

The Judge Advocate to the Rev. S. Marden

36

(Copy) Com. Mar. 3/18

Judge Advocate's Office Sydney

January 14<sup>th</sup> 1817-

Sir

The various duties of my Office immediately and urgently pressing on my attention, have opposed my wish of sooner communicating with you on the subject of your letter to me upon Philo Free's public letter in the Sydney Gazette.

I took as early opportunity as I could after your reference to peruse the letter in question, and having taken the contents into consideration, although from my state of knowledge as to Persons and subjects treated of in the Observations, I could not trace sufficient of Allusion or remark or circumstance to perceive, that yourself or any other Individual was particularly pointed out and designated, I certainly felt surprise and regret, that any Composition, which could possibly be considered or construed as reflecting upon you or the respectable Societies connected with you in Missionary purposes and Exertions, should have been admitted into a Government Gazette and thence appear to assume a kind of public Authority and sanction. - with this view I thought fit to address a letter to Mr Secretary Campbell as Censor of the Press - a copy of which is inclosed as also of his Answer thereto; which will explain his Sentiments on the subject and the Manner, in which inadvertently the letter obtained admission into the Gazette. -