

and had lodged them in Goal. Burn further said, that the Convicts were waiting there to take the Henrietta on her return from Newcastle. I thought this story incredible, as Burn said, the Men had no Arms, and was induced, to ask him if he heard the Convicts say so - His answer precisely was, "they told us so;" This was the first time I had heard of any report, that the Convicts had any intention to take the Henrietta; and this report, as your Excellency will perceive did not originate with me, but with the Constable who related the circumstance to Mr Cooper, while I sat at Breakfast - on the Sabbath I was fully employed, having twice to perform Divine Service that I had no opportunity, nor inclination to propagate any reports; and as the Runaways were said to be lodged in Goal early on Sunday Morning, I apprehend all solicitude respecting them must have ceased, to have interested the Public's feelings, and from the end of the Sabbath till I received Mr Campbell's letter on Monday I had scarcely heard the subject mentioned - Should the above statement, not be sufficient, to remove even the shadow of a suspicion from your Excellency's mind, that any reports originated with me, such as are alluded to in Mr Campbell's letter. I beg to refer your Excellency to Mr Cooper, with whom I conversed on the subject as above stated, and from whom alone my friendly and I may add innocent, conversation on the subject could have transpired - I humbly beg leave now to remark with due deference to your Excellency, that had it been deemed expedient, to make any communication to me ⁱⁿ respect on His Majesty's Service, such communication should have been through the Authority of His Honor the Lieut Governor, and not from your Excellency's private Secretary; and had not the Personal safety of your Excellency, and family been involved in the report, said to have originated with me, I most certainly should not have condescended to have returned an answer to such an unfounded, malicious and impertinent, attack upon my Feelings and Character, as I shall ever consider that letter to be.

Having made the above observations with submission to your Excellency, I wish to call your Excellency's attention to the