

August 19/19

regard as an unwarrantable disposition in Mr. Marsden  
 to take offence. If for instance it could be shown that the  
 report of these convicts having run away had been general  
 throughout Sydney, or still more, if it could be shown that  
 Barr the Constable who told Mr. Cooper & Marsden of the convicts  
 intending to cut off the Governor, had conferred with Secy. Camp-  
 bell, that would powerfully tend to prove that Campbells ap-  
 plying to Marsden for particulars, could not <sup>be</sup> honestly in-  
 tended. I cannot but think that some such information, or  
 at least some statements which would give some grounds for  
 Marsdens construction of Campbells application could be obtained  
 from Capt. Welsh, by pumping him, because he was so fully im-  
 pressed with the idea of Campbells having impudently some privacy  
 with the convicts to Mr. Marsden. Campbells Letter itself does  
 not warrant this, therefore I suppose the impression must have  
 been received from some other source. I should not think it worth  
 while to spend so much of your time or my own on this subject, but  
 for my wish that our Friend Marsden should really stand as well with  
 Government as he ought not appear to them unreasonably  
 petulant & disposed to take offence. Not being quite well  
 to day I dictate this from my bed & while rising which how-  
 ever my eyes were scarcely have allowed me to write with my  
 own hand so early in the day had I been up. I was sorry not  
 to see you yesterday, but you had but too good reasons for staying  
 away. I am with esteem & regard My dear Sir yours sincerely  
 W. Wilberforce  
 Rev. J. Pratt