

December 4 1854

To His Excellency Sir Charles Hotham,

You will pardon the somewhat the presumption of a young Englishman to directly addressing you: when he informs you that he is prompted only by the most patriotic and humane motives. Doubtless Your Excellency may be unable wholly to comprehend the meaning of the melancholy disturbance unhappily latterly takes place even with your so many avenues of information and the more especially since at your so recent visit the miners of Ballarat were so solicitous to give you a favourable impression of them. 11th December 1854

A Young Englishman Heads more heated and tongues more intemperate than Englishman may be amongst us. But do not be deceived by designers that Englishman desired not to participate in the movement. It is quite true that much has been said and done that wise and thinking men must deplore but the defiant attitude and injudicious steps taken by the officials at Ballarat (to say nothing of the very obnoxious Licence Fee) have tended to imbue enmity and deep antagonism in the breasts of not a few. There might comparatively be only a small minority of Englishmen connected immediately with the movement but let me assure Your Excellency it was matched with ardent hope as tho some great good might eventually be the result. Rebellious and murky as it undoubtedly began, a few more days, and few men on Ballarat would or could have remained longer neutral. As it is; I with many others can not but think it a most awful and sacrilegious butchery of the people. A kind word an open manifestation of conciliation on the part of the officials: a direct proclamation from yourself would have saved life, bloodshed, incarceration property: Think Your Excellency can a people love murder. XXX they not en masse to avenge poor Scobie's death. Have not the most part of us left our fatherland the scenes and friendships of our childhood youth and riper Years to escape those sorrows so consequent on the humbler classes of Briton or Europe and whom we journey sixteen thousand miles for a freer and more liberal clime. Can you feel surprised to see us attempting to resist Laws, which will place us in an equal if not worse position than those of the Mother Country. Soldiers are sent to Ballarat, and they have nothing to resist; We desire not bloodshed. We are a peaceable people, and wish not to have our breasts roused by those strong passions that make man fiendish. Love of Country is strong in us more ambitious are we amid strangers: of holding up our Laws, a pattern of what is just; lovable and worthy of admiration. Consider seriously Your Excellency the importance of having honourable men in your Council; capable of framing such laws as shall be a blessing to the Community, so shall they not only be respected but your own good name be written on the tablets of mens hearts and carried down to nations yet unborn.

Yours sincerely a Young Englishman.