

Lambeth - November 15. 1828. —

My dear Father

Although I wrote to Sophia only yesterday, I cannot allow a parcel to go by tomorrow's coach without sending you a line to say I am quite well. — I fully intended adding a line or 2 to the letter before closing it, but was called off by other affairs which required absolute attention, and was in consequence too late even for Mr. Ince's frank at the Horseguards. — In my letter to dear Sophia I mentioned the circumstance of Captain Stirling having been disappointed in his expectations of receiving the appointment to Swan River. — Captain Pary mentioned it to me early in the morning — but it appears that on receiving his despatch, Stirling brought some other interest to bear, and finally received a promise of it — On his acquainting Pary with the circumstance, and describing me from any obligation on account of my former promise, the latter considered I might stand a good chance by making timely application for the survey I wished to obtain: — and accordingly, by his advice, I sent in the following letter on Service, on Saturday afternoon —

[Copy] "Sir, understanding that is the intention of His Majesty's Government to form a Colonial settlement at Swan River, on the west coast of Australia, — a large portion of which has never been ~~properly~~ thoroughly examined, — I beg to have the honor of renewing my former application to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, / bearing date November 29. 1824 / to be employed in completing the examination of those very interesting parts of the western shores of Australia which were left unexplored by Captain King in 1822. — I beg to suggest the practicability of combining the survey of Swan River with this Service, and to call the attention of their Lordships to the small expense at which both services might be performed by a small vessel of about 200 Tons, while a depot for stores and provisions will exist at the new settlement. — Having been employed as Assistant Surveyor under Captain King, for nearly 6 years, exploring the shores of Australia, and

subsequently in Her ship Lama forming a settlement at Port Jackson in Melville Island, I beg to assure their Lordships of the strong interest I shall feel in fulfilling any instructions they may be pleased to give me on this occasion, and in such a manner as shall be perfectly satisfactory to their Lordships, and beneficial to the a rising colony of so much importance. — I have the honor to be, Sir, &c.
To S. W. Cohen - for Sir J. Adair.

This letter was sent in too late in the day to admit of the subject being taken into consideration, and I therefore can say nothing as to its fate — but thinking Sir Richard ought to be made acquainted with the business, I immediately wrote him the following, franked by Mr. Barrow to Brighton —

(Copy) "Dear Sir Richard, The question of completing a survey of the west and northwestern shores of Australia being again agitated, in consequence of government having determined upon forming a settlement at Swan River, I trust you will sanction my wishing to renew my former application for that appointment, as the most likely means of leading to that promotion. I am so desirous of obtaining — Captain Stirling, who lately visited Swan River in the Suez (28), and reported upon its capabilities as a settlement, is to have the charge of establishing one there, and expects to receive instructions upon the subject in a very few days. — As the River and the adjoining coast require being regularly surveyed, and particularly the anchorage reported by Captain Stirling to exist off the entrance of the River, Captain Parry considers I may stand a very good chance of receiving the appointment, by being the earliest applicant — and by his recommendation I have just sent in a letter of which the accompanying (above) is a copy. — You are aware, my dear Sir, of the anxiety I have always expressed to look into several considerable openings, which were not examined by Captain King, — (from a conviction that at least two of them / one just behind Port Keats, and the other between 15 and 16 degrees of south Latitude) possess sufficient interest to warrant the most sanguine conclusions as to their termination. — Now that a settlement will exist on the west coast, and a vessel of some kind will always be stationed there, this service may be performed in infinitely less time and with much less expense than when Port Jackson was the only place of resort for equipment and provisioning. — On account of a disposition which the French have shown to attempt the colonisation of the same place, it is generally believed that the arrangements will speedily be made, and that Captain Stirling will be ordered off without delay, — which will I trust plead as my apology for begging the favor of you to exert your influence with Sir George Backhouse for bestowing his favorable attention to my letter — as he seems to be the chief acting member of the Board in the question under consideration. — In making this application, I am endeavouring to avoid being appointed as a lieutenant to any ship which may

be ordered on this service, - as such a measure would be taking me from a desirable occupation to repeat the same routine as in the Tamar, and probably with as little advantage, - whereas a separate employment would present a more extensive field for exertion, additional pay of 15/- a day as Surveyor, and would in all probability lead to a result which my most strenuous efforts should not be wanting to obtain. - I will venture to hope, Sir Richard, that your confidence in my endeavours to merit your kind and valued patronage, will never be weakened by any of my actions, and that you will never have cause to regret having extended it to me. - I trust your visit to Brighton has been attended with all the benefit that could be desired to Lady Keats, Miss Hunt, and yourself, and with best respectful regards remain, dear Sir Richard, your most obliged and faithful humble servant W. R.
To Adm. L. R. J. Keats, F. C. B. Brighton."

I have considered it necessary, my dear Father, to give you the whole of this letter, that it may be known what kind of application I have made to the Admiralty. - My former letter to the Admiralty I believe I sent you a copy of, at the time it was written, and you will now see upon what ground my present prospect of active employment stands. - The Government are so very tenacious of entering upon any new expenses, that any object which cannot be attained without it, is almost certain of falling to the ground. - I therefore imagine the affair will be referred to the Colonial Department as before, and that they will return a similar answer - or that I may be ordered out in the vessel appointed to convey the expedition to Swan River, and on the completion of the Survey of that place, be directed to return to England. - It is however of no use speculating on the question, as a few days will probably decide it in one way or the other, unless they are again so uncounteous as not to return me any answer. - I am not very sanguine on the subject, and for many reasons would rather remain a few months longer in England. - Captain Parry has shown himself a warm friend throughout this vacillating business of Swan River, and has in confidence given me every information and advice to forward the object I have in view - but the truth is, they do not know their own minds on the subject, and until something is actually carried into effect, I shall not be able to persuade myself that they have any serious intentions about the matter. - This will go in a parcel which I must make up for tomorrow's coach, to contain Miss Selby's counters and Mr. Butts' money, which the talking and bustle at the Admiralty while closing my last parcel quite made me forget. - I trust my dear Father you have quite got rid of your cold, and that the labours of this day will have been accomplished without your

suffering from similar inconvenience or from fatigue. - The weather has been most
wretched here during the greater part of the day, and prevented my dining with Mr. Baumer
as I had promised - for 4 miles is rather too long a jaunt through mud and rain, with
the same distance to retrace, after enjoying the comforts of a cheerful fireside. - The latter
often recalls to memory those I have left behind me at the Rectory - and I could sincerely
wish circumstances admitted of my repeating my visit, if only for a week or a few days - but
for the present it is quite impracticable. - I am very desirous of completing the
Antislavery sailing Directions, rather than have the credit of them taken from me by another
^{person} building upon the fabric which already makes so great a show - but if I am ordered off to
that country, the task of completing them will not be mine I fear - as Captain Parry
would not allow them to stand in their unfinished state until my return. - I trust
the health of William continues to improve, and am glad to hear such good accounts of him,
as also of Charles, to whom I intend writing as soon as I have time. - It is very gratifying
also to hear that my dear Mother keeps her usual coughs and colds at a distance - and it is
to be hoped the severe attack she had while I was at Newbury, will have been considered
her full allowance for the whole of the winter. - The weather has become very wet here
for the last few days, and has induced me to think several times of changing my lodgings -
but it will be of no use to do so while my movements are so uncertain in other respects,
and I think it better to decide both cases together. - I must now take leave for the
present - and with kindest love to dear Mother, Sophy, Matilda & William, and kind
regards to Miss Farmer and all friends, remain my dear Father

as ever, your very affectionate son
John Septimus Roe.

Having enough linen to fill the little white trunk, I purpose sending it by Holbey's wagon
tomorrow, and avail myself of the opportunity to send you 2 of the Charts they engraved on a reduced
scale at the Admiralty, after receiving them from me in India. - There is one more of Endeavour River,
where Captain Cook the celebrated circumnavigator repaired his ship / which I have not yet been able
to obtain, but will look out for it.