

Public days,

being obliged to sit beside men of the most immoral description. It is very surprising that Governor Macquarie, who is a man of apparent strict moral conduct, & even considers himself religious, should have so strong an attachment for Whoremongers, & adulterers! But the three greatest favourites are of this class, and altho' they have no more to introduce to Mrs. Macquarie (But they have all one or more women, besides children) yet they, themselves, are much admired as guests at Government House. Consequently whoever is invited must submit to such company. And an officer cannot with propriety refuse an invitation, except from indisposition. It is, in point of fact, an order, rather than invitation.

We have nothing here but wars! It seems out of the reach of possibility for every Christian man to be quiet. I think I told you of a promising Committee we had formed to assist Mr. Marden in managing the C M concerns. We seemed to go on very well for awhile. It was however for a short season: for suspicions were fomented, & as a consequence all confidence fled. Capt. Irvine, lately from "Calcutta", & intending to retire from the Company's service, to settle here, as his health failed him there, <sup>having been requested to act as Secretary,</sup> required Mr. Marden to furnish to the Committee various accounts belonging to the Society. Mr. M. having been so long in the wars, suspected, from various circumstances, that an enemy had by some means set him on. He therefore refused the accounts, but offered, for the satisfaction of individual members, to allow us to inspect Mr. Campbell's, the Merchants, books; who transacts all the Society's secular business here. This was rejected; & a tone, & manner assumed by Capt. Irvine which increased the suspicion ten fold. and after two or three discordant meetings we dissolved the Committee, & took the books, & papers from <sup>him</sup> as far as we could obtain them. There are two or three long circular papers, written by him to the Committee, the last I think of eight fol. pages. I should like much to know if they are received by the Society. From some instance, & I fear, an unfair one, he has kept them back; but the last of them he says he forwarded: This was written in reply to one of mine proposing the formation of an Auxiliary Socy. I fear he has not sent those papers because they would show him too plainly. Or if they are sent, I fear they are mutilated. He is a man of learning; and I believe of piety. But he is a speculative Scotchman!!! I cannot say that I think him to be a wicked man; <sup>but</sup> he has acted very wickedly. The minute book &c were sealed up at the breaking up of the Committee & they are sent home to the C M Socy by this opportunity. If Capt. Irvine has no sinister