

Recd 1/19
(ackgd to Mr M. Aug. 3/19)

Rev. S. Marsden to Mrs. Macquarie

Parramatta August 11th 1818

Cont. Aug. 9/19.

Sir,

I beg leave to lay before your Excellency the Copy of a letter which I received from Mr. Campbell, your Excellency's secretary on Monday the Third Instant, in the absence of your Excellency from Head Quarters - and without making any remarks upon it at present, I beg to assure your Excellency that no reports such as are alluded to in Mr. Campbell's letter ever originated with me - I had never heard but one person say that any Prisoners had escaped, and that was Mr. Cox who slept at my House on Thursday Evening on his return from Sydney to Casendon; and as such circumstances have frequently occurred it had made so little Impression on my mind, that until revived again by the mention of it at Sydney where I arrived on Saturday Evening after dark, it had totally escaped my Memory. On my way from the Post to my Cottage I called to pay my respects to Mr. Cooper, and stopp'd a short time - during which Mr. Cooper expressed her anxiety about Mr. Cooper, in consequence of some Prisoners having made their Escape - In reply to Mr. Cooper I made such observations as I thought were best calculated to relieve her anxiety - as far as I could, - as I knew nothing of the Circumstances but what I had just heard from Mr. Robt. Campbell, George Stueb, and Capt. Welch, the only Persons besides Mr. Cox, I had at that time heard mention the subject, it was not in my power to give Mr. Cooper any correct information, as the whole that had come to my Knowledge was mere common report. The next morning after Preaching to the Military, the Parish Clerk informed me, on my way to Mr. Cooper's that the runaway Convicts were apprehended. While I was at Breakfast Burn the Constable, who had been sent for by Mr. Cooper for information, came, and informed her he had been in one of the Boats after the Runaways, and that they had taken Twelve of them in the Mouth of Broken Bay,

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