

(No. 41.)



1857.

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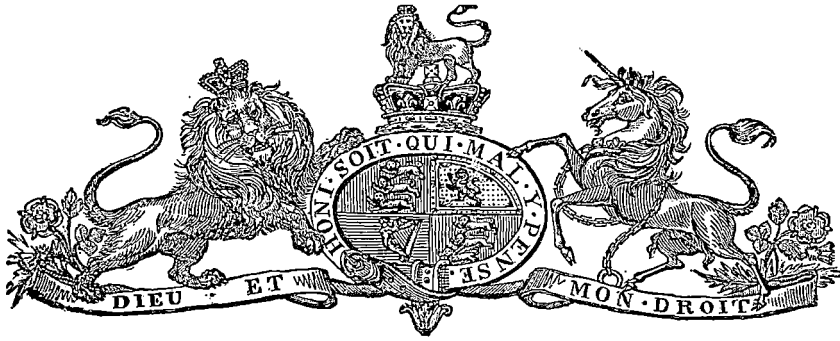
**HIS EXCELLENCY'S ALLOWANCES.**

LETTER ADDRESSED BY THE HON. THE PREMIER TO THE  
GOVERNOR, WITH HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

(19 November, 1857.)

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Laid upon the Table by the Hon. the Premier, and ordered by the House to be  
printed, 19 November, 1857.



*Attorney-General's Office, 19th November, 1857.*

SIR,

DURING the Debate on the Bill to regulate the Salaries of the principal Political Officers in the House of Assembly last night, Mr. Gregson, in making it an objection against the present Ministry that they had not carried retrenchment far enough, stated that you were yourself willing to come forward and surrender £1500 a year from your Allowances; and that Your Excellency had said to him, when Colonial Secretary, "Mr. Gregson, I will initiate a Bill to take off £1500 a year from my Allowances—I want no cocked hat and feathers:" and, later in the Debate, repeated the statement in these words—that Your Excellency said, "I am ready and willing, and will initiate a Bill to take from myself £1500 a year." The inference sought to be drawn from these statements appeared to be, that the present Ministry stood in the way of Your Excellency's intentions in favour of retrenchment.

Mr. Gregson called upon me to go to Your Excellency, if I dared, and ask you if the facts were not as he had asserted; and, when his attention was directed to the indelicacy of disclosing a privileged communication between the Governor and his responsible Minister, stated, that "he had Your Excellency's sanction to tell the House so."

Under these circumstances Your Excellency will perceive that it is incumbent on me to bring the assertions above referred to under your notice. I am not in a position, without your sanction, either to deny, admit, or explain them. But there can be no doubt that it is necessary that the public mind should be satisfied in reference to them.

May I, therefore, respectfully request that your Excellency will be pleased to state whether the assertions of Mr. Gregson are correct; and to say how far I am authorised to offer explanations to the House of Assembly in regard to them?

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant,

FRANCIS SMITH.

*His Excellency the Governor,*  
*&c. &c. &c.*

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*Government House, Hobart Town, 19 November, 1857.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE received your note of this morning, informing me that Mr. Gregson last night, in making it an objection against the present Ministry that they had not carried retrenchment far enough, stated "that I was willing to come forward and surrender £1500 a year from my Allowances; and that I had said to him when Colonial Secretary, 'Mr. Gregson, I will initiate a Bill to take off £1500 a year from my Allowances—I

want no cocked hat and feathers:’ and that later in the Debate Mr. Gregson repeated the statement in these words, that I said ‘I am ready and willing, and will initiate a Bill to take from myself £1500 a year;’ and also stated that he had my sanction to tell the House so.”

In reply to the foregoing statements and assertions, I answer that they were never made by me. I authorise you further to explain, that Mr. Gregson was distinctly told by me, when I sent for him to form his Ministry, that reduction before taxation was a policy which, so far as I was personally concerned, would not be impeded by any considerations of interests merely personal to myself; and that the previous Ministry had received the like information in the unmistakable form of a draft Bill leaving the Governor’s Salary and Allowances blank, to be filled in by Parliament.

I also reminded him that in the Allowances of the Governor I had no pecuniary interest, and that they were appropriated to specific Staff services, of which the state and ceremonial were to me individually a matter of no personal importance; and that the greater or lesser number of the Governor’s Orderlies was an uncertain contingency, and that I had, soon after my arrival, reduced them from 7 to 4.

Mr. Gregson observed that these points, however unimportant to myself personally, were, however, regarded as the usual state and accompaniments of a Governor on public occasions, and ought not, in his opinion, to be dispensed with.

Mr. Gregson labours under a misapprehension in supposing that I ever sanctioned the initiation of any Bill save and except that which, as I have already stated, was submitted by me to the previous Ministry, and the purport of which I have already stated. This Bill, Mr. Gregson told me, had it reached the Legislature, would have been returned with the emoluments of the present Governor filled in as they now stand.

Believe me,  
My dear Sir,  
Sincerely yours,

H. E. F. YOUNG.

*The Honorable F. SMITH, Esq.*  
*&c. &c. &c.*