Sir, I had the honour some time ago to address a letter to you, expressing an apprehension that the natives in the district of St. Patrick's Plains were showing symptoms of hostile feeling towards the Europeans. I still entertain the same opinion, and feel myself, as a Magistrate, placed in a difficult situation. I therefore beg leave to state a few facts for His Excellency's information, if to pray for instructions.

The concurrent testimonies of a great many black natives prove that a black man by the name of Bit of Bread, stole the infant child of John and Catherine Scott. This evidence is not admissible in a court of justice; it would therefore be more than useless to bring this native before a court of law although there cannot be any doubt of his guilt; and at the risk of incurring the threatened vengeance of the neighbouring tribes, for they have solemnly declared that should Bit of Bread be taken, they will not leave a white man alive on the river, and there can be but little doubt that they would put their threat into execution to the utmost of their power, and their indiscriminate vengeance would certainly fall upon the innocent if unprotected people of...
The different stock stations. The same reasoning
will apply to the murderers of Mr. Brown and Mr.
Bridges' men, that they cannot be taken without blood
in the first instance, and often war of retaliation afterwards
is pretty evident, and as they never appear near the
settlements except in numbers, it will require a consi-
derable force to overpower them: in these last
mentioned cases, however, many of not all of the
offenders can be identified. I feel satisfied
that these men are Jackars, one of the natives who
murdered of Government Forces, and those who killed
the Intendancy men on the Otter. But if these might be taken
not certainly not without bloodshed and an open and
certain war with the natives in the part of the
country. From which it will be inferred that it
would not be prudent to interfere with those
people, before measures are adopted to protect
the defenceless out stations, by a regiment of
strong armed police. On one hand these
offenders appear to be an absolute necessity to bring the
wrong decree to justice; and of the regaining of the soil
and on the other almost a certainty of further
survive arising should it be attempted.
The evil itself is the serious consequence likely to
succeed the removal of that evil, make me equally
unwilling to delay or to proceed until I shall
have the honor to receive instructions from
His Excellency for my guidance.

The honor to be

For your service,

[Signature]

Robert Scott