
Foundation Documents – transcript – PRG 1/10

Letter to George Jones RA
Gulf St Vincent, Lat. 34.43 Long. 138.3
Light, William
22 November 1836 839

Gulf St Vincent Nov r 22 1836. Lat 34.43. Long 138.3

My dear Jones If you go to the Adelphi and look at my
Chart you will see we are now at Anchor in the Harbour formed
by two sand banks opposite the IV and VI anchorages and a most
beautiful harbour we have discovered it surpasses every
thing we could have expected or even dared to wish for.
Nature has done so much that very little human labour
and cost [art?] is requisite to make this one of the finest settlements
in the whole world. When I wrote the other day to Napier
I was in melancholy mood as you will see by the letter
for two reasons first the weather and next the discontent
among all the new Comers for my not having put them
into a paradise but the fact is they are in what will be
a paradise in a very short time but their thick heads
would not carry them beyond the day on which they landed
for even since then only from the 10th of this month to this they
have begun (as I am told by one of the party I brought here)
to think the plain they are on to be very excellent, the situation
what was most desirable for the Colony, and that they are now
to be the most flourishing people in the world. You cannot
imagine the vexation and annoyance I have had from

these people but as soon as I saw the beautiful and extensive plain, the fine Range of Mountains with rich looking land trending in a N. Easterly direction, this Harbour a few miles from it, my plans were formed and I was determined on the execution in spite of any opinion I ran the risk and it was fit I should have obedience from others therefore I ordered a whole gang of them [excised word] to Holdfast Bay landed all the stores and I have the satisfaction to know they have all been most cursedly bitten by mosquitoes, to which they are now tolerably reconciled, and a little hard work soon will do them wonderful good, in short they will soon be all so happy they'll never wish to die. I have not yet been able to examine the other Coast on Gulf Spencer the Commissioners sent others out so soon after me that I have been obliged to make the Rapid a store ship for more than a month, but thank God all that is now over and as soon as I have buoyed down the entrance to this harbour I shall start for that purpose and meet our Governor at Port Lincoln.

You must recollect meeting a certain person at dinner at 93. I do not like him at all, he holds out the same notion that the Gov r can do everything. before I left England he asked me for my Chronometer, on the passage out I told our officers that he would ask for my surveying

boat (which I planned myself) as soon as he saw her
this he actually did. he came out in the Cygnet which
sailed a month before us and arrived 16 days after us
I have been obliged to set him down too with two or three more
and I think after all I shall get to windward of them all. How sorry
I am Charles Napier is not here. There is not one man of our
whole party who has ever seen anything like service and of
course it was very awkward to them. however necessity soon
teaches - I send a slight and very rough outline of this that you may form
a very correct notion of what will be the first Colony in South Australia.

[Sketch]

You will see by this what a plain and harbour
we have and the Roads and Canals are easily
constructed for it is almost a perfect level and the plain
in the NE direction extends as far as one can see from
our mast heads which is at least 30 miles - all the Roads
Canals Towns &c are the ideas that now strike me
the space between where AA is marked I should leave
for grazing, that being lower than the rest, and
having fine rich grass. This has My coming back to examine this Harbour
once more and discovering that it runs full $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles further south than I
had before seen makes me alter my course for instead of going to the opposite
shore immediately I shall run to Nepean bay and catch the
ship the ship that carries my former reports as she has to unload
a part of her stores there before going to Holdfast Bay Hobart Town, and thence to Pt

Lincoln and Gulf Spencer and afterwards return here, put all the
ships that came out into the harbour and I have no doubts
all will go on well, it will I am sure after I am dead
and then, perhaps not till then the world will give me
credit for being resolute now. I find I have no sinecure
God bless you all my love to those that love me
and while I believe believe the assurance of
affection. Ever Yours my dear fellow

W m Light

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