

Bundle 1 No. 21

January 1855

Remonstrance from certain

Inhabitants of Bendigo" "To His Excellency Sir Charles Hotham K.C.B.

Lieutenant Governor of the Colony of Victoria and Its Dependencies

The following remonstrance of the inhabitants of the Gold –Fields of Bendigo in public meeting assembled.

Sheweth

That they have learnt with alarm and regret that the Government in opposition to the advice of the Commission of Enquiry, and the publicly expressed opinion of Melbourne and Ballarat are about to put on trial as State Prisoners the persons reputed to have been connected with the late occurrences at Ballarat and still continue offering large rewards of public money for the discovery of certain persons not yet apprehended. That the inhabitants of Bendigo in the want of a conviction being obtained, hereby solemnly protest against any punishment being inflicted, in as much as the long course of corrupt and apprehensible mismanagement of the Gold Fields with the consequent disaffection prevailing throughout the mining population incited the people to protect the rights they were entitled to as British Subjects and under feelings of XXX exasperation to repel the invasion of their unalienable rights and privileges of XXX Constitutional freedom. That therefore this meeting pledges itself to maintain by every measure in its power the rights and privileges of their loyal fellow subjects and XXX expressed its conviction that as the Government has protected itself by a Bill of Indemnity from the consequences of its own infringement of the constitution, it is only just and equitable for the Government to proclaim a general Amnesty a measure of becoming and just concession, which will preserve to our laws institutions the loyal adherences of the people of this colony. –

On behalf of the Meeting

Richard Baker

Chairman

Robert Benson

James XXX" "Angus Mackay

William DC Donovan

James Egan XXX XXX" "J H Kay Esq R. N

Sir,

I have the honour to forward you the enclosed remonstrances from the inhabitants of Bendigo for presentation to His excellency the Lieutenant Governor.

I have the honour to be Sir

Your obedient servant

James XXX

Sec. of Reform League

Sandhurst January 26/1855"