

Mr Sec<sup>r</sup> Campbell to the Rev. S. Marden

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(A Copy)

Com. Mar. 3/18

Secretary's Office

Sir,

14<sup>th</sup> January 1819

I have been honored with your official communication on the subject of a Letter which appeared in a late Sydney Gazette under the signature of Philo Free, and accompanied by the Copy of one addressed to yourself by Mr Marden desiring to file a Criminal Information in your Name, against the Printer of the Gazette for having published that letter which He considers to contain a Libel on himself. -

By a reference to the Gazette in which the letter complained of appeared, you will observe that a Weighty press of Government Matter in a Proclamation of considerable length and different Government and General Orders which there bear my Official signature claimed no small share of my time and principal attention on that day; - I may also add, that I framed (tho' not officially) the Paragraph which appeared in that days paper descriptive of the late Congress of Natives at Paramatta, and that I had various letters to write and papers to Dispatch to His Excellency the Governor, and to other persons, my object in mentioning these circumstances is to show what I am sure you will easily imagine, that these several Duties must have necessarily divided my attention in no common degree (each claiming a share) and consequently that any Ordinary or extraneous Matter was not then likely to obtain the warmest consideration on my part. -

At such a time and under such circumstances the letter signed Philo Free was laid before me as a

Candidate

The Honorable

Mr Judge Advocate Mylde

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