

(Copy)

The Rev. S. Marden to the Judge Advocate

Com. Mar. 9/18

Parramatta Jan 16th 1817

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Sir

I had the honor to receive your letter with the respective enclosures under date the 14th Inst. in answer to which I beg first to notice some observations contained in Mr Jeez Campbells Letter to you, a copy of which you did me the honor to transmit. Mr Jeez Campbell intimates that I ought to have made some official communication to him previous to taking the steps I have done in filing a Criminal information against the printer of the Sydney Gazette; to this I beg leave to say, that I want no assistance from Mr Jeez Campbell to set my Character right, nor am I aware that Mr Jeez Campbell is Censor of the Press, I know of no Law that authorizes a Censor of the Press in any British Colony, nor is there to my knowledge any such Law in the British Empire as delegates that Authority to any individual. I considered the Sydney Gazette a Government Paper and Mr Jeez Campbell the official Editor and that he acts in a similar capacity to the Editor of the London Gazette; Mr Jeez Campbell further observes that he feels it his duty to relieve the printer from any possible responsibility consequent on the publication of the letter signed Philis Free; I considered in the present case it is not in Mr Jeez Campbells power to relieve the printer from any responsibility for publishing that letter and that if even the printer should give up the Author of the letter in question he is still liable and wholly at the Mercy of the Prosecutor and that he has the sole power either to extend his indulgence towards the Printer and to stay the proceedings, or bring him to Trial. Mr Jeez Campbell pleads the weighty press of Government business at that period