

Enclosure No 19 in Duplicate Despatch

No 162 of the 20 Dec

1854

To His Excellency Sir Charles Hotham, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor of the Colony of Victoria.

We, the undersigned bankers, merchants, land holders, tradesmen, and others residing in the City of Melbourne and its vicinity, desire at this critical conjuncture to approach your Excellency with the

Assurance of our loyal devotion to the person and the authority of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, of our determination to support your Excellency as the representative of our Sovereign in this colony, in every measure calculated to arrest the progress of confusion, and to restore to the community the inestimable blessings of social tranquility.

Deeply sympathising with your Excellency in the multiplied difficulties, and in the anxious responsibilities of your present position, we beg to express our very sincere confidence that your Excellency is animated by a single mindedness of purpose to accomplish every practicable reform of ascertained defects or abuses, and to introduce all possible improvement into the general administration of the affairs of the colony, whose government has been so recently committed to your charge.

We therefore consider it to be our bounden duty, both as loyal subjects of our most gracious sovereign, Queen Victoria, and as being deeply interested in the character and happiness of this highly favoured land of our adoption, to rally around your Excellency in the present emergency, and to place ourselves, our services, and our influence, unreservedly at your Excellency's disposal for the maintenance to the utmost of public order, the repression of violence, and the upholding of the paramount authority of existing law.

(Signed)

T.T A'Beckett

William Hull

C.Hutton

Chas. Falconer

Jacob Montefiore

James Simpson

John Brumwell

E. Montefiore

Wm. Hamilton Hart & Co.

James Smith

C. Flaxman

And 389 other signatures appended.