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Rev. S. Marsden to The Right Hon. Earl Bathurst

Com. of Cor. June 26/18.

Parramatta, Nov. 28th 1817

My Lord

It is with feelings of much pain and regret that I am compelled to prefer a complaint against the Editor of the Sydney Gazette, and also against John Thomas Campbell, Esq. the Confidential Secretary of his Excellency Governor Macquarie, under whose immediate inspection the Gazette is published, for inserting in the said Gazette on the 4th of January, 1817 a Letter signed "Philo Free" containing a scandalous libel upon me and the Missionaries belonging to the Church & London Missionary Societies in the South Sea Islands — This is not the first time, My Lord, that I have been libelled in the Sydney Gazette, nor the first time I have been obliged officially to complain — I am persuaded, that His Majesty's Government would never sanction any of the Confidential servants of the Crown, in this, or any other British Colony, to use this most deadly weapon to wound the reputation, and to destroy the peace of any of His Majesty's subjects, much less those who hold high official situations and have a certain degree of respectability to maintain — The Sydney Gazette is a Government Paper — it is published by the authority of Government and its contents are sent into the world with a degree of public sanction — hence the injury done