

Title

Letters of Samuel Blackhall - MS 581/item 1/letter 1/1-4, Letter 1869

Transcription Explanatory Notes:

This transcription is a copy of the document, not a facsimile. For this reason, certain elements of the original document may not have been reproduced. To assist the reader, the following approach was taken:

Spelling: This document contains archaic forms of words. The spelling of such words has been retained, with the inclusion of (sic) at the first occurrence to indicate that this is not a misspelt word.

This document uses the archaic form of 'fs' to represent modern day 'ss' eg 'ifsue' for 'issue'. For ease of comprehension, this has not been reproduced in the transcription.

Deciphered words:

[-] = a single word is illegible

[- -] = two consecutive words are illegible

italics = content added by transcriber

[word?] = best guess

Page location within the original document:

This document does not have page numbers. To indicate the location of each page within the original document, the unique url number, which appears at the top of the digitised image of that page, has been included.

Punctuation:

Not used throughout this document and for ease of comprehension, has been added in the transcription

Capitalisation:

Used irregularly throughout this document and for ease of comprehension, has not been reproduced in the transcription

Formatting:

For ease of comprehension, the original format of the document has not been strictly followed. However, the following elements have been included:

- Page breaks
- New paragraphs

Footnotes:

Added where it was felt further explanation may be of assistance to the reader

Background information:

Born 1809 (2 January in Brisibane Qld) – 2nd Govenor of Qld. Irish, was posted in various West Indies locations.

Spouses: Georgiana Rowles (1833; Catherine Bond (1858) Children: Adelaide

Died: 1871

External link: https://www.myheritage.com/names/samuel_blackall

Transcription follows:

p. 1 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-533649873>

Gr Blackhall

Gov. House

Brisbane March 20 1869

Dear Duke of Buckingham

I was much flattered at receiving your letter informing me that you no longer held office. I had written, as it was my duty to do, to express my regrets, which letter I trust your Grace has duly received. The question of Black labour here is attracting much...

His Grace

The Duke of Buckingham &(chambers)

p.2 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-535762593>

..attention, but as is usual when [nephalism]¹ is concerned, there is gross exaggeration as to slavery and the wrongs of the Blacks. So far as the treatment of these Polynesian is concerned after their arrival in Queensland, they are well cared for & breach of agreement is more frequent on their part than the employers, but as the Law now stands I cannot say that there is no danger of getting natives on board at the Islands under false pretences. I do [ask]

p.3 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-535762720>

however believe that this system exists to any great extents, & if the missionaries at these islands & their friends at Sydney & Melbourne who abuse this framework so much, would follow up one or two well authenticated cases instead of indulging in general abuse of the employment of black labour, they would more serve the real interests of the islanders. Resolutions adopted at a public meeting here upon the subject, and to be presented to me on Monday to be forwarded to the [levy]of States. They propose to repeal the Act which legalises the contracts, but I think they lose sight of the

p.4 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-535762859>

difficulty which might then arise on the appearance of a Polynesian [whelp] We adopted the old system of The Southern Post, in America where If a ship of any nation arrived with a repo on board, the black gentleman was sent to gaol until the vessel sailed again. I send Your Grace a local Newspaper with a report of a meeting on this subject. I continue to like The Colony much & I think my people continue to like me & I am most anxious that our Grace should [having] have reason to [-] your kindness in appointing me. I am [with] [-] servant
Your most obliged & faithfull

Samuel Blackhall

¹ teatotalter