

(Rec<sup>d</sup> July 17/19  
Copy)

Mr. G. S. Campbell to the Rev. S. Marsden

Copy to Mr. M. Aug. 3/19

Secretarys Office. Sydney,  
and  
3 Aug<sup>r</sup> 1818

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Rev. Sir

A most alarming Report, having just reached my Ear, in which is involved, the Personal safety of His Excellency Governor Macquarie, his Lady, their Child, His Excellency's Staff, the Rev. Mr. Cowper and several other Persons, who embarked for New Castle on Monday last on board the Elizabeth Henrietta, and that Report being founded on information said to have proceeded from you, I feel myself called upon, as well by loyalty and affection as by official duty to request that you will furnish me as expeditiously as possible with such information as you may possess, on this mysterious subject - In order to your being enabled fully to meet the points which excite my chief solicitude. I beg to observe that my information, which I cannot doubt, states that on Saturday Night last, you mentioned as a matter of notoriety that 374 Convicts had left this Harbour in order to intercept and cut off the Gov<sup>t</sup>. Brig Elizabeth Henrietta, with His Excellency the Gov<sup>r</sup> and all his Family and Staff on board - that a Number of Convicts at New Castle were to co-operate in said Piracy, and that communication would be made from hence to them in the course of a very few Hours - that the Seamen on board the Elizabeth Henrietta were also Convicts and equally in the Conspiracy with the others - and finally that little doubt could remain that they would effect their purpose.

These are the leading and principal features of the diabolical purpose said to be in view, and altho' I have the happiness to say that His Excellency has arrived safe at New Castle, yet as the measure may be still attempted I request your earliest communication on this most

Highly

highly important, subject in order to my taking or suggesting such  
 measures as may be deemed necessary to frustrate it - one object will  
 be the result, which is that H.M. Brig Lady Nelson will be dis-  
 -patched to New Castle as soon as possible after the arrival of  
 the bearer herof. (a Dragoon) with your answer - The importance  
 of the case and the necessity for promptitude will sufficiently  
 point out the imperious necessity for your speedy answer, and  
 leaves me only to express the utmost reliance on your loyalty  
 and zeal on the occasion.

I have the honor to be

Res<sup>d</sup> Sir

Your Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Servant

Signed J. J. Campbell

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Marsden

Principal Chaplain

Parramatta

Ed. H.