

(No. 47.)



1857.

T A S M A N I A.

M R. G R E G S O N.

LETTER ADDRESSED BY MESSRS. CHARLES MEREDITH,
JAMES WHYTE, MAXWELL MILLER, AND J. H. WEDGE TO
T. G. GREGSON, ESQ.

Presented by Mr. Gregson, and ordered by the House to be printed, 24 November,
1857.



Hobart Town, 21st November, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR,

WE, the Members of the Administration of which you were the head, having heard with surprise and regret that the correctness of your account of an interview which you had, while Colonial Secretary, with His Excellency the Governor has been publicly impugned, feel that it is only due to you to say, that the statement you made in the House coincides, in almost every respect, with that which you made to ourselves directly after the interview in question had taken place.

It will be remembered that the vote which caused the resignation of our predecessors related to the necessity which existed, in the present circumstances of the Colony, for a reduction in the salary of the Governor and his chief Responsible Advisers. We were, consequently, naturally anxious to learn how far His Excellency was prepared to meet us in our proposed policy of immediate retrenchment. This you undertook to ascertain, and left the Colonial Secretary's Office, where several of us were assembled, to see the Governor on the subject. Upon your return, you told us that nothing could be better than the spirit which His Excellency had evinced; that he had acted most disinterestedly; and that you were quite sure that we should be cordially supported by him in our efforts to bring the expenditure within the income. You went on to say that, as a proof of this, Sir Henry Young had expressed a willingness to commence with reducing the allowances of his own establishment; that he wanted no hat and feathers; and that he was prepared to initiate a Bill, if necessary, to reduce his own allowances by a sum of £1500. A long conversation ensued, in the course of which you repeatedly dwelt with pleasure on the public spirit which this conduct of the Governor evinced.

This was the account you gave to us, your colleagues, a few minutes after the interview had taken place. It will be seen that it corroborates, in every important particular, the statement you made in the House; and we need scarcely say, that you could have no possible motive for deceiving us on a matter of such vital importance to us as a Ministry.

We have thought it incumbent upon us to place on record in a joint Letter our recollections of your report of the conversation you had with Sir Henry Young: but, at the same time, we would point out to you that the Governor's Letter substantially confirms the statement you made to the House; and we can only express our regret that an attempt should have been made, for the sake of promoting party purposes, to bring you into direct personal collision with His Excellency.

We are,

My dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

CHARLES MEREDITH.

JAMES WHYTE.

MAXWELL MILLER.

JNO. H. WEDGE.

T. G. GREGSON, *Esq.*