

Executive Council.

Saturday - 19th February 1853.

Present,

His Excellency Governor Rennie
Honorable A. Montague, and
James Robert Longden Esq. *

The Council having met pursuant
to summons,

W^t Longden was sworn a member
of the Council and took his seat at the Council table.

The minutes of the last preceding
meeting were read and confirmed.

The Governor said "Gentlemen, I
have requested your attendance to day
to ask your advice under very painful
circumstances. W^t James Edmonds
clerk in this office has (indeed I may
say since my first arrival in the Colo-
ny) shown symptoms which in my
opinion amount to unsoundness of
mind. I propose that certain documents
which I now hold in my hand should
be read and when you have consider-
ed them I shall be glad to hear your
opinion as to whether my impressions have
any foundation, ~~when you have consi-~~
~~dered those documents I shall propose a~~
~~further question.~~

"I arrived at Stanley on the 27th January
and within an hour or two after my
arrival W^t Edmonds came on board
the ship urgently pressing for an im-
mediate interview: on my explaining to him
that it was not possible under the circumstances

* W^t Hawtin the only other member of council
being absent in England on leave —

to enter at length into certain grievances of which he complained, he sent me directly afterwards the following letter, of the same day's date, marked "Private and Confidential"

27 June 1848 Sir, I have the honour most respectfully
W^m Edmonds to welcome your Excellency's arrival at
to the Go- the seat of Government.
- vernor.

It is my imperative duty to direct your Excellency's attention to recent events that have occurred the particulars of which may be gathered from the correspondence between Governor Moody and myself contained in the 3rd volume of his miscellaneous letters to the Governor p. 370, 381, 382, 384, 385, 387, 389, 403, 406 - and I feel strongly impelled to put myself under your protection and to request your Excellency will give your attention to the matters narrated previous to the departure of Governor Moody as I conceive they are of much importance. Every stratagem has been resorted to for the purpose of removing me from the situation assigned me by Earl Grey on the 27th February 1847 but without success. I have adopted this method to communicate with your Excellency that you may have an opportunity of making an impartial inquiry in the way most agreeable to your Excellency's wishes but there are many circumstances that I should wish to mention to your Excellency in a private interview. It is right for me to mention that I have observed a complete system of hypocrisy, and it will not be judicious for your Excellency too readily to take any one into your confidence until you shall have

have been fully satisfied regarding the subject of this communication. Trusting your Excellency will pardon the liberty of have thus taken in so early soliciting your attention to business affairs as I have only necessity to plead for my doing, I have &c &c

(Signed) W^t Edmonds

Clark.

The next letter I propose to read is one of the 17th May 1851, from W^t Edmonds to me, written after I had requested him to check the number of packages of gunpowder which were to be deposited in the Government magazine during the repairs of a ship then lying in the harbour. —

May 17th 1851, { Air, — I take the liberty of requesting your
W^t Edmonds } excellency to favour me with a reply to this
to the Governor letter. —

In consequence of your Excellency's verbal order communicated to me here this morning directing me to superintend the storage of five or six hundred packages of gunpowder in the Powder magazine and to report to your Excellency the correct number and also informing me that Mr Longden will deliver to me the key of the same on Monday morning next at ten o'clock. I should be much obliged to your Excellency by being informed whether your Excellency has received any instructions from the Secretary of State concerning this duty or any other store duties since I was relieved from the charge and management of the Stores on the 17th Feb^r 1848 by H^t Governor Hardy.

It is because I am aware that it has been suggested within a late period to your Excellency that the performance of such duties might be advantageously

advantageously attended to by one or two Gentlemen
who are named; that I am naturally anxious
to know whether your Excellency contemplates
making any permanent change of the
particular duties appertaining to the office
that I have the honour to hold, viz assisting
the acting Colonial Secretary in the preparation
of the various accounts and returns &c re-
quired by the Colonial Department and
which duties only have been required of
me from that time to the present.—

I have &c &c (Signed) J. Edmonds
Second Clerk.

When I received that letter I had already
sent Mr^t Edmonds the following, in con-
sequence of what had taken place in
my office that morning —

17 May 1851, } Sir, Your extraordinary conduct in
Mchmworth } my office this morning makes it a
Mr Edmonds } duty on me to require from you an
explicit explanation of the hallucination
which would seem to pervade your mind
in refusing to perform the unimportant
duty of checking the number of packages
of Gunpowder to be placed in the magazine
on Monday unless I gave you a written
order to do so, alleging as a reason that, as
I was Commissary General and you a
clerk in the Commissarial department
with the rank of Lieutenant, you are not
bound to obey my instructions unless
they were written. To prove this you put
into my hands the printed regulations
for the Commissarial Service.

I must also allude to the delusion
you are under with regard to your position

in the Colony as you informed me that in the event of my death having taken place previous to the arrival of Mr. Montagu, you understood that Mr. Langdon would have assumed the Government and that you would then have been the second person in the Colony. -

With these disordered views it is impossible that you can carry on satisfactorily your duties as a subordinate clerk with no appreciable colonial rank whatsoever, and presuming to demand on such occasions as you may think proper what instructions I have received from the Secretary of State. -

I have with little success on former occasions endeavoured to explain the unfounded suppositions which as to want of protection and various other subjects you imagined yourself to be exposed to. - I have also in numerous instances had to complain of your irregular attendance at your office, - your indisposition and refusal to perform any little services which in a Colony with few officers are occasionally required out of mere routine, - your disrespectful conduct to myself in many instances, and more particularly so in that of today when you told me that you would not perform what I required of you until you had consulted Mr. Montagu as to the legality of my orders. -

It will consequently be my duty to take steps to suspend you from your situation of Junior Clerk in my office unless you can come to a clearer understanding of your position and the subordination and respect due from you to the office I am intrusted with. You will therefore at your early

early convenience let me know if your views still continue as you expressed today, as in that case I must forthwith take such steps as your conduct appears to me to require. I am &c &c

(Signed) George Rennie.

W^r Edmond's answer is as follows dated the 19th of the same month. -

W^r Edmondston
the Governor, } 19 May 1857 } Sir, I have the honour to answer your Excellency's letter dated 17. instant which I received at my residence about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. -

From the calmness of your Excellency's manner when I parted with you here in your Library at 4 o'clock on Saturday your Excellency handing to me the two copies of the Colonial Regulations to read over and directing me to ask Mr. Gontagan his opinion on the subject of my difference with your Excellency I did not expect that your Excellency would have thought it necessary to write to me as I regret you have done.

With respect to your Excellency's verbal order to me at noon on Saturday that I should attend at the Powder Magazine and have deposited therein a large quantity of Gunpowder I beg to say that I am now prepared to obey that order, but I respectfully submit that I am entitled to a reply to my letter of the 17. instant, which was delivered to your Excellency between 3 & 4 o'clock of the same day at your lecture.

It affords me some satisfaction to be able to state that I referred your Excellency to the printed Commissariat Regulations and to the paragraph which I thought justified

justified me in requesting a written order from your Excellency for the deviation from my ordinary duties in consequence of having had a copy of the same regulations put into my hands, (in at least as kind a manner as your Excellency did on Saturday) by Governor Moody, the day before I was relieved from the charge of the stores on the 16 February 1848, when His Excellency directed me to make myself acquainted with the regulations it contained, and which guided him whilst administering the Government of this Colony, and it was to that copy that I referred in my letter to Governor Moody bearing date 15 June 1848 on a different subject.

I trust your Excellency does not really think that I entertain such a mistaken opinion of my position under your Excellency as you have alluded to; for though the substance of the remark is true and was made by me your Excellency must remember it was said jocosely and when I thought you were in an equally good humour. But undoubtedly I consider that I occupy a very distinguished post, and I must own that I feel not a little proud of the same, that offering Clerk to two governors and Comptroller in chief of the Falkland Islands, and with respect to your Excellency it is my sincere wish that I may long continue so. I can assure your Excellency that I have been much complimented by my friends in England for occupying so dignified a position and it would be with great reluctance if I should be compelled to acquaint them with any change of the duties of an office that I filled for nearly 4 years with I hope appropriate

preciable credit. - I have &c
Signed, J. Edmonds
Second Clerk

Unwilling to take any decided step against W. Edmonds as he intimated his intention in the above letter to comply with the order I gave him I did not pursue further the other complaints to which I directed his attention. I propose now to read a letter which I addressed to Mr Edmonds on the 12th instant; -

The Governor
to Mr Edmonds
12 Feb 1853

In statements
following, pages
192, 3, 4 and 5.

Sir, - I enclose copies of various statements which I have received from W. Brantagan detailing the circumstances which he complained of verbally to me in your presence on Tuesday last regarding your conduct in the Police Court on two occasions likewise to him at his own house and also to the Clerk of the Court at the Court house.

I had hoped that the strict instructions which I gave you (on the occasion of your frivolous and unjustifiable objection to serve on a Jury on the 16 July 1851) to obey the Laws of the Colony would have operated so as to prevent the repetition of a similar description of contumacy on Saturday last. But it appears from W. Brantagan's statement that you not only wilfully neglected to obey the summons of Court but that you referred the Judge to me as a party more or less sanctioning your contempt of Court; - a reference but only most reprehensible in itself, but the more so as you must have recollect that you imposed such a thing to me when I positively and peremptorily forbade it - directing you instantly to comply with the orders of the Court.

You had received the summons of Court several

several days previous to the day fixed for your appearance and although I was in my office every day you never mentioned the subject to me until one half hour after the meeting of the Court, when the fine of £2 most justly imposed upon you had already been inflicted for your absence.

I must also call to your mind the fact that whilst Mr. Bratagan was in my office and in your presence explained the injurious effect which your proceedings in Court produced on the public there assembled, - more especially from the circumstance of your being a clerk in my office, - you not only justified your objections but asserted that if you should again be summoned you would repeat the same or similar contumacy; - you also said to me that, if I did not remit the fine imposed upon you for contempt of Court, ~~that~~ you would write to complain of me to the Secretary of State by the first opportunity.

It is obviously impossible that due respect for the laws and constituted authorities can be maintained or expected from the public, if determined contumacy of the above nature is allowed to exist in my office, or that I can permit you to question and dispute every instruction which I may find it necessary to give you if it should vary in the least from the mere transcribing of documents, to which you must ~~as~~ your duties being limited. -

In my letter of the 17 May 1851, I pointed out to you most distinctly the consequences which you would bring upon yourself if you should persist in conduct so entirely at variance with the subordinate functions which it is your duty to

to perform. The repeated warnings which I have given you having failed to produce any amendment, it is with regret that I have come to the conclusion that there remains no other course for me to pursue than to call upon you to state such reasons as you may be able to give why I should not consult the Executive Council as to the necessity for immediately suspending you from your situation of Clerk in my office. I am to
 (Signed) George Pennie.

Enclosures.

1 Extract of a letter from Mr Grutagni to the Governor,
 11 February 1853

"On the 16th July 1851 Mr Edmunds had received the usual summons to attend as a juror before the Magistrates Court, he attended but refused to serve and handed in a letter (which I regret I cannot find) which was read by the Clerk of the Court, it detailed his reasons, he referred to the English Law and believed to a section (the 4th or 40th) of some Act of Parliament together with a variety of other grounds in a style so eccentric that it caused much laughter in Court he added verbally that he had been up all night and had written a similar Explanatory letter to your Excellency. There were four Magistrates on the bench at the time, and observing that he was much excited I took the opinion of each magistrate, and communicated to him our unanimous decision that under the Colonial Ordinance (which I read to him) it was his duty to serve as a Juror. When the occurrences referred to in memorandum his took place the Court was crowded and notwithstanding what I did to correct the idea, I believe many must

must have thought that your Excellency had sent
to me sitting in that Court a command not
to pass any Judgement until I had waited
upon you and received your commands
at Government house, and there heard Mr
Edmonds' reasons." — & he (signed) A Montagu.

2. Copy of the same. "1853. Saturday 5th July, — After the Jury were
morandum given Mr Edmonds came into the Court, the Judge
sent with him told him that he had been obliged to fine him
letter. — for non attendance but he would be glad to hear
there was a sufficient reason. Mr Edmonds replied
"I refer you, Sir, for my reasons to the Governor
he has a letter where they are all stated." the
Judge replied "I certainly shall not refer to
the Governor on the subject and I am certain
His Excellency has not sent me sitting here
such a message, and further that he would
have directed you to attend. Labouring men
and Mr Dean (a magistrate) have attended
and it was your duty to attend. If you
can prove here any reasons upon oath
to justify your non attendance I'll remit
the fine." Mr Edmonds replied "His Excellency
has just consented to my attending" the
Judge said "Why did you not ask His Ex-
cellency before." on a former occasion I
explained to you that the law was imp-
racticable and that you deprived the parties
of your valuable services by not attending
at the time — that it was not just to com-
pel others to attend if a Gentleman
from the Governor's office was permitted to treat
the process of the law with contempt and
disrespect." The judge then said "I certainly
shall not remit the fine, but order the
Officer of the Court to issue the necessary
process for its recovery if it is not paid."

W

W. Edmonds replied "Shall I pay it at once?" the Judge replied "Wait your convenience, and permit me to advise you when you are summoned again to attend punctually or else send some person who can swear on oath a sufficient reason for your non-attendance." W. Edmonds bowed & said "I certainly shall I will take care to do so."

3. Copy of second memorandum. Monday 7 Feb'y. 1853. - W. Edmonds came to my (W. Montagu's) house and was shown up into the sitting room. W. Edmonds said at once "Sir I thought the fine of 5/- was remitted" I said "W. Edmonds it is not usual for me to see people on public business in my own house but as you are here I may inform you that it certainly was not remitted indeed you declined to give the circumstances that justified a remission" W. Edmonds then said "I then request you will order Mr. Kingsford to give me a receipt for the money." I replied "I shall give no special order in the case, Mr. Kingsford will act as he conceives it to be his duty." W. Edmonds said "You remitted Captain Reid's fine, I understand mine also." I said "you had no reason for any such supposition, I regret I cannot do so." W. Edmonds replied in an offensive manner and in a loud tone "I will report you, Sir, I will report you to" I said "Your conduct is highly improper and I beg you will walk out of my house", he turned round and said "I never wish to come in it Sir I am going out."

4. Copy of third memorandum. Monday 7 Feb'y. 1853. (Statement of Mr. Kingsford Clerk of the Court, &c.)

about 3 P.M. W. Edmonds came into the Police Office and said "I have come to pay the fine but

but I shall fight Mr. Montagu," making signs that the fight should be with pen ink and paper; - counting the money ~~and~~ holding it in his hand he said "Will you give me a receipt for this I paused for a moment and replied Yes I see no objection." Mr. Edmonds then said "Now I am paying this money if it's wrong I shall never see it again if I'm right I shall get it back again, should the Governor suspend me this moment I would go to England by the first man of war that comes in, I still think I'm not bound to attend as a Juror but a person who is told he is wrong and will not believe it deserves to have his knuckles well rapped and then he will believe it."

The Governor then stated "the next letter I shall read is from Mr. Edmonds to me acknowledging the receipt of the above letter and enclosures, it is follows, dated 2^d February 1853—

Mr. Edmonds Sir, — I have received a letter from Your Excellency dated this day with several enclosures on the subject of the fine of £1 which I paid to the Clerk of the Police Court for not answering to my name as a Juror on Saturday the 5th instant a receipt for which I received from the Clerk on the 7th following at 3 P.M. at the same place.

Having read your Excellency's letter and the enclosures attached I feel satisfied that I can represent the circumstances therein narrated in a more truthful form and for this purpose I request your Excellency will permit me to be supplied with about one quire of foolscap paper, a few pens, and some large sized envelopes. I have a quantity of ink which I brought out with me from England in May 1847.

I beg to add that I entertain the belief that in pursuing my statements your Excellency will

will not think the matter of your letter of so
much importance as to require the advice of
your Executive Council - I would further observe
that if your Excellency would commit the fine
to me as your Excellency only has the power of
doing it would enable me to discharge a debt
which I owe to Captain Synder for bringing
me my horse "Martin" from Rio Negro here,
and I should be exceedingly glad if your
Excellency would accord with my request. Thank

Signed, Jas Edmonds

Second Clerk to Government

The last letter I shall read is one that I received
from Mr Edmonds on the 16th instant, applying
to the charges which I felt it my duty to pre-
fer against him in my letter of the 12th instant
(Mr Edmonds' letter to the Governor dated 14th February
1853 was then read, see Guard book Vol 4, misc: letters
to Governor Kenne). -

The Governor then said "You have now heard
these documents and you must both of you
have had great opportunities of observing
Mr Edmonds' conduct for some years past
I am therefore anxious that you should
inform me with your opinion as to the
soundness of his mind."

Mr Montagu replied "I have long entertained
no doubt that Mr Edmonds is out of his mind
and the documents which have just been
read confirm me in that opinion. If it is
the wish of the Governor that the grounds on
which that opinion is formed should be stated
I could have no hesitation in so doing, but
without your Excellency's further commands
I deem it a waste of time to refer to those
facts or the particular passages of the documents
which I think inevitably lead to that conclusion"

Mr. Langdon said "I have formed my opinion
"of Mr. Edmunds from ~~my~~ observation during the six
"years that he has been in the Government office,
"and I coincide with Mr. Montagu in thinking
"that his extraordinary conduct and letters
"can only be attributed to an unsoundness of
"mind."

The Governor then said "The next question is
"that I should wish to have your opinion on
"whether it is compatible with the interests of
"Her Majesty's service that this gentleman should
"be continued in the situation he now holds in
"this office"

Mr. Montagu said "My opinion is that a
"merchant or an attorney would not keep such
"a gentleman in his office two days. I should
"consider him a nuisance in an office, and
"that his presence would impede the despatch
"of business, and I can only account for his
"being permitted to hold an office, for which
"I think him quite unfit so long, to your
"Excellency's extreme kindness. I think such a
"person in your Excellency's office must seri-
"ously impede the efficient discharge of public
"business."

Mr. Langdon said "Having been engaged
"with Mr. Edmunds in the daily routine of business
"in the Government office for several years
"I must say from experience that his general
"inattention to office business, his want of ready
"assistance when there has been an occa-
"sional pressure of business, and his absolute
"refusal to do anything beyond mere copying
"have frequently occasioned much delay and
"inconvenience, and my opinion therefore is
"that he is inefficient, and consequently unfit
"for the duties of this office"

The Governor then said "Will you favour me
"with your opinion as to whether it is my duty
"to suspend Mr Edmonds forthwith from his
"clerkship in this office"

Mr Montagu said "The only difficulty I feel
"in advising Your Excellency on this subject is
"that before any such suspension the Officer should
"have an opportunity of answering the matter
"submitted to the Council upon which your
"Excellency asks that advice: it appears that
"from Mr Edmonds' letter that he has sufficiently
"had an opportunity and has answered those
"documents which disclose his conduct in the
"Police Office, the Magistrate's Court, and in your
"Excellency's Office in presence of Mr Langdon and
"myself. The other documents namely his letters
"of 27 June 1848, 17th and 19th of May 1851, have not
"been submitted to him in reference to the
"question of his suspension. My opinion how-
"ever of his insanity and unfitness for office
"I think proved by the documents which he
"has had to answer, but I admit that that
"opinion is also proved by the other documents and
"by a variety of circumstances which had
"previously come to my knowledge. I may
"mention one to which Mr Edmonds in his last
"letter refers. About the 17th May 1851, Mr Edmonds
"called on me and produced some Com-
"misional Regulations; he referred to some
"paragraphs in those regulations which had
"nothing on earth to do with him, and
"insisted that he had the rank of a Commis-
"sarial Clerk, that the Governor had no au-
"thority to order him to superintend the
"storing of some Gunpowder, and strongly
"urged that it was a duty beneath the
"dignity of his office inasmuch as in the
"possibility/

"possibility presents he might be Governor and
"Commander in chief of the Falkland Islands - in the event
"of Your Excellency's death and Mr Longdon's also. I
"took great pains to explain to him the delusion and
"that he was not a Commissarial officer, and that
"he never could be Governor in this way. but I
"believe without success for he left my house and
"said he was not satisfied by my reasoning and
"that he believed his premises were correct. I
"believe this reasoning upon such delusive pre-
"mises can only be accounted for by insanity
"I also think that to call upon Mr Edmonds
"to exculpate himself from so painful a
"conviction as disclosed from any facts known
"to Your Excellency or Mr Longdon or me as well
"as from the documents, 'tis unnecessary
"in such a case. If Mr Edmonds had been in
"my opinion of sound mind I should
"have adverted to his conduct in the Court
"and in Your Excellency's office because he has
"utterly failed in exculpating himself from
"the misconduct imputed to him on those
"occasions. I recollect his telling Your Excellency
"in your office that if he was summoned again
"as a witness he should act again in the
"same manner, and that he thought he
"had been fined contrary to justice, and
"that if your Excellency did not remit the
"fine he would refer the matter to the con-
"sideration of the Secretary of State. I think
"your letter of the 12th February substantially
"details what Mr. Edmonds said, and I
"must add these observations of his were
"made after your Excellency had with great pains
"and at much length endeavoured to explain
"to him the colonial enactment and its
"difference from the law of England, which

however

"however he seemed ~~to be~~ quite incapable of
 "comprehending. I make no observation on
 "the facts that he as a gentleman in your Ex-
 "cellency's office publicly stated to the Judge
 "what led me and others to think at the
 "time that I was not to pass my judgement
 "in Court until I had received your commands
 "as to the nature of that judgement, because
 "I impute his whole conduct to insanity. That
 "your Excellency's name was used in public
 "he admitted in my presence in Your Excel-
 "lency's office, as well as that he had previously
 "asked your permission so to do and that
 "you had imperatively forbidden it. But
 "he still maintained his right to refer me
 "to your Excellency. I therefore feel it my duty
 "to advise Your Excellency to suspend him be-
 "cause I think him out of his mind, unfit,
 "and inefficient for his office."

W. Langdon said "I coincide with Mr.
 "Montagu in thinking it unnecessary to
 "call Mr. Edmonds before the Council, as I
 "conceive it would be futile to require him
 "to prove his fitness for the situation he holds
 "while we partially attribute his infirmities
 "to the state of his mind and I therefore think
 "the best course is (as Mr. Montagu advised) for
 "you to advise Your Excellency to suspend him."

The Governor then said "gentlemen, in
 "coinciding with you in the advice you have
 "given me, I confess I do so with very great
 "pain and reluctance. But I feel I am
 "justified in saying that I have exercised
 "forbearance to the limit which my duty
 "in my opinion would permit towards Mr.
 "Edmonds. I have not particularized the
 "various and numerous instances on
 "which,

"which his conduct might have warranted the
"course which I have at last been compelled to
"adopt; but viewing calmly and deliberately
"his conduct since I have been in this Colony
"and seeing no prospect of amendment, I
"have at last resorted to this as the only course
"however painful, which my duty prescribes.
"I shall therefore communicate our unani-
"mous opinion to Mr. Edmunds, as to the ne-
"cessity of suspending him from his office
"until the Secretary of State shall pronounce
"his final decision." —

The Journal then adjourned sine die.

This minute was
sent home in a despatch
to be dated

Washington
M.C.

Executive Council

Friday, - 8th July 1853

Present,

His Excellency Governor Penrudd
Honorable A. Montagu and
J. R. Longden Esq

The Council met pursuant to summons.
The minutes of the last preceding
Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Governor stated he had received a
Circular from the Colonial Under Secretary
of State, dated 2nd January 1853, on the subject
of the extension of the law of patents to the Col-
onies. His Excellency read the Circular, and
then said "I wish to hear your opinion
as to whether in the very early stage of
this colony it is advisable to enact any
laws respecting patents."

Mr. Montagu replied in my opinion the
settlement is too young for such laws.
We have only been able to find food within
the last two or three years and I think any
such enactments at present unnecessary
and inexpedient."

Mr. Longden concurred with Mr. Montagu.
The Governor said "I entirely agree with
you that in a small community where
we have only just secured the articles of
primary necessity and only incursions of
the simplest nature are required I think
it would be premature to legislate for pro-
tection to patent rights which for some
years to come it is extremely improbable

with

"will find their way to this remote part of
"the world"

The council then adjourned

Wm. G. Thompson
M.L.

Executive Council

Friday 4th November 1853

Present
His Excellency Governor Bennie
Honorable A. Montagu and
Honorable J. R. Longden

The Council met pursuant to summons
The Minutes of the last preceding meeting were read and confirmed

The Governor reported the confirmation by Her Majesty of the appointment of J. R. Longden Esquire to a seat in the Executive Council

The Governor then moved that the correspondence of Revd Moody relative to his application for leave of absence be read;

Mr Moody to the
Governor
8th July 1853

Sir

I have the honor to request that Your Excellency will be pleased to inform me whether you have any objection to my now availing myself of Lord Grey's permission to proceed to Europe on family affairs.

2. I should be further obliged by Your Excellency's informing me what salary the Colonial Government will allow to a Chaplain performing my duty should I be fortunate enough to be able to procure one. My wish is to avail myself of the opportunity of H. M. S. Thetis or Amphitrite which may be expected about December or January next.

H. E. the Governor

I have &
(Signed) J. L. Moody

Governor to
Mr Moody
11th July 1853

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 8th instant desiring to know whether I have any objection to your now availing yourself of Lord Grey's permission to proceed to Europe on family affairs which was granted to you in 1846 but of which hitherto you have not taken advantage. - Also requesting to be informed

informed what salary would be allowed to a Chaplain during your absence if you should be fortunate enough to obtain a Clergyman to perform your duties.

2. With respect to Lord Grey's permission with the specified conditions I cannot object if it be your desire to avail yourself of it from the fact of its never having been cancelled by Her Majesty's Government.

3. Your second question is provided for in the colonial Regulations by which an Officer absent on leave is allowed to draw one half of his salary and the other half may be paid to the person who shall perform the duties in his absence.

4. As you do not however intimate your desire to leave the Colony immediately I would suggest as the most expedient course that you should in the mean time endeavour to secure the services of a Clergyman to act in your place rather than (under the altered circumstances of the Colony) avail yourself of the permission granted by Lord Grey so long ago as 1846.

Rev'd J. A. Moody

I am etc

(Signed) George Remond
1853

Mr Moody to
The Governor
15th September /53

Sir

In reference to an application for leave to proceed to England on private affairs which I had the honor to make to Your Excellency in July last. I beg to inform you that I have received a letter from the Rev'd Mr. Faulkner in which that Gentleman states that he is willing to perform my duties during my absence conditionally on Your Excellency's approval.

2. Should Your Excellency be pleased to approve of this arrangement I trust you will have no objection to allow me to assign over to that Gentleman such portion of my half pay as will make his salary £300 during his stay

A. S. the Governor

I have etc
(Signed) J. A. Moody
Col. Chaplain

Mr Moody to
The Governor
3rd November 1853

Sir

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency in reference to my letter to you dated 15th September that the Rev'd Mr

Faulkner

Faulkner has accepted my offer and stated his intention of sailing from Monte Video for these Islands by the "Amelia" now due

Under these circumstances I trust Your Excellency will not object to my availing myself of the offer of a passage in H. M. S. Serpent which sails for England at daylight on Saturday morning especially as the Amelia is hourly expected

H. S. the Governor

I have &c
Signed J. D. Moody

Col: Chaplain

The correspondence having been read the Governor said

"I have only to add that Mr Faulkner has performed the duties of Chaplain to the British Legation at Buenos Ayres for several years and is well known to Mr Dale the Colonial Manager for the Falkland Islands Company who speaks very highly of him. I have therefore to request your opinion as to the expediency of granting 12 months leave of absence to Mr Moody under these circumstances."

Mr Montagu replied. "I do advise Your Excellency to grant leave for 12 months but I regret I cannot think Mr Moody should be permitted to quit the colony until his successor has arrived. I conceive there is just a chance Mr Faulkner may not arrive and in such an event the settlement would be left without those clerical services which Her Majesty's Government, by the 8th Colonial Regulation, seems to consider essential; it may be hard to Mr Moody, but after all it is only a question of a few days, and the necessities of the colony I cannot think should be forgotten when there are other ships in the Harbour going to England and more may be expected. To go home in a man of war is no doubt more pleasant, but the colony has considerably advanced since 1846 the date of Lord Grey's permission and I think of Mr Faulkner was not to arrive and Mr Moody absent such a position might cause pain to individuals and be otherwise inconvenient."

Mr Longden said "I concur with Mr Montagu in advising Your Excellency to grant the leave of absence but having seen Mr Moody's letters stating Mr Faulkner's intention to be here by the next packet I do not think the delay in its arrival should prevent Mr Moody's taking advantage of this the only eligible opportunity"

opportunity at this moment presenting itself as in all probability the
Settlement will not be left without a Chaplain more than a few days

The Governor then said "The Council must have seen from the
correspondence that I have never contemplated Mr Moody's leaving
the Colony till his Substitute should have arrived. The Mail
Packet by which Mr Faulkner is expected is now over due 3 days
and may be hourly looked for. The question is therefore whether
Mr Moody should be debarred from sailing on the brig of war
tomorrow morning at daylight from the accidental delay in the
arrival of Mr Faulkner whose effects have already been landed
in the Colony from another vessel. Although I fully acknowledge
the force of Mr Montagu's objections I am very unwilling to deprive
Mr Moody of the eligible opportunity which has been offered to
him; but I conceive that if Mr Moody should feel disposed
to take upon himself the responsibility of leaving upon the terms
of Lord Grey's despatch of 3rd November 1846 I confess I am
scarcely prepared to decline compliance with his application."

Mr Moody was then summoned before the Council and on
the substance of the proceedings having been communicated to
him he said "I think I will avail myself of the permission
granted under Lord Grey's letter, and hourly expecting the
arrival of Mr Faulkner (he having accepted my offer made
with His Excellency's approval) and part of his baggage
having arrived I think my thus doing will cause no incon-
venience to the colony. All the children are christened,
whose friends wish them to be so, I believe except one or two
and there are no banns pending."

The Council then adjourned sine die

J H Rennie
Clerk to the Council

This & preceding Minute
were sent home in despatch
No 53 dated 12th November 1853