

ES 636 final

date: 1 August 1786

draft:

file copy:

other:

sent: Kew Gardens Library,
JBK 1/4, no. 236

Writer: A. P. Hove

Recipient: Sir Joseph Banks

I received your letter of the 27th inst, and am happy to hear that you are well. I thought to have had the pleasure of seeing you before this, but the Custom House officers having stopped my collection, delays my return to London, but as I have this day written to Mr Nepean, I hope it will not be long before I shall leave this place.¹

¹ I.e., Portsmouth.

ES 637 final

date: 1 August 1786

draft:

file copy: ADM 106/2621

other:

sent:

Writer: Navy Board

Minute

Acquaint Chatham officers in answer to their letter of 25 April last demanding Riga sticks of size from 24 to 21 inches for completing the masts for the **Bellerophon** etc that as sticks of large sizes are become very scarce and there being a great stock of masts of smaller sizes, we shall send them by the coach in a day or two models for making masts for a 74-gun ship in the manner herein described, and direct them to maturely consider each method and give us their opinion which they think advisable to adopt or if they have any better method with the same size sticks or smaller and equally strong, they are to propose it, returning the models with their answer.

draft:

file copy:

other : William L. Clements Library,
Shelburne vol. 154, (undated)

HO 42/10, fos 419-22 (November 1786).

sent: National Maritime Museum,
HOW 3

Writer: John Blankett

Reasons for an Expedition to Madagascar

In disposing of the convicts, two objects seem to present themselves. The first is to send them from this country at the least expense possible; and the second [is] to make their future labour and subsistence serviceable to the state.

To answer these purposes, it is submitted to consideration:

That an establishment should be made at Madagascar by purchase from the natives in the most convenient place we could procure, with an annual payment of rent to be agreed on, as the means of accommodating and containing a mutual interest of the parties, by which means the apparent injustice of settling a country contrary to the will of the natives will be obviated and the ill effects done away.

That we should have a limited district not to be extended but by a new agreement with the natives. That all slaves (prisoners made in their wars)

who should take refuge within our district should be delivered *gratis* to the owners, and that all white people or subjects of our district being found without the limits should be restored to us and a reward given for the bringing them in.

That Madagascar being in the track of our India ships, the means of transporting the convicts annually would be the cheapest possible.

That the means of subsistence would be easy and plenty, with as free an admission of women as should be judged necessary.

That such as by an amendment of life, or having finished their time of exile, should be considered as proper subjects, might become recruits for the [East India] Company's soldiers or eventually for the service of the Navy in India.

That this would serve to lessen the settlement if government should see necessary, as [it] is plain from the number of recruits sent annually to the Company's settlements and would be attended with no additional expense.

The advantages of such a settlement might be these that follow:

It would serve as an *entrepôt* between Europe and Asia for the refreshment of all ships going to and from India, as has been fully proved from the first navigation of these seas.

It might become a great resource and recruit for the Navy in India in any future wars.

The produce of the island, whether procured by our own cultivation or by traffic with the natives, would furnish an extensive trade.

By exporting to the Cape of Good Hope timber of all sorts, where they now barely supply firewood, lumber, salt and slaves.

To the Portuguese settlements of Sofala, Moçambique, Melinda etc rice, salt provisions, salt fish, butter, cheese, skins, leather and slaves.

To India salt provisions, gums of several sorts and timber for various use, in return for coarse clothes and other articles of India manufacture.

Moçambique would take from Europe all kinds of cutlery, such as knives, razors, hatchets, hammers, locks, hinges, needles, pins, brass work in most shapes in chains, frontlets, rings, bracelets etc, guns, pistols, powder, shot, balls, brandy, beads of all sorts, and a variety and quantity of small articles.

The commerce of the Red Sea and Persian Gulf are objects to which such a settlement would naturally apply, but it is an article of a secondary consideration.

ES 639 final

date: 6 August 1786

draft:

file copy:

other:

sent: National Maritime Museum,
HOW 3

Writer: John Blankett

Recipient: Lord Howe

[Extracts]

I trust your Lordship will forgive me this intrusion, but as I understand the sloop from Africa is returned, without the success there was reason to expect, I may venture to suppose that the finding a proper place to send our convicts may again become a naval question.

I had the honour to mention the isle of Tristan da Cunha to your Lordship, and as I previously offered my services for discoveries, I have been naturally led to investigate such traces as I could find in the early navigators of discoveries made in their times which have been since neglected.

.....

Madagascar might become highly advantageous, but it is probable the India Company would make obstacles to such an establishment.

ES 640 final

date: 8 August 1786

draft:

file copy :

copy sent : National Archives of Portugal,
ANTT, MNE, caixa 706, no. 698

other :

Writer: Luíz Pinto de Souza

Recipient: Martinho de Mello e Castro

[Extract]

Este Ministerio tendo por Systema de não mandar para as Coloneas da America, nem para os seus Estabalecimentos da Costa d' Africa, os Degradados e outros Delinquentes Condemnados ás Galés, cujo numero augmenta consideravelmente, procura ha perto de 4 annos algum Lugar dezerto, para onde póssa remetter os mesmos Deliquentes; para esse fim tem feito explorar com toda a exacção a Costa d' Africa-occidental desde o Rio Cumeny em diante até a Bahia de Sta Helena; não achando em toda aquella grande extensaõ de Paíz hum unico Rio, nem sítio accommodado aonde se póssa formar o menor Estabelecimento; mas pelo contrário huma praia ardente, coberta de rochedos, e de aréa sáfia, que exclue toda a possibilidade de habitaçaõ.

Nestas Circumstancias tenho notícia que o Gabinete de Londres hesita se poderá remetter os Degradados para o Rio Cumeny, sem offensa dos

Direitos da Coroa Portugueza, ou se os deverá transportar para o Cabo Breton; porém como não tenho certeza do partido que a mesma Corte tomará, devo participar com tempo esta notícia a V. Ex.^a afim deque seja presente a Sua Magestade.

Translation:

This Ministry having it as a rule not to send to the American colonies or to their establishments on the coast of Africa the convicts and other criminals who have been sentenced to [servitude at] the hulks, whose number keeps increasing considerably, it has been searching for about 4 years for an uninhabited place where it can send those criminals.

For this purpose the Ministry has had the western coast of Africa explored, with great care from the Cunene River all the way to St Helen's Bay, without finding in all that expanse of land a single river, nor an adequate place where a minor settlement could be made. On the contrary, they found only a burning beach, covered with rocks and barren sand, which precludes all possibility of habitation.

I have learned that, in these circumstances, the London Cabinet [ministers] are uncertain whether they might send the convicts to the Cunene River, without violating the Rights of the Portuguese Crown, or whether they should transport them instead to Cape Breton.

However, as I am not sure as to the decision that this Court will make,
I send Your Excellency this information in good time, so that it may be made
known to Her Majesty.

ES 641 final

date: 10 August 1786

draft:

file copy:

other:

sent: HO 42/9, fo. 94

Writer: John Blankett

Recipient: [Evan Nepean]

I have written to Lord Howe on the subject of a place for the convicts, as the sloop from Africa is returned without success, and I have recommended Madagascar. I have reason to think that if it becomes a naval question that idea will be adopted. I just hint it to you, in case you have any other plan which it might cross.

Madagascar will turn out of consequence, which I will explain to you when necessary. If you make any information of this, do it so that it may not be a public talk, which would be indecent and improper for me, on many accounts. My respects to Mrs Nepean, who I hope will soon get better.

ES 642 final

date: 14 August 1786

draft: National Maritime Museum,
HOW 3

file copy:

other:

sent:

Writer: Lord Howe

Recipient: John Blankett

[I] am favoured with his sentiments on the advantages to be derived from a more proper knowledge of the island of Tristan da Cunha, and settlement on the northern parts of Madagascar, communicated to Captain Leveson.¹

[I] must confess of the former, that the boatswain's account of (making no doubt it underwent a particular investigation when related to you) would have more weight with me than all which has been averred by almost all the ancient navigators from foreign countries.

The recent experience of the sloop returned from Africa increases my doubts of the reliance to be placed on the generality of their assurances. I admit however that suitable opportunities being taken to explore those tracts which have not been revisited lately would best determine the merit of their

¹ John Leveson-Gower (1740-92); member, Board of Admiralty, 1783-9.

undertakings. And I am equally obliged by the [interest?] which induced him to indulge me with these suggestions.

ES 643 final

date: 14 August 1786

draft:

file copy:

other:

copy sent: HO 42/9, fo. 338

:

Writer: George Moore

Recipient: Evan Nepean

As I am threatened with an action at law for the recovery of the damages the owner of the ship **Fair American** sustained by the detention of that vessel at the Bay of Honduras with the convicts on board, and for their passage to the Mosquito Shore and expenses incidental to that voyage, I hope you will excuse my troubling of you again in your official capacity, and that you will be so obliging to favour me with the copy of the letter wrote by desire of Lord Sydney to Colonel Despard, agreeable to your repeated promises; and please declare in writing whether Mr White had that authority he asserts he had from Lord Sydney to inform the inhabitants at Honduras they might receive the convicts ordered by government to be landed there, or not. If Mr White had authority to write as he did, I shall consider myself shamefully used by government. If Mr White had not that authority, the least regard for justice or common civility will I

hope induce you to comply with my request and to assist me with every information requisite to obtain reparation for the loss I have sustained, and also the demands made on me, as it cannot be expected I will tamely submit to losses occasioned by the conduct of others and not by any indiscretion of my own, without endeavouring by every means in my power to obtain redress.

The convicts being landed on the Mosquito Shore in consequence of their being refused at Honduras, I submit to Lord Sydney's and your consideration the necessity of their removal conformable to the terms of the late convention. And in expectation of the honour of your reply as soon as just with your convenience.

ES 644 final

date: 15 August 1786

draft:

file copy: ADM 1/2594

other:

sent:

Writer: Thomas Boulden Thompson

Recipient: Philip Stephens

I beg leave to inform you that I have received my dismissal from my Lord Sydney, on whom I have been attending since 24th of July, and as in that time I have had little opportunity of transacting any private business, I am to request their Lordships will be pleased to grant me a week's leave of absence from this date.

ES 650 final

date: c. 15 August 1786

draft:

file copy:

other:

sent: HO 42/10, pp. 426-7

Writer: [Navy Board]

Recipient: [Evan Nepean?]

[Estimate of the cost of the Botany Bay venture: no.1 of August 1786]

By Mr Campbell's estimate:¹

The charge of taking the convicts to New South Wales will amount to £50. 8. 2 per man. But it is to be observed that in forming this estimate, he includes:

1st, their provisions and clothing for 8 months;

2nd, the provisions for 30 marines during that time at 1s per day;

3rd, the ship to be navigated by 70 men, and their provision charged at

£1. 15. 0 per month, although by the answers from the Admiralty

Office it appears, that the public expense of victualling seamen

and marines amounts but to 10 67/100 d each per day.

This charge may therefore be considerably reduced by government's undertaking to victual the ship's crew, marines, and convicts, and by the reducing the

¹ No. 598

ship's crew from 70 to 50 men, for the latter number is equal to the mere purpose of navigating her, and 30 marines joined to the crew will be a sufficient guard.

Upon this foundation the whole estimate will stand nearly as follows:

	£	s	d
A 40-gun ship, every charge included,			
per annum	4392.	0.	0
A tender of 200 ton if freighted	<u>1400.</u>	0.	0
Brought forward	5792.	0.	0
The annual pay of two companies of marines	<u>2451.</u>	0.	0
		8243.	0.
0			
Victualling the same		
Clothing 600 convicts per annum	1260.	0.	0
Victualling 600 convicts per year,			
no liquor included*	<u>3567.</u>	0.	0
Annual Charge,			
not including the victualling of the marines	13,070.	0.	0
Tools etc, necessary for 600 convicts if bought	1,000.	0.	0
Victualling the crew of the convict ships,			
100 men, for 8 month	1117.	0.	0
Freight of 600 convicts at £40 each	<u>24,000.</u>	0.	0

26,117. 0. 0

[Total] £39,187. 0. 0

*As the convicts when on shore will be victualled but for one year at most, the annual expense after the first year will be reduced [by] £3567. 0. 0.

ES 651 final

date: c.15 August 1786

draft:

file copy: HO 42/7, fo. 23

other:

sent:

Writer: Evan Nepean

[Estimate of the cost of the Botany Bay venture: no. 2 of August 1786]

	£
[Annual charge of warship and tender]	5792
Annual pay of 3 companies of marines (say 180)	3676
Victualling of do	2874
Annual clothing 600 convicts	1260
Victualling 600, no liquor allowed	3567
Annual pay of the superintendent	<u>500</u>
	17,669

It is presumed that after the first year one half of the victualling of the marines and convicts may be saved, so that instead of £17,669 *per annum* it will be reduced to £14,449. 10. 0; and that the service of the tender after the second year or even the 40-gun ship will not be necessary, so that the expense

of the establishment at the end of three years will probably not exceed £7000 per year.

Freight of 600 convicts, including all the expenses of the crew of the two ships which convey them, including their victualling for 8 months, and the pay and victuals of the crew etc, calculated upon a supposition that the ships may be absent 15 months £45 each	<u>27,000</u>
Tools to be purchased	1000
Stock to be purchased and seeds	<u>1300</u>
	29,300
	[Total: £46,969]

draft: CO 201/2, fo. 15

file copy: HO 35/1, HO 35/7

other: HO 29/2

sent: T 1/639

Writer: [Evan Nepean]

Staff Establishment for the Settlement at New South Wales

Yearly Salary	£	s	d	
The naval commander to be appointed governor or superintendent-general	500			
The commanding officer of the marines, to be appointed lieutenant-governor or deputy superintendent	250			
The commissary of stores and provisions for himself and assistants (to be appointed or named by the contractors for the provisions)	200			
Pay of a surgeon	182.	10.	0}	
Do of two mates	182.	10.	0}	365
Chaplain	<u>182.</u>	<u>10.</u>	<u>0</u>	

£1497. 10. 0

ES 653 final

date: c. 15 August 1786

draft:

file copy: HO 42/7, fo. 24

other:

sent:

Writer: Evan Nepean

[Estimate on the cost of the Botany Bay venture, no. 3 of August 1786]

£

Annual expense of a ship equal

in size to one of 40-gun according to

the Navy Board's calculation,¹

supposing no unusual accidents to happen 1500

Annual pay of her officers and men,

supposing her crew to consist of 80 1600

Annual expense of victualling her crew,

including the water casks, necessary money etc 1292

4392

Annual expense of a tender of 200 tons,

including her crew, provisions etc 1400

Annual pay of 3 companies of marines,

supposed to consist of 180	3676
Annual expense of victualling them	<u>2874</u>
	6550
Annual expense of clothing 600 convicts	1260
Do of victualling them, no liquor allowed	<u>3567</u>
	4827
Annual pay of superintendent and staff establishment	<u>1500</u>
	£18,669

It is presumed that after the first year, one half of the expense of victualling the convicts and marines may be saved, so that instead of an annual charge of £18,669, it will be reduced to £15,449. 10. 0; that after the second year the service of the tender will be unnecessary, and after the third, or possibly the second, the 40-gun ship may return home; so that the annual expense of the whole establishment will probably not exceed £7000 per annum.

Freight of 600 convicts including

all the expenses of the two ships and the

victualling of the convicts during their passage,

which it is presumed may be about 8 months,

calculated at £45 per man

27,000

¹ No. 650

Tools to be purchased and implements for

agriculture etc

1000

Stock and seeds for the settlement

1300

£29,300

[Total: £47,969]

ES 654 final

date: c. 15 August 1786

draft: CO 210/2, fo. 21

file copy: HO 35/1, HO 35/7

other: HO 29/2

sent: T 1/639, no. 2176

Writer: [Evan Nepean]

Estimate for Clothing the Convicts after their arrival in New South Wales

	No.	Value of each		£	s	d
		s	d			
Jackets	2	4	6	0	9	0
Woollen drawers	4	2	0	0	8	0
Hat	1	2	6	0	2	6
Shirts	3	3	0	0	9	0
Worsted stockings	4 pairs	1	0	0	4	0
Frocks	3	2	3	0	6	9
Trousers	3	2	3	0	6	9
Shoes	3 pairs	4	6	0	3	6
				<hr/>		
				£	2	19 6

The expense of clothing female convicts may be computed to amount

to the same sum. A proportion for two years to be provided.

date: [c. 15 August 1786]

draft: CO 201/2, fo. 17

file copy: HO 35/1, HO 35/7

other: HO 29/2

sent : T 1/639, no. 2176

Writer: [Evan Nepean]

**Estimate of Provisions to be provided for the intended Settlement on
the Coast of New South Wales**

	Rations
For the staff	15
For the 3 companies of marines	180
For convicts men 680}	
Women 70}	750
For women to be procured from the neighbouring islands, suppose 200 at half allowance	<u>100</u>
	1045

Allowing for deaths and disasters during the passage, 1000 rations it is presumed will be sufficient.

ES 656 final

date: [c. 15 August 1786]

draft: CO 210/2, fo. 19

file copy: HO 35/1, HO 35/7

other: HO 29/2

copy sent: T 1/639, no. 2176

Writer: [Navy Board?]

Recipient: [Evan Nepean]

**List of Tools, Utensils etc necessary for the Convicts and Marines
intended to proceed to New South Wales**

Spades 1 @ 3s

Shovels 1 @ 3s

Hoes 3 for each man @ 9d

Felling axe 1 @ 3s

Hatchet 1@ 1s

Knife 1 @ 6d each

Gimlet

Wooden bowls, platters and spoons---6d for each man

The articles necessary to each man amounts to £12. 6. 0,¹

¹ This total is wrong, as the cost of the items listed is £13. 3. 0. It would be correct if the number of hoes were 2. However, 3 is given in all copies.

which for 700 men will be £437. 10. 0

General Stock

	£	s	d
Crosscut saws 40 @ 10s each	20.	0.	0
Handsaws 1 for every 4 men @ 5s each	43.	15.	0
Frame saws 40 @ 16s each	32.	0.	0
Adzes 100 @ 2s each	10.	0.	0
Broad axes 100 @ 2. 6 each	12.	10.	0
Hammers 1 for every 4 men @ 1s each	8.	15.	0
Augers 140 @ 1s each	7.	0.	0
Drawing knives 140 @ 1s each	7.	0.	0
Chisels and gouges 300 @ 7d each	8.	15.	0
Planes 100 @ 2. 6 each	12.	10.	0
Iron forges, anvils and hammers, 10 @	330.	0.	0
Grindstones 30 @ 10. 6 each	15.	15.	0
Wheelbarrows 40 @ 10s each	20.	0.	0
Pickaxes 50 @ 5s each	12.	10.	0
Ploughs 12 @ £4 each	48.	0.	0
Iron hand mills 40 @ £2 each	80.	0.	0
Cooper's tools 10 sets @ £1. 15. 0 each	17.	16.	0
Nails of different sizes @ 2. 9 per 1000,			

about 10 barrels	100.	0.	0
Spikes 2000 @ £1. 10. 0 per hundred	30.	0.	0
Hinges 200 pair @ 8d each	6.	13.	4
Locks 200 @ 1s each	5.	0.	0
Bar Iron flat and square 10 tons @ £17	170.	0.	0
Glass 1000 squares @ 8d per dozen	33.	6.	8
Fishing lines, hooks, nets, needles, twine, etc	100.	0.	0
	<hr/>		
	£1268.	10.	0

ES 657 final

date: [c. 15 August 1786]

draft: CO 201/2, fos 11-13

file copy: HO 35/1; HO 35/7

other: HO 29/2

ADM 1/4151

British Library,
OIOC E/1/79. no. 187

sent: T 1/639, no. 2176

Writer: [Evan Nepean]¹

Recipient: Treasury

Heads of a Plan

Heads of a plan for effectually disposing of convicts, and rendering their transportation reciprocally beneficial both to themselves and to the state, by the establishment of a colony in New South Wales, a country which by the fertility and salubrity of the climate, connected with the remoteness of its situation (from whence it is hardly possible for persons to return without permission), seems peculiarly adapted to answer the views of government with respect to the providing a remedy for the evils likely to result by the late alarming and numerous increase of felons in this country, and more particularly in the metropolis.

¹ This and the other enclosures to Lord Sydney's letter to the Treasury of 18 August 1786 (no. 675) went in his name, but they were the work of Evan Nepean.

It is proposed that a ship of war of a proper class, with a part of her guns mounted, and a sufficient number of men on board for her navigation, and a tender of about 200 tons burden, commanded by discreet officers, should be got ready as soon as possible to serve as an escort to the convict ships and for other purposes hereinafter-mentioned.

That in addition to their crews, they should take on board two companies of marines, to form a military establishment on shore (not only for the protection of the settlement if requisite against the natives, but for the preservation of good order), together with an assortment of stores, utensils and implements necessary for erecting habitations and for agriculture; and such quantities of provisions as may be proper for the use of the crews.

As many of the marines as possible should be artificers, such as carpenters, sawyers, smiths, potters (if possible) and some husbandmen. To have a chaplain on board, with a surgeon and one mate at least, the former to remain at the settlement.

That these vessels should touch at the Cape of Good Hope, or any other places that may be convenient for any seed that may be requisite to be taken from thence, and for such live stock as they can possibly contain, which it is supposed can be procured there without any sort of difficulty, and at the most reasonable rates for the use of the settlement at large.

That government should immediately provide a certain number of ships of a proper burden to receive on board at least 700 or 800 convicts, and that one of them should be properly fitted for the accommodation of the women to prevent their intercourse with the men.

That these ships should take on board as much provisions as they can possible stow, or at least a sufficient quantity for two years' consumption, supposing one year to be issued at whole allowance, and the other year's provisions at half allowance, which will last two years longer, by which time it is presumed the colony, with the live stock and grain, which may be raised by a common industry on the part of the new settlers, will be fully sufficient for their maintenance and support.

That in addition to the crews of the ships appointed to contain the convicts, a company of marines should be divided between them, to be employed as guards for preventing ill consequences that might arise from dissatisfaction amongst the convicts, and for the protection of the crews in the navigation of the ships, from insults that might be offered by the convicts.

That each of the ships should have on board at least two surgeon's mates, to attend to the wants of the sick, and should be supplied with a proper assortment of medicines and instruments, and that two of them should remain with the settlement.

After the arrival of the ships which are intended to convey the convicts, the ship of war and tender may be employed in obtaining live stock from the Cape, or from the Molucca Islands, a sufficient quantity of which may be brought from either of those places to the new settlement in two or three trips; or the tender, if it should be thought most advisable, may be employed in conveying to the new settlement a further number of women from the Friendly Islands, New Caledonia etc, which are contiguous thereto, and from whence any number may be procured without difficulty; and without a sufficient proportion of that sex, it is well known that it would be impossible to preserve the settlement from gross irregularities and disorders.

The whole regulation and management of the settlement should be committed to the care of a discreet officer, and provision should be made in all cases, both civil and military, by special instructions under the Great Seal or otherwise, as may be thought proper.

Upon the whole, it may be observed with great force and truth, that the difference of expense (whatever method of carrying the convicts thither may be adopted), that this mode of disposing of them, and that of the usual ineffectual one, is too trivial to be a consideration with government, at least in comparison with the great object to be obtained by it, especially now the evil is increased to such an alarming degree, from the inadequacy of all other expedients that have hitherto been tried or suggested.

It may not be amiss to remark in favour of this plan that considerable advantage will arise from the cultivation of the New Zealand hemp or flax plant in the new intended settlement, the supply of which would be of great consequence to us as a naval power, as our manufacturers are of opinion that canvas made of it would be superior in strength and beauty to any canvas made from the European material, and that a cable of the circumference of ten inches made from the former would be superior in strength to one of eighteen inches made of the latter.² The threads or filaments of this New Zealand plant are formed by nature with the most

² In the copies of this document in HO 35/1 and T 1/639 this clause reads: 'and that a Rope made from the former would be superior in strength to one of a much larger size made of the latter'. As the precise comparison is that given by James Matra in his August 1783 proposal, the CO 201/2 version would seem to be earlier than the others---that is, that in drafting Heads of a Plan Nepean recurred directly to Matra's proposal, while the clerks copying Nepean's final version truncated it somewhat.

exquisite delicacy, and may be so minutely divided as to be manufactured into the finest linens.

Most of the Asiatic productions may also without doubt be cultivated in the new settlement, and in a few years may render our recourse to our European neighbours for those productions unnecessary.

It may also be proper to attend to the possibility of procuring from New Zealand any quantity of masts and ship timber, for the use of our fleets in India, as the distance between the two countries is not greater than between Great Britain and America. It grows close to the water's edge, is of size and quality superior to any hitherto known, and may be obtained without difficulty.

ES 658 final

date: 16 August 1786

draft:

file copy:

other:

sent: National Maritime Museum,
HOW 3

Writer: John Blankett

Recipient: Lord Howe

I had the honour of your Lordship's letter, and that I may not for a moment be supposed to mislead your Lordship, I have taken the liberty to explain myself. The fact of Mr Bolts touching at the island of Tristan da Cunha I had the means of authenticating, and the examination of the boatswain I did not make long, for fear of making him say whatever he thought I wished him to say, which in these cases is likely to happen. I therefore let him tell his own tale, without interruption or comment, for as he swam ashore from the boat I concluded the time he would be absent from it, would not permit a variety of remarks. Those who have seen these islands all agree that the largest island, is remarkable high land. Your Lordship knows that in these climates, such high lands by breaking the clouds will form runs of water.

The **Swallow** packet was ordered to explore these islands lately, she likewise kept to the westward of them, found bad weather and never landed, but of this I conclude Mr Dalrymple will have all the particulars.

In regard to Madagascar I can speak more within my own knowledge, as when I was there, having always considered the necessity of some settlement, I was not unmindful for near six weeks I stayed there, of gaining all the intelligence I could, and comparing it, with the accounts I have been able to collect. After having trespassed this far on your Lordship's indulgence, I shall say that being perfectly master of all I know, your Lordship is much better able to judge than I am, how far it may be convenient to the purposes of government, but having concluded that the Minister might imagine it a naval question, I thought your Lordship entitled to every information an officer in your service could possibly communicate. It is in this view that I have become so troublesome and for which I trust I shall have your indulgence.

date: 19 August 1786

draft:

file copy: *The Morning Chronicle,*
Saturday, 19 August 1786

other:

sent:

Writer: *The Morning Chronicle*

Yesterday between twelve and one o'clock, His Majesty arrived at St James's from Windsor, where there was a very numerous Levée; twenty-five congratulatory addresses were presented, some by their representatives in parliament, some by mayors, and others by their sheriffs;¹ after that part of the business of the day was over the ministers of state transacted business with His Majesty, previous to his return to Windsor.

¹ The addresses were from corporations and individuals congratulating the King on his having survived the assassination attempt by Margaret Nicholson on 2 August.

ES 660 final

date: 19 August 1786

draft:

file copy: *The Public Advertiser*,
19 August 1786

other:

sent:

Writer: *The Public Advertiser*

Yesterday about one o'clock His Majesty arrived from Windsor at St James's, where there was a Levée: the following nobility, etc were present, *viz.*: the Dukes of Chandos and Dorset, the Marquises of Buckingham and Carmarthen, Lords Delawar, Spencer, Townshend and Dorchester, Lord Adam Gordon, Sir James Tylney Long, Sir Robert Hamilton, Sir Sampson Gideon, the Honourable Mr Grenville, Dr Wynne, John Wilkes, Esquire; Brook Watson, Esquire, etc etc. The Levée was over about four o'clock, when His Majesty returned to Windsor.

Yesterday congratulatory addresses from the following places were presented to His Majesty at the Levée, *viz.*: the county of Middlesex, Divizes, Newport, county of Warwick, Coventry, Banbury, Marlborough, Abingdon, the county of Devonshire, Bristol, Launceston, county of Norfolk, Midhurst, St Alban's, Shewsbury, Exeter, Winchester, Guildford, county of Surrey, Kingston upon Hull, Chipping Wycombe, Norwich, Cambridge, and Cirencester.

Addressed were also presented from the Honourable Artillery Company and the gentlemen of His Majesty's Choir.

The above addresses were most graciously received, and the honour of knighthood conferred on several of the gentlemen who presented them.

Yesterday Lord Loughborough, who is just arrived from off the northern circuit, waited on His Majesty, to congratulate him on his late happy escape from assassination.

ES 661 final

date: 18 August 1786

draft:

file copy:

other:

sent: William L. Clements Library,
Sydney vol. 13

Writer: Duke of Dorset

Recipient: William Eden

[Extracts]

There was an amazing full Levée today, [with] addresses from all parts.

Mrs Nicholson is very quiet in Bedlam. She had desired to have the use of pen, ink and paper, which they have given her.

ES 662 final

date: 19 August 1786

draft: National Maritime Museum,
HOW 3

file copy:

other:

sent:

Writer: Lord Howe

Recipient: John Blankett

[I] am favored with the farther explanation he has taken the trouble to send me, respecting an eligible place of establishment for the convicts; and will only renew the subject at present, to request an answer, whether he would be willing to undertake the direction of the plan (under suitable appointments) in case the conduct of any similar voyage of discovery and settlement of the convicts should be tendered for his acceptance? [I] am conscious that many particulars must be discussed pretty largely, for the due arrangements of such an operation. There will be time enough to treat of them hereafter, if this general proposition meets with your concurrence.

ES 663 final

date: 19 August 1786

draft:

file copy: *The Public Advertiser*

other:

sent:

Writer: []

Upon coming to town on Friday last, and paying a visit to a rope-maker in Sun Tavern Fields, I found him very busy discharging his workmen, who all appearing in the utmost distress, I naturally enquired the cause, and received the following very melancholy answer.

That a monopoly in the article of hemp took place in April last; and that the engrosses had advanced the price six or seven shillings per hundredweight; their agents abroad had purchased considerable quantities, and had influenced the sellers to demand very high prices for the rest. These agents had again disposed of great part to foreigners, purposely to reduce the quantity that might otherwise have been sent to this market: so that the regular trader, not supposing it were possible men in credit would form engagements so contrary to the general rule of trade (and concluding every merchant was acquainted that engrossing any commodity, with an intent to see it at an unreasonable price, is an offence indictable at common law, and subject to fine and imprisonment), had

not taken measures to counteract any such proceedings, the transactions abroad, if not amenable to the laws of this country, are to those of Russia. The buying Russian products, and selling them again in the country, is confiscation of the whole property. Thus by art and injustice, both here and abroad, our poor labouring subjects are deprived of the means of supporting themselves and families; for it is an incontrovertible fact that the manufacturer cannot purchase under a monopoly more hemp than he has fixed the price for when manufactured. The consumption is hereby greatly reduced; and many hundred labouring men, during the course of the ensuing winter, will be left without employment. The engrosser has to answer for this.

The honest and benevolent man, though in the most necessitous situation of life, would scrupulously avoid any engagements for himself, or in behalf of others, which are productive of so much evil; but where affluence has been bestowed, and this employed in distressing the poor and industrious part of the community, it is a sin of the first magnitude. Here you see *piety without religion*, and a smiling face covering the most unjustifiable actions.

This, Sir, is our present melancholy situation; and if ever laws are to be exerted in behalf of the distressed, no time more proper than the present. Let the labourer be supported in preferring an action against such engrossers. Let the cause be once tried; you will bring trade into its regular course, and prevent in future all monopolies, so destructive of the industrious poor of this country.

ES 664 final

date: 21 August 1786

draft:

file copy: *The Daily Universal Register*,
21 August 1786

other:

sent:

Writer: *The Daily Universal Register*

On Saturday last [i.e., 19 August] the Right Honourable the Lord Chancellor attended a Cabinet Council which was held at the Cockpit,¹ Whitehall, it being the first time of his attending any state business since his illness.

¹ Formerly a theatre, at this time part of the Foreign Office's accommodation.

ES 665 final

date: 21 August 1786¹

draft:

file copy: HO 35/1; HO 35/7

other: T 1/639, no. 2176

sent: CO 201/2, fo. 23

Writers: Messrs Turnbull, Macaulay and T. Gregory

Recipient: Evan Nepean

If government should determine to send the convicts to [New] South Wales, we beg leave to offer to undertake to convey them thither, and provide what may be wanting for them, on the following terms.

To provide sufficient vessels for transporting them thither, and to remain two months with them after their arrivals; accommodation on board; and sufficient provisions for the voyage, and two months after; at the rate of twenty-eight guineas each person.

To deliver in [New] South Wales, sufficient provisions in proportion, as the troops are victualled, for such number of men, and such length of time as may be required, at the rate of 7¹/₃d sterling per man per day. Freight and insurance to [New] South Wales therein included.

¹ The date of this letter is a further indication that Nepean sent the Botany Bay papers to the Treasury on Monday 21 August 1786 – see nos 675 and 676.

To purchase on the most reasonable terms, whatever tools, utensils etc may be wanted, without charging any commission thereon.

date: 21 August 1786¹

draft : HO 35/7; CO 201/2, fos 3-9

file copy : HO 29/2; HO 35/1

other :

sent : T 1/639, no. 2176

Writer : Lord Sydney

Recipient : Treasury

The several jails and places for the confinement of felons in this kingdom being in so crowded a state that the greatest danger is to be apprehended, not only from their escape, but from infectious distempers which may hourly be expected to break out amongst them, His Majesty, desirous of preventing by every possible means the ill consequences which might happen from either of these causes, has been pleased to signify to me his royal commands that measures should immediately be pursued for sending out of this kingdom such of the convicts as are under sentence or order of transportation.

The **Nautilus** sloop, which, upon the recommendation of a committee of the House of Commons, had been sent to explore the southern coast of

¹ The version in HO 35/7 was initially dated 21 August 1786---that is, the Monday after the Treasury Board had risen on Friday 18 August for the summer recess. The need for this back-dating followed from the Cabinet's not meeting on Friday 18 August as expected, but on Saturday 19 August.

Africa, in order to find out an eligible situation for the reception of the said convicts, where, from their industry, they might soon be likely to obtain means of subsistence, having lately returned, and it appearing by the report of her officers that the several parts of the coast which they examined between the latitude 15° 50' south and the latitude of 33°00' [south] are sandy and barren, and from other causes unfit for a settlement of that description, His Majesty has thought it advisable to fix upon Botany Bay, situated on the coast of New South Wales in the latitude of about 33° degrees south which according to the accounts given by the late Captain Cook, as well as the representation of persons who accompanied him during his [late]² voyage, and who have been consulted upon the subject, is looked upon as a place likely to answer the above purposes.

I am therefore commanded to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's pleasure, that you do forthwith take such measures as may be necessary for providing a proper number of vessels for the conveyance of 750 convicts to Botany Bay, together with such provisions, necessaries and implements for agriculture as may be requisite for their use after their arrival.

In order that a proper degree of subordination and regularity may be preserved in this new intended settlement, His Majesty has been pleased to give orders that an officer and proper assistants shall be appointed to

² This word is 'last' in all copies. However, this is likely to be a copying error. There is no evidence of the Administration's consulting any of Cook's companions on the third circumnavigation, which did not visit the eastern coast of New South Wales, while it did consult Sir Joseph Banks and James Matra extensively and repeatedly, who were on the first circumnavigation which did. Therefore, 'late' (i.e., recent) is rather indicated.

superintend it, and that three companies of the marine corps shall be stationed there so long as it may be found necessary. The officers and marines will be embarked on board a ship of war and a tender, which the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have been directed to provide for this service, the commanders of which will be instructed to take under their protection the ships on board of which the convicts may be embarked, and to regulate their sailing to the place of their destination.

The crews of the ship of war and the tender, as well as the marine corps, will be victualled by the Naval Department³ during the passage, but your Lordships will please to take notice, that the marines are to be provided for after their landing, and supplies of provisions as well as implements for agriculture, should also be procured for their use. The number may amount to about 180, to which is to be added the staff establishment, consisting of fifteen, and perhaps 200 females, which your Lordships will see by a sketch of the plan for forming this new settlement herewith transmitted, are likely to be procured from places in its neighborhood as companions for the men.

If the persons who may contract for the passage of the convicts should be desirous of obtaining military assistance for their greater security, they may be accommodated with a part of the marines, who would otherwise be conveyed to the new settlement in the ship of war and the tender.

According to the best opinions that can be obtained, it is supposed that a quantity of provisions equal to two years' consumption should be provided,

³ I.e., the Navy Board

which must be issued from time to time according to the discretion of the superintendent, in the expenditure of which he will of course be guided by the proportion of food which the country and the labour of the new settlers may produce.

From the length of the passage to New South Wales, the commanding officer will most likely find it necessary to call at the Cape Verde Islands, as well as the Cape of Good Hope, for the purpose of recruiting the water. At the latter of these places he will in all probability be enabled to obtain cattle and hogs, as well as seed grain, all of which must be procured for the new settlers with a view to their future subsistence, and as expenses will thereby of course be incurred it will be necessary that your Lordships should authorize the naval commander, or the superintendent, to draw upon you for the amount, and that in addition thereto a quantity of merchandize should be put on board the ship of war, or the tender, previous to their sailing, sufficient to obtain supplies of that live stock by the means of barter with the inhabitants of the islands contiguous to the new intended settlement, from whence such supplies may at all times be obtained.

A small quantity of garden seeds should be sent out from hence, together with some seed grain, to prevent inconveniences that might happen should any difficulties arise in procuring supplies of the latter at the Cape of Good Hope.

The tools for erecting habitations and implements for agriculture, which it is supposed will be most useful in the settlement, are specified in the list accompanying this, and with which it will be proper to supply the

marines and the convicts after their landing at the settlement. It is therefore His Majesty's further pleasure, that these articles be also provided and sent out, together with bedding for each of the convicts, and a proportion of clothing agreeably to the estimate enclosed.

I have it in command from His Majesty only further to acquaint your Lordships, that a quantity of surgeon's instruments and medicines and necessaries for the sick will likewise be wanted, and as soon as an estimate can be formed it shall be transmitted to your Lordships, together with the staff establishment.

In the meantime, I have only to recommend it to your Lordships to cause every possible expedition to be used in preparing the shipping for the reception of the said convicts and for transporting the supplies of provisions and necessaries for their use to the place of their destination.

Enclosures⁴

1. Heads of a Plan

Enclosures

1. Estimate of Provisions to be provided for the intended Settlement
on the Coast of New South Wales
2. Staff Establishment for the Settlement at New South Wales
3. Copy of a letter from Messrs Turnbull, Macaulay and T. Gregory to

Evan Nepean Esq., dated London , 21 August 1786

2. List of Tools, Utensils etc necessary for the Convicts and Marines intended
to proceed to New South Wales

3. Estimate of Clothing to serve a Male Convict for one Year

⁴ The titles vary somewhat from set to set. These are from T 1/639, no. 2176.

date: [21/18] August 1786¹

draft:

file copy: T 29/58, pp. 22-4

other:

sent:

Writer : Treasury

Minutes

Read: Letter from Lord Sydney dated this day, acquainting their Lordships that His Majesty, having taken into consideration the crowded state of the several jails and places for the confinement of felons in this kingdom, had been pleased to signify his commands that measures should immediately be pursued for sending out of this kingdom such of the convicts as are under sentence of transportation, and had thought it advisable to fix upon Botany Bay situated on the coast of New South Wales, which is looked upon as a place likely to answer this purpose; that it is therefore His Majesty's pleasure that this Board do forthwith take such measures as shall be necessary for providing a number of vessels for the conveyance of 750 convicts to Botany Bay, together with such provisions, necessaries and implements for

¹ Like Sydney's letter to the Treasury, this minute was also written after the date given---that is, on the Monday after the Treasury Board had risen on Friday 18 August for the summer recess. The need for this back-dating followed from the Cabinet's not meeting on this Friday as expected, but on Saturday 19 August. Another indication of this action is that these minutes appear in the ledger *after* those for 19 August, which recorded that the 18

agriculture, as may be requisite for their use after their arrival, as well as for the supply of a body of marines intended to be sent to the new settlement and of the officers who are to superintend it, together with a quantity of provisions for a number of women likely to be procured from the neighbouring country, of all which articles estimates are enclosed, and that a quantity of surgeon's instruments, medicines and necessaries for the sick will likewise be wanted, and bedding for each of the convicts. Lord Sydney further states that from the length of the passage to New South Wales, the commanding officer will most likely find it necessary to call at the Cape Verde Islands and the Cape of Good Hope for the purpose of recruiting the water, at the latter of which places he may probably be able to obtain cattle and hogs as well as seed grain for the new settlers, and therefore requests that the naval commander or the superintendent may be authorized to draw on this Board for the amount of these expenses, in addition to which a quantity of merchandize should be put on board the ship of war or tender previous to her sailing, sufficient to obtain supplies of live stock by means of barter with the inhabitants of the islands contiguous to the new intended settlement, and that a small quantity of garden seeds should be sent out from hence together with some seed grain, to prevent inconveniencies that might happen should any difficulties arise in procuring supplies at the Cape of Good Hope.

My Lords, impressed with the necessity of sending a number of convicts out of the kingdom immediately, are pleased to direct a letter to be

August ones had been approved, and that the Board had adjourned until 10 October (p. 20).

written to the Commissioners of the Navy to take measures for providing a proper number of vessels for the conveyance of 680 male and 70 female convicts to Botany Bay in New South Wales, together with the provisions, necessaries and implements for husbandry which are judged requisite for the use of them and the marines who are to go to the same place on duty, giving notice that one of the ships must be fitted up for the accommodation of the above-mentioned number of women so as to keep them separate from the men.

Acquaint the Commissioners that the marine corps will be supplied during their passage out by the Victualling Department, but that provisions must be sent for their use after their landing, and that the daily rations for them, for the convicts, and for some women who it is expected may be prevailed upon to come to the new settlement from the neighbourhood will amount to one thousand, and that a quantity equal to two years consumption must be provided for them over and above the provisions for the convicts during the voyage.

Acquaint the Commissioners of the Navy that my Lords are of opinion it will be most advisable to give notice that they are ready to receive proposals for the passage, and the victualling the convicts during the same, and for a stock of provisions to be landed equal to two years consumption at the rate of one thousand rations a day.

Transmit to the Commissioners a list of the tools and utensils of husbandry to be provided for the marines and the convicts, and a list of the clothing and bedding, and acquaint them that my Lords will approve of their

directing the person who shall take the contract on terms the most advantageous to the public, to purchase the same on the commission usually allowed. When my Lords have the particulars of the surgeon's instruments, medicines and necessaries for the sick, they will direct the same to be provided under the inspection of the Commissioners for the Sick and Hurt.

Acquaint Mr Nepean for the information of Lord Sydney that if the commanding officer who shall be entrusted with the care of the service shall draw bills from the Cape Verde Islands or from the Cape of Good Hope for the purchase of cattle, seed grain or other necessaries, my Lords will order the same to be paid, representing to his Lordship however the necessity of the commanding officer's transmitting vouchers of such expenditure.

Acquaint Mr Nepean also that when my Lords are informed of the particulars of the quantities and kinds of merchandize which it will be necessary to put on board the ship of war or tender previous to their sailing, my Lords will order the same to be provided, and that my Lords have already given directions for taking up the ships, and for providing the provisions, tools and other necessaries for the marines going out and for the convicts, and that they wait only to be acquainted with the particulars of the surgeon's instruments, medicines and necessaries for the sick, to order them also.

ES 677 final

date: 23 August 1786

draft:

file copy: ADM 2/262, p. 393

other:

sent:

Writer : Admiralty

Recipient : Navy Board

We do hereby desire and direct you to cause His Majesty's storeship **Berwick** at Deptford, to be put into a proper condition to be employed on foreign service, and to report when she will be ready to receive men.

ES 678 final

date: 24 August 1786

draft:

file copy: BT 5/4, pp. 7-8

other:

sent:

Writer : Board of Trade¹

Minutes

[As part of the Pitt administration's extended consideration of Britain's commerce with Russia, the Board of Trade interviewed Edward Forster and Godfrey Thornton, members of the Company of Merchants trading to Russia.]

[Extracts]

Of the whole quantity of hemp and flax imported in a year into this country, what proportion comes from Russia?

Of hemp, little comes from any other country. Of flax, a small quantity comes from the Prussian dominions, the rest from Russia. Of flax in yarn, the most considerable part comes from Koningsberg and Danzig---none from Russia.

From whence are the other maritime countries of Europe supplied with hemp and flax?

Generally from Russia.

¹ Formally, Privy Council, Committee of Trade and Plantations. However, 'Board of Trade' was commonly used at the time, as it has been subsequently.

Do you conceive that Russia could find a market in any other country for the great quantity of hemp, flax, iron and tallow annually imported into this country?

If Russia could find a market in any other country, it must be to sell again for the consumption of Great Britain, and in that case she probably would not receive so good a price, or be so well paid. The English commodities sent to Russia are sold there on long credit. The Russian commodities sent here are paid for in ready money, and sometimes in advance.

Does the trade between France and Russia produce a balance in favour of Russia or of France?

[Messrs Forster and Thornton will return an answer in writing as soon as possible.]

Will not the advantage given by the Empress of Russia of a reduction of three-eighths of the duty upon the produce of Russia, exported from thence in ships belonging to the subjects of Russia, tend to diminish the number of British ships employed in that trade?

It has an obvious tendency to do so.

Will not such a measure tend to put the subjects of Great Britain, trading to Russia, under a great disadvantage in that trade?

It certainly has an obvious tendency to produce that effect, and the factory at St Petersburg are very much alarmed at it.

If the government of Russia should persist in this measure, do you see any objection to impose on Russian produce, imported into these kingdoms in ships belonging to the

subjects of Russia on account of Russian subjects, a duty equal to the diminution of duty granted by the Empress of Russia to her subjects on the like produce, when exported in ships belonging to them?

Is it not of importance to the trade and navigation of this country with Russia to require, that in the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and Russia, the ships of the two countries should be placed on an equal footing in all respects?

[Messrs Forster and Thornton will return their answers to these two last questions in writing as soon as possible.]

ES 679 final

date: 25 August 1786

draft:

file copy: BT 5/4, p. 19

other:

sent:

Writer: Board of Trade

Minute

Ordered: That the Commissioners of the Customs do forthwith prepare and lay before this Committee an account of all iron, hemp, flax, flax in yarn, pitch, tar, turpentine, tallow, timber, masts, yards and bowsprits, sail cloth and cordage imported into this kingdom from the year 1763 as far as the same can be made up, distinguishing each article, each year, and distinguishing each country from which the same hath been imported.

ES 680 final

date: 25 August 1786

draft :

file copy : ADM 106/2622

other :

sent :

Writer: Navy Board

Minute

[Lords Admiralty] Another of do [23 August], to cause the **Berwick** storeship at Deptford to be put into a proper condition to be employed on foreign service and to report when she will be ready to receive men.

date: 26 August 1786

draft:

file copy: T 27/38 pp. 336-7;

other: HO 35/7

sent: ADM/OT

Writer: Thomas Steele

Recipient: Navy Board

Lord Sydney having by his letter of the 18th inst signified to this Board¹ His Majesty's commands that measures should be immediately taken for providing a number of vessels for the conveyance of 750 convicts to Botany Bay on the coast of New South Wales, with such provisions, necessaries and implements for agriculture as may be requisite for their use after their arrival, as well as for the supply of a body of marines intended to be stationed in the new settlement and of the officers who are to superintend it, together with a quantity of provisions for a number of women likely to be procured from the neighbouring country and bedding for each of the convicts: The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury are pleased upon consideration of the said letter to direct you forthwith to take the necessary measures for providing a number of vessels for the conveyance of 680 male and 70 female convicts to Botany Bay, together with the provisions, necessaries and

¹ I.e., Treasury Board

implements for husbandry which are judged requisite for their use and the use of the marines who are to go to the same place, one of which ships must be fitted up for the accommodation of the above-mentioned number of women so as to keep them separate from the men.

With respect to the supply of provisions, I am commanded to acquaint you that the marine corps will be furnished during their passage out by the Victualling Department, but that provisions must be sent for their use after their landing and that the daily rations for them, for the convicts and for the women who it is expected may come to the new settlement from the neighbouring places will amount to 1000; and that a quantity equal to two years' consumption must be provided for them over and above the provisions for the convicts during the voyage. And their Lordships are of opinion that in order to carry these measures into execution it will be advisable to give notice that you are ready to receive proposals for the passage and the victualling the convicts during the same and for a stock of provisions to be landed equal to two years' consumption at the rate of 1,000 rations a day.

Their Lordships have also directed me to transmit to you a list of the tools and implements of agriculture to be provided for the marines and the convicts and to acquaint you that they will approve of your directing the person who shall take the contract on terms the most advantageous to the public, to purchase the same, together with the bedding for each of the convicts and a portion of clothing agreeably to the enclosed estimate, on the commission usually allowed.

I am further directed to inform you that a quantity of surgeon's instruments, medicines and necessaries for the sick will be provided as soon as the same can be ascertained under the inspection of the Commissioners of Sick and Hurt and sent with the other articles. If the person who may contract for the passage of the convicts should be desirous of obtaining military assistance for their greater security, I am to acquaint you that they may be accommodated with a part of the marines who would otherwise go on board a ship of war and a tender provided for this service, the commanders of which will be instructed to take under their protection the ships on board which the convicts may be embarked and to regulate their sailing to the place of destination.

ES 682 final

date: 29 August 1786

draft:

file copy: ADM 106/2622

other:

sent:

Writer: Navy Board

Minute

Mr Steele having in his letter of 26th inst signified to us the directions of the Lords of the Treasury to hire transports and provide provisions for the convicts to be sent to Botany Bay on the coast of New South Wales, [we] desire he will please to move their Lordships for our being informed [of] the particular articles and the quantity of each a ration is to consist of, distinguishing that for the convicts from [that for] the marines.

ES 683 final

date: 29 August 1786

draft:

file copy:

other:

sent: T1/639, no. 2218

Writer : Navy Board

Recipient : Thomas Steele

You having in your letter of 26th inst signified to us the directions of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to hire transports and provide provisions for the convicts to be sent to Botany Bay on the coast of New South Wales, we desire you will please to move their Lordships for our being informed of the particular articles and the quantity of each a ration is to consist of, distinguishing that for the convicts from [that for] the marines.

ES 684 final

date: 29 August 1786

draft :

file copy : ADM 106/2622

other :

sent :

Writer: Navy Board

Minute

Let notice be given in the usual public papers, that on Tuesday the 12th of next month we shall be ready to treat for about 1500 tons of shipping by the ton, to carry persons and provisions to Botany Bay on the coast of New South Wales, and also for some ships to carry blacks to the coast of Guinea.

Further particulars may be known at this office.

The tender will be received after 12 o'clock.

ES 685 final

date: 29 August/ 1 September 1786

draft :

file copy :

other : *The Morning Herald*, 1 September 1786

Whitehall Evening Post, 2 -5 September 1786

sent :

Writer : Navy Board

29 August [1786]

The principal officers and commissioners of His Majesty's Navy do hereby give notice, that on Tuesday, the 12th of next month, at one o'clock, they will be ready to treat for about 1500 tons of shipping, by the ton, to carry persons and provisions to Botany Bay on the coast of New South Wales; also ships to carry some blacks to the coast of Guinea. Further particulars may be known at this office.

No letter will be received as a tender where the writer, or an agent for him, does not attend, nor will any be received after twelve o'clock, the parties will not be called in on their tenders; but the lowest will be accepted, and the writer declared to be the contractor.

This notice was posted at the Navy Office on 29 August, then published in various newspapers.

ES 686 final

date: 29 August 1786

draft:

file copy:

other:

copy sent: PRO 30/8/111, fo. 129

Writer: Sir Charles Middleton

Recipient: William Pitt

The account sent herewith of hemp and masts was procured from very good authority in 1781 when the idea prevailed in the Cabinet of purchasing all the hemp that could be procured at Petersburg and Riga, but finding it impracticable, it was given up.

The consumption of hemp in the year 1779 on the part of the Navy was about 9000 tons, but when at the highest in 1781, 12,000 [tons], including about 2,000 tons of Riga. But I am of opinion 10,000 tons will be a sufficient quantity under a proper management of the fleet in any future war.

The annual consumption at present is about 3000 tons, and the quantity in store about 2800 exclusive of 4600 contracted for and to be delivered in this and early in the next year. Great Britain consumes very near two-thirds of what grows at St Petersburg.

It does not occur to me that any inconvenience can attend a neutrality but in the article of naval stores. In that article neither France nor Spain can be supplied in time of war but by the consent or inactivity of Great Britain. And if permitted by neutral vessels, it will exceedingly strengthen the operation of their fleets against this country. It is incredible how much they suffered in the two former wars from our command of the Baltic trade.

ES 687 final

date: 30 August 1786

draft :

file copy : T 27/38, p. 343

other :

sent : HO 35/7

Writer : Thomas Steele

Recipient : Evan Nepean

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury having in consequence of Lord Sydney's letter of the 18th inst directed the Commissioners of the Navy to hire transports and purchase provisions for the convicts to be sent to Botany Bay on the coast of New South Wales, and the Commissioners having by their letter of the 29th [inst] desired to be informed of the particular articles, and the quantity of each, a ration is to consist of, distinguishing that for the convicts from [that for] the marines: I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith for the information of Lord Sydney, and to desire that you will move his Lordship to communicate to this Board his opinion with respect to the ration of provisions proper to be allowed to the marines and to the convicts, in order that my Lords may be enabled to give the necessary directions to the Commissioners of the Navy on that subject.

ES 688 final

date: 31 August 1786

draft: CO 201/2, fos 25-30

file copy: HO 29/2, fos 37-40

other:

sent: ADM 1/4152, no. 25

Writer: Lord Sydney

Recipient: Admiralty

The King having been pleased to signify his royal commands that 750 of the convicts now in this kingdom under sentence of transportation should be sent to Botany Bay, on the coast of New South Wales, in the latitude of 33° south, at which place it is intended that the said convicts shall form a settlement, and that the Lords of the Treasury should forthwith provide a sufficient number of vessels for their conveyance thither, together with provisions and other supplies for their subsistence, as well as tools to enable them to erect habitations, and also implements for agriculture; and it being His Majesty's intention that a ship of war of a proper class, with part of her guns only on board, commanded by an able and discreet officer and a sufficient establishment of inferior officers and men (together with a vessel of about 200 tons burden, commanded also by an officer), should as soon as the convict ships are ready, proceed with them to the new settlement, for the purpose of regulating their sailing, and for the preservation of peace and

good order during the passage, as well as for other purposes after their arrival: I am commanded to signify to your Lordships the King's pleasure, that you do forthwith cause a ship of war and a tender proper for those services to be fitted for sea with all possible expedition, and when the said convicts shall be put on board the ships which are preparing for their reception in the River Thames, to instruct the commander of the ship of war to take the convict ships under his protection, and proceed with them and the tender [~~*which he will employ as he shall find occasion~~] to Botany Bay, [~~*calling off Plymouth on his way thither for another convict ship, the master of which will be directed to join the convoy from thence upon its appearance.~~ — From the length of the voyage to New South Wales, the convoy will of course find it necessary to put into port on their way thither for the purpose of recruiting their water. Your Lordships will therefore give instructions accordingly, only taking care that one of the places to be fixed upon for a rendezvous may be the Cape of Good Hope, from whence it is intended that as many supplies as possible for the new settlement shall be procured].

As it has been thought advisable that some military establishment shall be made at the new intended settlement, not only to enforce due subordination and obedience, but for the defence of the settlement against incursions of the natives, and as from the nature of the service to be performed, it is highly expedient that it should be composed of men accustomed to, and under proper discipline, His Majesty has been pleased to direct that [~~*three companies of marines, with the commissioned officers of one company only~~] 160 private marines, with a suitable number of officers

and non-commission officers, shall proceed in the ship of war, and the tender [~~**and transport vessels~~] to the new settlement, where it is intended they shall be disembarked for the purposes before-mentioned. They will be properly victualled by a commissary immediately after their landing, and provision has also been made for supplying them with such tools, implements and utensils as they may have occasion for, to render their situation comfortable during their continuance at the new intended settlement, which it is designed shall not exceed a period of three years. When these circumstances are known, it is very probable that many of the non-commissioned officers and men may express a desire of embarking upon this expedition. If the whole numbers to be employed upon it were to consist of persons of that description it would upon many accounts be advisable to give them a preference. It is therefore His Majesty's pleasure that their wishes in this respect should as much as possible be attended to; and that your Lordships should if there should be occasion hold out such further indulgences to them as may induce them to embark voluntarily upon this service, either by bounty, or promise of discharge should they desire it upon their return, or at the expiration of three years, to be computed from the time of their landing at the new intended settlement should they prefer the remaining in that country.

I enclose to Your Lordships herewith the Heads of a Plan upon which the new settlement is to be performed, for your further information, together with the proposed establishment for its regulation and government, and as soon as I am acquainted by your Lordships with the names of the officers intended to command the ship of war and the marine corps, I shall receive

His Majesty's further pleasure for preparing their commissions, and such instructions as may be requisite for their guidance. From the nature of the services they are to execute under these instructions, entirely unconnected with maritime affairs, it will be proper that they should be immediately subordinate to the direction of this office, and upon that ground it is His Majesty's pleasure that they should be directed, after their arrival at New South Wales, to follow such orders and directions as they may receive from His Majesty, through his principal Secretary of State for this department.

* omitted from the version sent to the Admiralty Board.

** added to the version sent to the Admiralty Board.

ES 689 final

date: 31 August 1786

draft:

file copy: T 27/38, p. 346

other:

sent: HO 35/7

Writer: Thomas Steele

Recipient: Evan Nepean

Having laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury Lord Sydney's letter of the 18th inst, signifying His Majesty's commands that this Board do forthwith take such measures as shall be necessary for the conveyance etc of 750 convicts to Botany Bay on the coast of New South Wales, I am commanded by their Lordships to transmit to you for the information of Lord Sydney the copy of a letter written by their orders to the Commissioners of the Navy directing them to take up proper shipping for the conveyance of the convicts, and to purchase the provisions, clothing and implements of agriculture recommended by his Lordship to be provided for them, and for the marines intended to be sent to the new settlement, as well as a quantity of provisions for a number of women to be procured from the neighbouring islands. I am also to acquaint you in answer to that part of Lord Sydney's letter which relates to the

ships calling at the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Verde Islands for the purpose of procuring live stock, seed etc for the new settlement, that if the commanding officer, who shall be entrusted with the care of this service shall draw bills from those places for the purchase of cattle, seed grain or other necessaries, my Lords will order the same to be paid; but I am to desire that you will represent to his Lordship the necessity of the commanding officer transmitting vouchers of such expenditure. With respect to the merchandize necessary to be put on board the ship of war and the tender previous to their sailing in order to obtain supplies of live stock by means of barter with the inhabitants of the islands contiguous to the new settlement, my Lords will order the same to be provided when they are informed of the particulars of the quantities and kinds of merchandize proper for that purpose, and they wait only to be acquainted with the particulars of the surgeon's instruments, medicines and necessaries for the sick, to order them also.