

54/ Resident Commr. Ballarat

December 2nd 1854

Ballarat Decr. 1st 1854

54/J144461

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that a meeting was held last evening: the miners were armed – it was reported the camp would be attacked, we were under arms all night.

This morning at 4 o'clock a meeting of armed Diggers took place on the Bakery Hill- we went out in force to disperse them – they dispersed on seeing us leave the camp. Whilst a meeting was being held about 9 o'clock, large numbers of Diggers came up to the Township in parties of threes & fours, we did not deem it prudent to leave the camp to disperse the meeting; about 11 o'clock the number on the township by Baths' Hotel and in the and the street at the back of the Camp became so considerable,

The Chief Commissioner of the Gold Fields that we deemed it advisable to that the public houses and request the people to disperse – they would not do so. I then ordered Mr. Webster to read the Riot Act, and the Mounted Police cleared the ground.

Two men were arrested, one was armed. Another meeting is to be held tonight, the miners are demanding arms of the storekeepers & are reported to be stopping drays in search of arms as far as Bunit Bridge on the Geelong Road.

My views on this affair are the same as in my despatch last night.

I enclose a cypher letter to His Excellency who has the key & request it may be forwarded to him immediately.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your most obedt. Servant.

Robt. Rede

Resd. Commr