May 10th 1825.

To His Excellency

Sir George Gipps

Sir,

Sir,

In obedience to your desire that I should state my opinion respecting a memorandum entitled "Regulations proposed for the formation of an Aboriginal Police Corps," dated 9th instant, Oct. 29th 1825; and whilst it would be desirable to attach such an establishment to a Military Station here, I have the honor to submit the impressions by which I have formed an opinion after attentive consideration on the subject.

The first impression arising from the designation of the institution contemplated demands consideration, as the success of the proposed employment is connected with the welfare of the Aborigines and their adoption of a Christian example towards Europeans, and although no
Divine precepts appear in prohibition, there are reasons to signify why it may not
be expected.

1. The danger of teaching barbarians the use of arms, before they have Christian
principles to guide their consciences in the just use thereof. In reply, it may be stated,
that the prevent of the inhabitants in this Colony, within the present bounds, or
such as to render them of minor consideration, and in case to remove such
apprehension as presently do suggest, a Missionary should at all
times have free access to such opportunities of impressing their minds with
Christian Principles, in the event of such an establishment being formed by Government.
The existing of the Military Training might remove the objection, as may the
Blacks only as auxiliaries to the
white Police whenever required.

2. Another danger to be apprehended,
in this part of the Colony, arises from
the number of the Black females in comparison to the males. Of the Black Police continue barbarous, and are
sent as before in to caravans to the districts. They will have means and opportunity to use violence to Indian females, or women of other tribes, in practice, for which, some have suffered condign punishments, because they must be avoided, as themselves will be exposed to danger from the nature of their employment, which also affords many that they may come against them in various opportunities for intemperance.

However this may be, it is evident there has always accompanied with a steady English Police, until the Aborigine Corps have become sufficiently instructed in the fear of God to do violence to no person.

The next enquiry, that naturally presents itself, is, whether theAborigine employment be congenial to the habits and tastes of the Aborigines? From what I have observed of their habits and tastes, I have no doubt the employment would suit them, many of them have often been employed with success by the Police, but this

...
The affair has been so uncertain, as to afford little encouragement to their exertions. There are several amongst the tribes over which I have some influence, who are adapted for such an employment; and all give the Aboriginals with whom I conversed on this subject, gave me the names of several that would, he thinks, avail themselves gladly of the employment under Governments, and of whose capabilities, I have not the smallest doubt. "Make me the head of them," replied old Gill, and not a barbarian shall escape my tribe." There is no hesitation as to the practicability of forming an Aboriginal Police. Only, provide suitable European Agents can be found, but, whether it be desirable to carry it into effect, requires our consideration...

In other countries where there is a more populous of Aboriginal inhabitants, professing habits of agriculture, or mechanical pursuit, and amongst whom religious notions...
An Establishment with adequate means for the employment of their members would arise against the proposed Aboriginal Police Establishment being formed by Government. But in this peculiar Colony containing a very small remnant of Aboriginal Inhabitants, without habits of Agriculture, or any other pursuit except that which is calculated to prevent their formation into villages, namely hunting, any large measures appear desirable to ameliorate the condition of the Aborigines who are scarcely placed in a worse position than that in which they stand at present, and of much time be lost before a remedy is applied. Their utter extinction will not be prevented.

In reply to the last question “What is would be desirable to attack such an establishment to a mission station” it depending on the state of the mission, for
if the disciplinary establishment due
and the means of compelling the natives,
and they do already congregate, then
the Police Establishment would be
superfluous, and perhaps injurious
practically. Besides, agricultural pro-
ducts are far more consonant to a
disciplinary views than those of
the Police, or of a military character.
least, is pleasing the Blacks to temptation;
But if no such prosperous establishment,
and means are wanting to reform
the natives for instruction, in that-
case it would be acceptable as a
means by which we can make known
to them the Gospel. I am fully
convinced after twenty years of
disciplinary experience among abor-
igns in the Society Islands and
this Colony, that the sooner we treat
them as civilized men, the sooner they
will become so, and that nothing
but a reception of the Gospel of
our Saviour Jesus Christ in the soul
themselves will completely change the
Fate
Habits of the Savage, and effectively civilise the Barbarian.

"Knowing therefore, 'The Aborigines Police Establishment,' only as a means, in the absence of others, by which we may obtain access to a party of Blacks, otherwise inaccessible, for the purpose of affording an opportunity for instruction, it ought not to be placed in such a position as to preclude the daily visitation of a missionary to instruct them in the Christian Faith, which would prevent the establishment becoming a mere military Police school, or under restriction on the Aborigines, which if once enforced would frustrate the benevolent design.

On these considerations it would be best attached to a missionary station, at such reasonable distance as to allow the missionary a daily visitation, superintendence, having full authority to report and prevent irregularities of
every thing

On a general view of the case, confining my remarks to these Districts, having had no secular demonstration of the State of the Aborigines at
Pt. Phillip, Botany Bay, and Wallington Valley, and considering the defective condition of the Blacks in this neighbourhood, these being the pecuniary means, from any desire to congregate the aborigines, the proposal was one worthy of tried and sound careful management, with agents of a proper spirit, the Establishment may be productive of much benefit to the Aborigines of this part of the Colony; provided Christian Instruction be supplied, without which, I have no doubt of its failure.

Lastly, I take the liberty of suggesting an alteration in the name of the proposed establishment - which being objectionable in the use of the term "eclique Pops", does not fully express the object of the institution, which
which is not confined to make them
more skilled in, or to place them
upon higher grades of temporal
religious knowledge, where they
live. Such settlements are to be
instituted a village, employ his time on making
gardens, or other improvements to live
therefore recommends that
the denominations do thus express
"The Declaratory Institution"—
supported by the British Government
for lessening the condition of the
Tribes of Aborigines on Australia
in compensation for their lands
sold to, or occupied by Colonists
in New South Wales." With such
articles, and the establishment
placed under proper management,
the services of the Aborigines, would
be available, according to their increased
capacity in various ways, the just
claims of the Aborigines would be
satisfied, the honor of the British
Nation could be redeemed, anything
any compromise of the disciplinary Character I have felt much happy to render every assistance to forward so benedictory an Institution, whilst with the present designation of the Aborigines Police Corps it is not
a matter of surprise that any disciplinary becomes alarmed at the very first mention of the name and consequently desire the formation of such an establishment

Shall the honor to remain
with sincere assurance of respect
Your Excellency's
obedient Servant

Signor L. C. Shrebbett