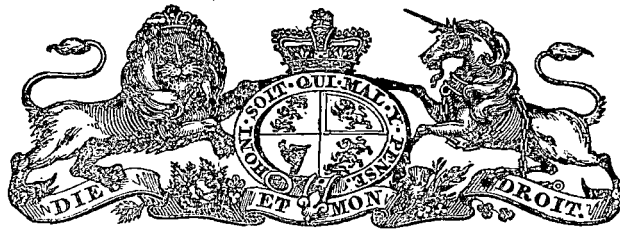


(No. 3.)



1861.

T A S M A N I A.

T H E P R E M I E R.

CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO THE RESIGNATION OF
MR. WESTON.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Chapman, and ordered by the House to be printed,
16 August, 1861.



Customs, Geelong, 22nd July, 1861.

DEAR SIR HENRY YOUNG,

I REGRET that loss of health, aggravated by severe domestic affliction, compels me not only to tender my resignation as Premier, (which I had expressed my desire to do previously to my leaving Tasmania,) but also to resign my seat in the Legislative Council, and to withdraw entirely from public life.

It was my earnest desire to continue at my post during the coming Session of Parliament, and I resisted the warnings of my medical attendant and son-in-law, Dr. Carstairs, who pronounced me to be in a totally unfit state to resume my public duties. It was only yesterday that I yielded to his urgent solicitation to take other medical advice.

The enclosed Certificate will convey to you the result.

It would have afforded me some consolation if I could have tendered my resignation in person to Your Excellency, and have respectfully accompanied it with some advice as to the re-construction of the present, or the formation of a new, Ministry. My friend Mr. Henty is, however, in full possession of my mind, and to him I must beg to refer you, should you desire to have my opinion as to the best arrangement for securing a stable and efficient Ministry in the present critical state of public affairs.

I cannot take my leave of official life without expressing my sincere thanks for the uniform courtesy and kindness I have received from yourself and Lady Young, and offering in return my earnest prayer for the future happiness and prosperity of yourself and family.

Believe me to remain,

Dear Sir Henry,

Your very faithful Servant,

W. P. WESTON.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Tuesday, 30th July, 1861.

SIR,

REFERRING to our interview with Your Excellency of yesterday, and this morning, after tendering our advice to Your Excellency that you should send for Mr. Chapman and invite him to take the place of Mr. Weston in the Cabinet, we had the honor of waiting on Mr. Chapman and conveying Your Excellency's invitation to the effect that he should accept a seat in the present Cabinet as a friend and adherent. We had the further honor, when we waited on Your Excellency this morning, of acquainting you with Mr. Chapman's difficulty in replying to Your Excellency's invitation, as it appeared to contemplate a different position from that filled by Mr. Weston. Your Excellency having, therefore, requested us to state in writing what advice we desired to tender, we beg to renew the advice already respectfully offered by us, that Your Excellency should invite Mr. Chapman to resume his seat in the Executive Council, being recognised as Premier, and having accorded to him the position and the power attached to the Premiership by the theory and practice of the English Government.

We have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servants;

W. HENTY.

F. M. INNES.

W. L. DOBSON.

His Excellency SIR H. E. F. YOUNG.

Government House, 30th July, 1861.

DEAR SIRS,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this evening. The invitation which the Governor in Council authorised to be conveyed to Mr. Chapman was, that he should accept Mr. Weston's vacant seat in the Executive Council, as a friend and adherent of the Ministry; and to your proposition that Mr. Chapman, like Mr. Weston, should also be Premier, I assented so far as it rested with or depended on me. The difficulty which you represent to be felt by Mr. Chapman is, that "the invitation appeared to contemplate a different position from that filled by Mr. Weston." From the above facts, it is clear that the difficulty is not mine. Of the advice, too, which you renew, I beg to repeat my approval. I shall now request Mr. Chapman to see me, and to resume his seat in the Executive Council as Premier, in succession to Mr. Weston; and I shall accord to him the position and powers attached by the theory and the practice of the English Government to one who joins an existing Ministry and becomes its Premier. I do not ask Mr. Chapman to submit to me for approval either the names of a new Ministry, or do I propose that he should submit to me the re-appointment of the existing one; but any alteration or re-construction which the Ministry of which he becomes Premier may consider expedient, I shall be ready at any time to consider.

Believe me to be,

Dear Sirs,

Very faithfully yours,

H. E. F. YOUNG.

The Hon. WM. HENTY.
F. M. INNES.
W. L. DOBSON.

Government House, Wednesday Morning.

MY DEAR SIR,

I SHOULD be glad if you could make it convenient to see me to-day, in Town at my office about eleven.

Very sincerely yours,

H. E. F. YOUNG.

The Hon. T. D. CHAPMAN, *Sunnyside.*