

(Copy)

J. G. Bunton, Esq. M.P. to the Rev. S. Marsden

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Comd (in Cor.) May 14/19

Hampstead near
London May 7 1819.

My dear Sir

Though personally unknown to you your character & conduct with regard to Botany Bay & New Zealand & the hardships you have endured from persons in Authority are very familiar to me, I have excited in my mind a lively interest & desire to rescue you from the oppression of those, who hate you and the cause in which you are engaged. Providence has happily given me the opportunity of assisting in a work which will I trust relieve your mind from that deep anxiety which your letters to our excellent Friend Pratt so feelingly disclose.

In March last, a Committee of the House of Commons (of which I am a Member) was appointed, to investigate the whole subject of prisons & with this the question of the situation of Botany Bay, was closely connected. We have entered into that subject very minutely. - I send you & beg your acceptance of so much of the evidence as is already printed, (at least as much as I can this day collect, for Mr. Pratt tells me the vessel which will carry this, sails tomorrow.)

Some other persons have been examined Mr. Bent for instance. And upon the whole I can assure you that not a word has been said which casts any reflection upon you - on the contrary - all that has been stated has raised your character & proved that your conduct has been such "as becometh a Minister of the Gospel of Christ."

Be assured of this - you have friends in the Committee who will guard your reputation as if it were their own, Mr. Milnesforce Mr. Bennett & myself all feel that it is