

(No. 56.)



1858.

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T A S M A N I A.

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M R. K I R W A N.

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Documents laid upon the Table by Mr. Balfe, and ordered by the House to be printed, 20 October, 1858.



*Hobart Town, 12th October, 1858.*

MY DEAR SIR,

WOULD you be good enough to state, in reply, the circumstances under which the cases of the men Williamson and Mullins, tried before Mr. Kirwan at Brown's River, were first brought under my notice?

I remain yours, &c.

J. D. BALFE.

Mr. J. C. HALL, *Advertiser Office.*

*Hobart Town, 14th October, 1858.*

MY DEAR SIR,

IN reply to yours of the 12th instant, requesting me to state in reply the circumstances under which the cases of the men Williamson and Mullins, tried before Mr. Kirwan at Brown's River, were brought under your notice, I beg to inform you that on the 29th May, 1857, I received a letter from Mr. H. Pointon detailing the particulars of the conviction of the man Mullins, and requesting me to publish the same. I declined doing so, not thinking it a fit subject for a newspaper column; but, believing that it deserved to be brought under the notice of the Executive, I lost no time in seeing you, and handing the communication over to you, and requesting you to bring it under the notice of the Government, with a view to some steps being taken to prevent such occurrences in future. You immediately enquired who Pointon was, and whether implicit credence could be placed in his statements? I informed you that on Saturday Pointon would be in Town, and that I would see that you had an opportunity of questioning him on the subject. On Saturday, being myself otherwise occupied, I sent my brother William with you to point out Pointon to you. I believe the information I gave you on Saturday was the first intimation you possessed of such a trial and conviction having taken place. I have also every reason for believing that, until Pointon was pointed out to you by my brother, you had had no previous acquaintance with him (Pointon), nor had you ever before spoken to him.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

JOHN C. HALL.

J. D. BALFE, *Esq., M.H.A.*

*House of Assembly, 12th October, 1858.*

MY DEAR SIR,

As a Magistrate of the District in which the men Mullins and Williamson reside, might I request you to have the statement contained and marked in a letter of Mr. Kirwan's, dated 9th October, 1857, read to them, and receive and forward to me before Friday next their observations.

It is desirable, too, that Pointon should also have an opportunity of seeing Mr. Kirwan's allegations, and that he, too, should be requested to observe on them.

I hope you will authenticate their statements by your signature.

Would you be pleased to return me the printed document, as well as this note: it will save the re-copying.

I remain, my dear Sir,

In haste, yours,

J. D. BALFE,

J. WILLIAMSON, *Esq., J.P.*

I think Mr. Hickmott, at Fisher's, has taken these men's statements. They ought to be full; and if, as I hear, they have been threatened by Messrs. Freeman and Kirwan for having made statements in reference to the treatment they received at the hands of the latter, the circumstances ought to be stated.

J. D. BALFE.

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Kingston, 14th October, 1858.

DEAR SIR,

ACCORDING to your request I return the documents.

I am, dear Sir,  
Yours in haste,

ROBT. WILLIAMSON.

P.S. I am only just in time to save the Post.

R. W.

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I hereby solemnly declare that I never arranged to meet Mr. Balfe, neither did I offer any money whatever to Williamson or Mullins on behalf of Mr. Balfe. I took the above-mentioned men to Mr. Balfe at my own expense, because I considered the cause an unjust one, as Mullins had to apply to me for his fine; neither did I receive any letter at any time from Mr. Balfe offering any reward to Williamson to appear against Mr. Kirwan.

HENRY POINTON.

Kingston, 14th October, 1858.

Declared before me, at Kingston, this fourteenth day of October, 1858.

ROBT. WILLIAMSON, J.P.

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I hereby solemnly declare that I never received any monies whatever from Mr. Balfe, nor the promise of any; neither did I make any arrangement to meet Mr. Balfe, but was taken to him by Henry Pointon.

His  
THOMAS x MULLINS.  
mark.

Kingston, 14th October, 1858.

Declared before me, at Kingston, this fourteenth day of October, 1858.

ROBT. WILLIAMSON, J.P.

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I hereby solemnly declare that I never received at any time any monies from Mr. Balfe, or the promise of any, but was taken to Mr. Balfe by Henry Pointon at his sole expense.

JOSEPH WILLIAMSON.

Kingston, 14th October, 1858.

Declared before me, at Kingston, this fourteenth day of October, 1858.

ROBT. WILLIAMSON, J.P.

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15th October, 1858.

DEAR SIR,

WOULD you be good enough to state in reply whether or not I was present in Mr. Lees' office while the men Williamson and Mullins were making their statements to you, and which you committed to writing for them with a view of having them forwarded through me to the Executive?

I remain, Dear Sir,  
Yours sincerely,

J. D. BALFE.

J. K. WINTERBOTTOM, Esq.

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15th October, 1858.

WHEN Williamson and Mullins were examined by me at Mr. Lees' office, Mr. Balfe was not present during any part of their examination; he came with them to the office, and left them in the room with me. I took their examinations, and had to gather the subject of them as I could. Mr. Balfe was not seen by me after the introduction, and I delivered the examination to Mr. Lees, and have heard nothing of them since.

J. K. WINTERBOTTOM.