

Admiralty - November 19. 1828.

My dear William

Knowing how anxious you will all be to learn the fate of my letter of Saturday last, I avail myself of the earliest post to say that I have not succeeded in the object in view. Since I commenced writing this, the decision has been made known to me by Sir George Cockburn, in consequence of a letter he received from the Admiral on Monday morning. Sir Rich^d answered my letter by return of post, and writes very kindly as follows, "My dear Sir. I wish to say in as few words as I can / for I am but so, so / that I have received yours of yesterday - and have written by this post to Sir George Cockburn, begging him with all the influence I possess the object you have in view. Lady Keats will scuddle a copy of my letter to Sir George, for your perusal when we meet. I wish with all my heart you may obtain the appointment - for I doubt not in such case that you would discharge the duties of it in a manner that would lead to the ultimate object of your wishes. Say to Captain Parry with my compliments that I am obliged by the service he is endeavouring to render, and am
 Lady Keats sends her compliments. Yours very faithfully R. J. Keats.

The above letter raised my hopes exceedingly, and assured me that if the service I requested to be employed upon was intended at all, that I should be appointed to it. This morning an official letter from the Secretary was

put into my hand announcing the receipt of my letter - and stating
that it had been laid before the Lords of the Admiralty - A few minutes
ago, Sir George Boscawen sent for me, said he had been requested by Sir W. Boscawen
to give me command of the vessel appointed to form the settlement at Swan River,
but that a vessel had been selected for that service which was to be commanded
by a Commander, who was already appointed, and that it was not in the
contemplation of the Admiralty to appoint a second vessel - but that if I was
desirous of being appointed a lieutenant of the ~~appointed~~ ship (Sulphur, bomb)
which had been selected for this service, he would give me a commission for
her - This of course I immediately declined - explained the grounds upon
which I had applied for the appointment, which was under a conviction that
as a survey of Swan River and its neighbourhood had been considered necessary, and as
several very interesting parts of the coast remained unexamined, the Admiralty
would have he ordered a survey of the whole to be made, and would have
given me a vessel of 200 tons or thereabouts, to perform the service - He
replied the Sulphur would probably remain no more than 12 months at
the new settlement, during which time a survey of the river perhaps might
be made, and probably of the anchorage off it - but that no distinct
survey would be ordered by the Admiralty - and nothing in that way would
be done beyond the means proposed by the ship employed - Thus then

terminate, for a time at least, my pursuits on this score - and
shall take a day or 2 to consider of any thing else -

I am in hope your health has materially improved by this time, my
dear William, and am happy to receive such repeated improving accounts
of you. - Mr. Lambert, whom I met yesterday evening in Soho Square, at
the Linnæan Society's meeting, enquired after you - as did Mr. Barnes,
who is improving wonderfully in appearance, as far as rotundity and
ample dimensions are concerned - Mr. L. has proved so lukewarm
in attending to my wishes that he would influence Mr. Barnes
about the appointments I desire, that he will certainly be no
gainer by it. - I shall now look out for fresh quarters to take
up immediately the weather becomes bad - and shall make myself as
comfortable as possible under disappointment - though the latter is not
my quest - on account of the many reasons I have for wishing to
remain a little while longer in England - - Trust dear dear Parents
Sophy, Matilda, & Miss Fanny, &c. are quite well - and with kindest love
to all, in haste to serve my Frank
Yours most affectionately
J. P. Rae -

Mr William Roe