.

3. The state of my wife's health also renders her removal necessary before the extreme rigour of the winter - (the end of July and the whole of August) - sets in.

4. I hope to receive a telegraphic reply by the steamer due here on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, so that I may be able to leave by the mail steamer on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, or leave for six months.

5. I hope that you will approve of the appointment of the Colonial Secretary to administer the Government during my absence, or until your Lordship can make other arrangements.

I have &c.

(sd), T. Kerr.

The Right Honourable  
Lord Renfrew f.l.m.f.

Confidential.

G. H. S. T. J.

14<sup>th</sup> June 1889.

My Lord

I have the honour to inform you that I have this day received your telegraphic despatch of the 3<sup>d</sup> of June, granting me leave of absence.

2. I purpose leaving the Colony by the Rosario Steamer due here on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, and hope to arrive at Dartmouth on or about the 19<sup>th</sup> of August.

3. On my departure the administration of the government will devolve upon the Colonial Secretary — as the Justice whose name stands first in the general commission of the Peace — and he will at the same time continue in the execution of his duties as Colonial Secretary and Treasurer, subject to your Lordship's approval and to such instructions as you may communicate to him.

4. I hope to leave the affairs of the Colony in so satisfactory a condition that I do not think that the Colonial Secretary will experience any difficulty in carrying on the administration of the government.

I have &amp;

(Sd) J. Kerr.

the Right Honourable  
Lord Kintford. f.c.m.g.

Secret

G. H. S. F. I.

13<sup>th</sup> January 1890.

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge your Secret Circular Despatch of the 9<sup>th</sup> of August last in transmitting a second edition revised and corrected to the 31<sup>st</sup> May 1889 of the Confidential Memorandum on "Telegraphic communication with stations abroad from the point of view of Imperial Defence, and to report for Your Lordship's information that I have duly destroyed the copy which accompanied your Circular Despatch of the 18<sup>th</sup> June 1887.

The Right Honourable

Lord Knutsford G.C.M.G.

I have the honour to

inform Your Lordship that I have

Administratively.Confidential

Mr Durose

My Lord

G. H. S. F. I. 18<sup>th</sup> October 1890

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential Despatch of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August last in which you request to be informed whether the allegation that Mr Durose, the Government School-Master is said to have become an agnostic, is true.

2. When I called the attention of Mr Durose, in a personal interview to the report which had reached me that he had become an atheist, he denied that such was the case, and referred me to an article on agnosticism in a number of the Nineteenth Century to prove that an agnostic is not an atheist, which I took to be an admission that he held the opinions to which he referred but which I did not read or enquire into as he rather rudely insisted on my doing.

3. In the

*surely an  
Agnostic  
is not an  
Atheist?*

W. G. W.

3. In the 10th paragraph of my despatch N<sup>o</sup> 103. of the 14<sup>th</sup> of August last. reporting on a petition addressed to your Lordship by Mrs Durose. I referred to the statement made to me by Mr Diamond the Roman Catholic Priest - that he commenced his school in consequence of complaints which he believed to be well founded that the children of his congregation who attended the Government School were exposed to the heretical influences of Mr Durose who was said to be an atheist or Agnostic.

I have to

The Right Honorable signed There  
Lord Kinnerton G.C.B.G.

Confidential

Dates

17<sup>th</sup> July, 1890  
19<sup>th</sup> August.

G.H.S.F.J 18<sup>th</sup> October 1890

My Lord

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Confidential Circulars noted in the Margin

The Right Honorable

Lord Kinnerton G.C.B.G.

I have to

signed There

ConfidentialH. S. F. 18<sup>th</sup> December 1890

My Lord

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt  
of your confidential despatch of the 26<sup>th</sup> September  
last informing me that you propose the representation  
of this Colony on the Governing Body of the Imperial  
Army - as I am instructed to General Sir John

Forwarded sister concerning Confid. Despatch

17 April 1893

Confidential

8

Colonial Secretary's Office  
Stanley - 17 April 1893

Sir

I have the honour to request  
you to be kind enough to  
forward to the Secretary of  
State for the Colonies the enclosed  
<sup>Please give</sup> letter addressed by me to his  
Majesty - <sup>dated 17<sup>th</sup> April 1893</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>1893</sup>  
Sir  
His Excellency Your Excellency, <sup>obediently</sup>  
George Melville Culy <sup>17<sup>th</sup> April 1893</sup>  
Administrator <sup>17<sup>th</sup> April 1893</sup>  
P. W. Buttigl  
Colonial Secretary

Confidential

by H. S. F. 18<sup>th</sup> December 1890

My Lord

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential despatch of the 26<sup>th</sup> September last informing me that you propose the representation of this Colony in the Governing Body of the Imperial Institute should be entrusted to General Sir John Linton Arabie Simons G.C.B. G.C.M.G.

In reply to your Lordship's desire to receive my confidential opinion on this selection I think that with respect to the representation of this Colony no better selection could have been made.

The Right Honourable

Lord Kentsford G.C.M.G.

I have the

signed. Kerr.