

Naming River

May 25<sup>th</sup> 1854

Mr. Willard

My dear Sir

Your favour per Withers's party, was both opportune, & acceptable, particularly as you informed me of the well-being of my friends; the papers also were a great boon. I was very sorry to learn you met with difficulties on your return, which you did not expect; but trust that time & your own talents for business have in some measure removed them.

You wished for further particulars relative to sheep; I can only inform you, your own look ascertainable, that they are perfectly clean

and in excellent condition, in fact quite as  
good as young breeding sheep ought to be.

The lambs of last summer which were saved  
are well grown & strong, we only raised 50 out  
of 84, which under the circumstances was  
extraordinarily well, as the summer here is  
precisely hot, & I think experience will prove  
that last season was unusually so, for even  
this burning climate, but since it is not that  
way now; but as cold as blazes mornings &  
nights. I can only add, that any person who  
has the means to take up a run & place  
1000 sheep on it will very soon be making  
money & count his thousands by trees, iron  
wood & fallow producing here, will prove a  
treasure & success. In fact the country must  
be good for sheep: for some Gerra is satisfied  
on that point, & that with him is rather an  
unusual occurrence, I am told.

I hope it is still your intention to send 4 or  
500 more <sup>sheep</sup> here, as it is impossible to work  
1/3 to the same advantage as a full flock,  
that is with regard to stationing out, &c &c —

& however well these may do, it will take  
such a time to stock with so few. —

There is our thing certain, but few people  
at the Swan can hold their flocks long, in-  
crease & cull inward, for wither their pro-  
fits, no more are long enough, & they will pro-  
duce poor music if all have an attempt to  
play on the same string, so yourself & others  
will be able to run your stock so long. —

I am anxious to know how you have taken  
your run, whether in accordance with my  
proposition or not, for I think much more  
of this run than 2000/1<sup>st</sup> because I know  
better; 2<sup>ndly</sup>, because I find it better than  
I supposed; & lastly because Withers, & <sup>James</sup>

and McCourt, prefer it to the Dr Grayfa sheep,  
I sent Hetherle 3 of your horses, & sent McCourt  
with them in search of his, they were away  
3 weeks & found the packs at "Poch Redden"  
but nothing more; they were at the "Gray" twice  
& first time brought Hainin out with them  
& returned with him for provisions; so they  
had every chance of choosing for themselves; &  
Mr Hainin finally offered mine & pack horses  
to take the sheep over, but I told him he was  
much obliged, but would remain where he  
was. But this long agreement takes me far from  
the point, your men could scarcely be im-  
-proved in this district, by any attraction  
of linen, & probably not in any other, but I  
had not seen quite as much of the Thr-  
-lock as I perhaps I ought, the feed which I  
have seen is certainly very fine, much like  
mills of your own, but I do not think that

a homestead there would equal our here,  
 I shall endeavour to see it soon, but in  
 the interim time should you want more  
 men you might almost at a distance take  
 20,000 acres on the Shrolock, in a double square  
 (4 miles by 8) commencing at junction 8 miles  
 towards coast with length of run on 'north'  
 laying the lines in land, & near the coast, to  
 cut near <sup>cannot do it</sup> (that is both branches) at right an-  
 -gles as nearly as possible, & so of course it  
 = clear both <sup>main</sup> streams. The junction is supposed  
 by Mr. Coote to be 5 or 6 miles below "Swan  
 Pool". Camp of Gregory. On the other hand  
 if you have men enough <sup>for yourself, when</sup> & if you have  
 money enough of mine in hand I should  
 like you to take it for me, as I should proba-  
 -bly, if unable to do so, make a few pounds

on the same that I found it over to you, I sup-  
-pose if you took it for me I should have  
to pay Isaac Burr price for it. Allow  
me to inform you that Withers has taken  
"Digswell" for a head station, & the Shroton  
will be the next place occupied, in fact he  
will only take a small portion of his men  
at Digswell, the other at the Shroton or  
elsewhere. — It is almost certain now  
you will soon have more neighbours, which  
I think will be an advantage to you,  
particularly if they bear as good a character  
as I hear Withers does, & as from what  
I have seen he ought to bear. — I have  
been doing what I could for him, for  
really their losses have been so great  
that I felt compelled to help them &

trust to your subsequent approval. They have  
lost 2/0 sheep, 3 ewes & a foal, & 2 cows & a  
calf, as near as I can remember, besides  
all the party being terribly overworked to  
save what they have; & some of them <sup>plague</sup>  
losing their lives. As an instance one day  
A & I were some in the bush looking for water,  
& were so long without throats that they  
shot each other, & many their heads off, & much  
blood. - Then Amos was following A - then  
the Inangwas, & his (A's) gun went off &  
either the bullet or the wind from it raised  
a lock of A's hair, who was a little in front  
but it wd take too much time to tell you  
all they did, & suffered. It is as I thought you  
you would see what you could do help little  
children & women in trouble, so I said what  
what I could, as tho you had been here  
to sanction & direct me, after as I wrote  
you per Sr Ripple, directing Sr Court

to take the bullocks & carry with water to the  
south of mouth ready for the women & children  
we made the best of our way to "Dijacowis":  
next day I showed them a mile farther up  
the river, to better shade & water, (as the water  
was better at "Dijacowis.") but then the  
little men, & boats, & beam, & returned home  
leaving Mr L- to show them the way up the  
creek with their goods, till I could find  
Livingston again, which I did next day,  
when they had brought all their stores to  
the head of the mouth. Mr L- with the two  
others came up took 3 horses & which in  
space of 17 hours. — They suppose their  
horses were swept out to sea in trying  
to cross one of the numerous creeks along  
"Rock Araluna," — then as most of the men  
folks would be employed out of his camp  
& the weather looked very threatening, I went  
down & brought up Mr W. & his sister, &



chickens, & they have been here ~~now~~  
nearly a month & are now gone, & they thank  
- feel they were covered as it rained a little  
during for some days, & the husband was  
away. Their affairs have been improving  
ever since they put their foot in "Tire" <sup>the</sup>  
their sheep are doing very well now, they have  
killed three more, & have about <sup>120</sup> ~~80~~ lambs  
fine & strong, & will probably have <sup>more</sup> ~~some~~  
~~more~~, their cow is with you & doing well  
& the stallion & light mare have quite changed  
their appearance for the better, all the stores  
are in their camp, they have some huts,  
built, & it is now about putting up a sum-  
-mer house for the family, they like the  
country very much & do not seem to be  
at all dissatisfied, but bear their losses with  
a fortitude worthy of christian people.  
It is to pay you for the time your hands  
worked for him, return the provisions

his family consumed here, & was also liable  
for all loss or damage that might arise from  
my leaving the houses &c &c — I wish then  
fully to give up other affairs, that you may  
properly understand the position in which  
my party was placed, without team or boats,  
& their stores on an island, with no possibility  
of moving them, but enough of other affairs  
with me will in a few years be a rich man.  
He considers the Is Grey a coffee country. —

Branco mind for the good of others, there  
is no water at or near port "Avaland" &  
it is this which occasioned the fearful  
loss of property. — <sup>may find it by digging</sup> The place where your stores  
were landed is an Island (Mystery by name) why  
should not the ships boats land all goods on  
the mainland? as in other ports, cable etc of  
course be landed as heretofore; — Tho. I took  
the greatest care of the wheels those on the  
hoops each hour gone all tapered I am

happy to inform you, as it can't be for no-  
thing but to kill good horses. The bullock  
wray is also much the worse for us as the  
hives soon fell off & we had to wedge them on  
& one of the sciers broke before Dixon left with  
nothing but fair work, — in fact nothing but  
the very best seasoned wood & work will stand  
in this country, — broad wheels wd be most  
suitable, & sorry they shd be fitted with  $\frac{1}{2}$  a doz  
wheels clamps, with nuts & screw bolts. —

By your last you wished to know what I was  
doing or have done; well after we had put up  
the house & carted the stones, & moved the stack, &c  
we put up a large sheep fold, with dry stone  
wall, then a good strong stable yard, pig sty, &c,  
& barn, a small garden, & fenced it, & built a  
wall in front of the house, this with repairing  
boats, clearing loose stone off roads, fetching  
in lime the same, two tips, keeping a sheep  
look out for the stack as regards the blacks, &  
logs, &c — & ploughing, which we have just commencing

& the innumerable little affairs which always  
stand waiting & attending to on any household,  
is the manner in which your men & I have  
been employed. — I do not consider we  
have as much work as we might <sup>have been</sup> under  
some circumstances, but you must make  
allowance for loss of time with a little sickness,  
a good deal of stack hunting, much more from  
the terrible summer just past, when we  
were compelled <sup>to</sup> lie by for 4 & 5 hrs per day,  
& that last by no means least, that your party  
did not consist of men experienced in the  
lion work, — Now if you want any great  
amount of valuable improvements,  
you should certainly find me / mean equal  
to George Collier, for he at regular station  
work is worth a 10 acre paddock full of ordinary  
men. — I should also mention that some  
time was taken up when being near with  
the lambs, & subsequently with the flock. —

All those persons who have seen the extent  
 of good feed, & grass on your run, & are compe-  
 tent to give an opinion, think it well enough  
 25,000 sheep: is it not worth purchasing another  
 500 for such a prospect? & that is on your own  
run; & how many you might be able to keep  
 on the unappropriated land round you is im-  
 possible to say, but I very much wish you  
 were here now; to see the feed, tho' it is only  
 1 month since it started to grow, & is not at its  
 greatest profusion. There is now no doubt but  
 with care, & good management, you will have  
 a very very valuable property in a few years.  
 If I had stock & a little money & this run be-  
 longed to me, I would not sell my right to  
 another for £500. & many would want at  
 least double that to move off the run.—  
 As has all come to the conclusion that the  
 plain grass, in which your run abounds,  
 is the standard sheep feed of this country,  
 tho' all other stock will eat it, still the high

heavy grass of the "Dr Gray," or Ripon Island is  
more suitable for horses & cattle, & I expect to  
hear of extraordinary fat beef on the "Gray," unless  
the mutton there is very fat now. —

What do you intend doing about the black  
maize Lucy? she belonged to Mr. Burgess at the  
North, she is old, sound, & active, but heavier than  
= for, if he wants her, charge him £3... for Mr. Low,  
the same for me, or either any time, & any other  
expense; she has taken well to all the horses  
particularly Pilot, & is a first rate drum among  
them. — A man here wished to buy her of B —  
but I told him that he need not trouble himself.  
The lumber I bought of Macinn was 358 ft.  $4 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$   
in = & can either be paid for in Fremantle, or returned  
there with freight added. — I bought 6 lbs of  
Tobacco of Capt. = Dring, the price was to be  
about 3/- per lb. I sold it to the wife & myself  
@ 7/- — it is not paid for. — With regard to provi-  
sions our stores have 3 hogheads of flour on hand,  
but cannot use it as it smells very bad, is black  
as the aer of spiders, & tastes like old books, biscuits



and left yesterday the 28<sup>th</sup> they are all well  
there & their affairs are improving fast. —  
If you were to send me a little "Bremuda" grass  
or other celebrated tropical seed, to introduce on  
to your new town by himself, how would it be? —  
Your stock is all doing well at present, we have  
just received 12 calves. The cow has 5 young ones.  
The horses returned from the "Dr. Gray" trip in  
good order. our team did some time back. We  
have killed 9 sheep. — Attached to a party here a  
good amount had such as William Brown and  
Sr of service, also one of two natives from "Roberts"  
these with a good shepherd, a good aban economist  
= cal work, with at least our very good men  
for station work, would make a fair & satisfactory  
expressive party. I would take <sup>one</sup> native in place  
of a white any time, & every party should be equal-  
ized with regard to food & fire —

I found the artificer writes instructions you left  
me of the greatest service, none in my position  
should be without such. —

How would flour Prep Hill mixed & packed in  
= hogging boxes, 1 or two cwt in each?



You anticipated my wish in a good man,  
 when you sent Justice, he thought he was  
 coming into a wild country, & did not ex-  
 -pect to find a well ordered household, indeed  
 he was both pleased & surprised with the stock,  
 improvements, & appearance of the country  
 &c — All your well selected goods arrived  
 in exactly the same condition as when  
 they left you. — I like the shepherd; & although  
 is a very small lad & good at present, he  
 boards at my table, & I shall treat him  
 as I would any of my friends of the  
 same name, & put him forward in  
 every way in my power, he is with the  
 cattle at present, but does much else, &  
 makes himself very useful at washing  
 & thrashing, he will soon be as good to me  
 as a man, — I shall not let him remain  
 longer with the cattle than I am compelled.  
 The stock improves fast, some of the 13 calves  
 are more than half as large as their mothers.

I am assured you will consider this a horrid  
tricious affair, but trust you will take into con-  
-sideration that it is less trouble for you to read  
it, than for me to write. — I think there are over  
3000 acres of good arable land where we are  
ploughing; on the plain to the west, outside  
your boundary, but as there <sup>is</sup> no water it will  
not be soon sown. — You will oblige me,  
if you let me know in your next, how far I  
aid right in the assistance I rendered to Mr. B.  
-well's party, & whether I am, & how far, to as-  
-sist others similarly circumstanced. —

July 24<sup>th</sup> 1854

Your favour of the 27<sup>th</sup> of May  
came duly to hand, & I can assure you  
gave me much more satisfaction, than  
either you had asked or any pounds to my  
pay; for I would rather at any time give  
satisfaction, than receive double the amount  
of my present salary, & prove unfit for my  
present responsible position. —