



69201  
The whole of the papers in the case  
of Geo. W. B. Mason are herewith.

Returned to the Department the  
Chapel Stovering

W. W. Mason

Superintendent

28. 8. 85

Presented to the  
General Assembly  
28 Aug 85

to the Court  
of the  
Department  
of the  
Interior  
at  
Washington  
D.C.

69201  
Copy of the  
Mason Papers  
presented to the  
General Assembly  
28 Aug 85

52  
W 4248

Oct-30 Lenc.  
Fri: 3 July

Impo. S. P. Establishment;  
pro. letter (with the papers) from  
Geo. Bateson a prisoner to the  
Hon. W. Toaker J. A. C.

p. 4  
23.7  
W. A. C.

Make press. It can  
scarcely be expected that I can  
read such long communications.

W. A. C.  
5/9/62

Lawson

Read.  
W. A. C.  
14/7/62

W 5763

W<sup>62</sup>/<sub>4248</sub>

The enclosures to the letter  
consist of statements  
addressed by prisoner Geo  
Bateson, (who was convicted  
of a Capital offence) to the  
Hon. Mr. Loade, and Mrs.  
with a view to establishing  
his innocence

The prisoner having  
indulged in gross libels  
on the Chief Justice and  
other Public Functionaries  
the Inspector General refused  
to allow the papers to be  
forwarded to their destination

He now leads them to the  
Hon. the Chief Secretary for  
his perusal in order to  
protect himself against  
the imputation of having  
prevented a prisoner  
making a proper and  
respectful appeal ag<sup>t</sup>  
his conviction

Bateson has been  
allowed every facility  
for demonstrating his  
excellency the Governor

H. H. H.

8.7.62

W 4248

Penal Department

62/246

Inspector General's Office

Melbourne 30 June 1862

Sir,

I have the honor to forward  
for your perusal a letter,  
addressed by George Bateson,  
a prisoner confined at Pentridge  
to the Honorable Mr. Leader; as  
this letter refers to other documents  
written by the prisoner, but  
which I declined to permit to  
be forwarded to their address,  
and as I should be sorry that  
an impression should reach  
the Government to the effect that  
any prisoner had been prevented  
by me from making on reasonable

The Honorable

ground.

The Chief Secretary

grounds a proper and respectful  
appeal against his conviction,  
I have after some consideration  
decided on sending the whole  
of the papers to you that you  
may be aware from my minutes  
on the returned letters, of the  
grounds on which I refused to  
allow them to be transmitted  
to their destination. -

I have only to add that  
Bateson has been allowed  
every facility both personally  
and in writing for communicating  
with his solicitor Mr Wigley  
with a view to the preparation  
of a Memorial to the Executive. -

I have the honor to be

Sr,  
Your obed<sup>t</sup> Servant

W. H. H. H.

Inspector General &c

5616  
Geo. Bates  
1861

Penbridge Stockade, June 7. 1842.

Thomas Leader Esq. M. A. A.  
Sir

Having been a resident in the constituency for which you are Representative in the Legislative Assembly, previous to my falling a victim to circumstances, which have placed me, in this stockade under a sentence of fifteen years, the first three in irons, I have the honor to address you, in your legislative capacity, for the purpose of drawing your attention to my position.

In the most solemn language a created being can use, I do, I always have, & ever must declare, that I am both in fact & in intention, wholly, completely & entirely innocent.

That there has been a crime committed in my case, of a most heinous, shocking & appalling character is indeed most true: probably a greater, has never yet been perpetrated on the earth, save that only which was enacted on Calvary: but, as the Lord God, Omnipotent reigneth — and I dare not call upon that ineffable name, to bear witness to ought but Truth, to avoid my present punishment ten thousand fold intensified — the crime involved in my case has been committed not by me, but against me.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> May, I had the honor to address you on the subject of my case, at very considerable length; this letter contained matter which I believe, is of paramount importance to myself, & of essential consequence to the public safety should be in your possession; In addressing you, I know I have taken the course the Law & the Constitution have provided, for a subject complaining of injustice; I also know that a letter so a member of the Assembly should be held sacred & inviolable; But, this letter, forwarded from hence by the Superintendent of this stockade has been prevented reaching its destination, by the Inspector General: It has been sent back here with a letter addressed by the last named Gentleman to the Superintendent, instructing him to bring me before the District Magistrate in the hope that that gentleman would <sup>mitigate</sup> ~~enlarge~~ my present ~~unmerited~~ punishment; I was, so brought before — Thomas Esq. M. A. A.

present Locum Tenens, for J. Youll, & that worshipping gentleman  
showed unmistakable evidence of a desire to comply with the  
Inspector General's desires, had not the Superintendent interfered &  
suggested a remand: therefore stand remanded, on his charge  
for exercising a Constitutional Privilege, some day, some unknown  
submit, for your consideration, whether, this proceeding, on the  
part of the Inspector General, is not an abuse of power, that the People  
will refuse to confirm.

I received a letter from my solicitor, dated March 29<sup>th</sup> which  
informed me, that Mr. Hon. the Minister of Justice had desired  
a Memorial on my account, to be forwarded to him; I am reason-  
ably believe that this Memorial has not been sent in: & as, from the various  
peculiar circumstances of my case, I am most especially anxious  
that the learned Gentlemen, at present administering that office  
should report to His Excellency upon my case, particularly, as there  
can be no possible doubt, that I have been illegally convicted &  
in a manner, in the highest degree dangerous to the Public Safety, I  
have the honor to request that you will obtain for me, in the event of this  
Memorial not having been received by the Minister of Justice, power  
to memorialize myself, without delay, which I am perfectly competent  
to do.

I have further the honor to request that you will take the  
necessary steps, to enable me to communicate with you, on the subject  
of my case, with freedom from restraint, at any time that it may be  
so: submit also, for your consideration, whether or not, you ought to  
become possessed of my letter to you, of the 16<sup>th</sup> Altho.

I have likewise the honor to request, that in your place in the  
Assembly, you will be pleased to move for the production of a statement  
of my case, addressed to the Inspector General, written nearly twelve  
months since, ~~written~~ for the object of obtaining permission from the Inspector  
General, of the exercise of his privilege, which there can be no doubt is mine  
to memorialize the Representative of my Sovereign: & that you will  
require the Minister of the Crown in whose department it falls, to shew  
cause, why that privilege has been withheld from me:  
I should be glad, also, that in a similar manner, cause be shewn.

Your most Obedient Servant

Wm Pitt

Wm Pitt

Thomas Saa der Esq<sup>r</sup> W. S. A. D. d. d.

Mr Brown

My dear Sir  
I have the honor to be  
informed by Mr. Pitt that  
you have been appointed  
to the office of Secretary  
of the Treasury. I am  
glad to hear of this  
distinction and believe  
it will be a great  
advantage to the  
public. I am, Sir,  
Your most Obedient  
Servant

62437

62/4248

I have read this  
letter which is little  
more than a volume  
of gross abuse on the  
Chief Justice and other  
Public Functionaries.  
I cannot therefore  
permit it to pass to  
its destination.

Let the writer be  
informed that if he  
wishes to address  
a temperate, respectful

The Subt  
Pentridge Statement

of his case he Mr.  
Lauder or to any  
other person he is  
at liberty to do so  
and as his language  
respecting the Chief  
Justice is most  
impudens let him  
be brought before the  
Directing Justice for  
misconduct in  
writing it, and his  
letter be put in  
evidence against  
him

Thompson

28 May 62



566  
Locke  
175/6  
Pentridge Stockade, May 16<sup>th</sup> 1862.  
W 4248  
67 1/2 44  
1862.  
— Leader Esq: M. L. A.  
Sir,  
As representative in the Legislative Assembly, for the constituency wherein I was resident, previous to my conviction on a charge which has resulted in my incarceration in this place, I crave your excuse for the honor of now addressing you. On the 17<sup>th</sup> December 1860, I was tried before this Honor Sir W. Stawell, for the perpetration of an unnatural offence: & knowing myself to be wholly & completely innocent of this most odious charge, both in fact, & in intention: that I was the victim of a conspiracy which I was also aware the evidence would make apparent, & being also aware, that the Law has set up certain barriers for the protection of the subject, which enactments have not been accomplished till experience has shown the necessity for them, I went to trial, resolved, as I was and in that position when "conscience makes a coward of a man," to trust alone to such capacity as Heaven has bestowed upon me, believing that my own language would be more likely to carry conviction of my innocence to the minds of the jury, than the sophistries & plausible lies of Counsel, considering also, that Truth is a powerful bulwark, from which to speak: & thinking the very extravagance of the invention of my enemies would prove my protection; I have in the strongest possible grounds of complaint of the gross outrage upon Justice, exhibited on this trial: & I soon saw that precious bark my hope driven by the tempest of the undug's fury, & that my only expectation of Justice lay in such remedies as the Law & the Constitution have provided after the trial should have terminated: It is therefore for the purpose of placing you in possession of the main incidents of my trial, that I now address you, without troubling you, at present with the facts of the case, as these are fully set forth in a Memorial which I expect is now in the hands of the Hon. the Ministers of Justice.  
Upon being placed in the dock, His Honor seeing that the charge was capital, looking and at me, but at the seat usually occupied by Counsel, in which at the time, but one learned gentleman was sitting, asked if no Counsel was retained: observing the remark, I said it was my intention to defend myself: whereupon His Honor said "Pooh, Pooh! put the prisoner down: send for Mr. Gurner to name a Counsel: whereupon I ventured to say with great respect, if it be your honor's intention to award Counsel I hope you will adjourn the case to enable Counsel to be instructed."

To this most proper & reasonable request the Judge replied, "I want no conversation with you, Sir! Put the prisoner down: & take the next case"; I was shortly after this informed that Mr. Birnie the only Counsel present was appointed by the Court to conduct my defence; on this having had the pleasure of his gentleman's acquaintance, I sent him a pencil note, begging him to obtain an adjournment, for instructions - answer "I'm afraid it will be of no use"; I then said to the Chief Turnkey, in charge of prisoners, "If the Judge persists in forcing an un instructed Counsel upon me, I shall be lost"; To this he replied "I never heard of such a thing: & I think you have nothing to fear, as it is now nearly four o'clock, after which the Court is not likely to take so serious a case as yours" - The case then terminated at 4 1/4 P.M. when I was at once placed in the dock: & fully appreciating the importance of not opposing the Judge, I resolved to suffer the case to proceed till circumstances should arise that would render it obligatory upon me, to enforce my rights; Now, Sir, I wish to draw your attention, first, to the impropriety of the Judge calling on so serious a case, at this advanced hour, when the Jury were fatigued & when, there is no doubt, they had relied upon being dismissed to their homes on the close of the previous case: that I was in this respect, most seriously damaged, need only tell you, that during the defence, I had time to make up the Jury - 30 then showing the strongest appearance of being asleep, one of whom was the foreman; I also wish to draw your attention to the illegal proceeding of the Judge in forcing upon a Prisoner an un instructed Counsel; the Legislature in its beneficence, has given power to the Judge to award Counsel in capital cases to a Prisoner, at the desire of the latter: it is also in accordance with practice for the Judge to desire a Counsel to watch the case, on behalf of a Prisoner: & to address the Jury: but, such a proceeding as this is, as I believe, entirely without precedent; when the chief witness who was a suborned witness, in the pay of the detective police: & whose evidence was invented for him, by his employers, had contradicted his evidence in chief, the Counsel appointed for me by the Crown, asked just 2 most unimportant questions & that was; "Sir, what was about the last for want of the facts being elicited: I said, "Must your Honor will permit me to ask the witness some questions" - To which he replied "If you say one word Sir, your Counsel shall sit down & not say another". To this I said "Then with your Honor's permission I'll take the case into my own hands" on which the Judge rejoined in a most unbecoming & menacing manner "And take the consequences with it" - That I was found guilty, I am sure is alone to be attributed to my feeling it necessary thus to bring out the true facts of the case; - I shall only trouble you with the evidence further than to remark, that it fully established the fact, that 2 detective officers who are themselves men that have been born in crime, nurtured in crime & saturated in crime: & notorious perjurers, make use of a degraded person to bring about the appearance of truth, for the sake of a conviction: & as they

have made themselves accessories to the crime, if there were one: & their  
most infamous colleague, an actual Particeps criminis: beyond whom  
there is no corroboratory testimony whatever, a conviction cannot be had  
as the Law, which experience has shown was necessary for the Public safety  
steps in, says without your testimony added to such as the above, a conviction  
cannot be obtained — a medical man was called whose evidence  
entirely failed to establish one tittle of guilt. I may dispose of by giving  
you this answer to the last question asked him in cross-examination. "If his  
said, "I had not been told that this crime had been committed on the  
person of the witness Gardner, I should not have surmised by any thing  
I could see that it had been". — A "summing up" means a calm, high  
impartial placing before the Jury of the prominent & salient points of the case.  
There was no summing up in this case, the Judge's charge to the Jury was  
the most indecent, violent & outrageous command to the Jury, command  
to ignore the defence: & in every respect, an open violation of the Law. Justified  
by saying, "The prisoner has defended himself with immense ability and  
ingenuity, but my duty is to tell you that, that ability & ingenuity, amount  
to nothing in this place", Had I not the right, Sir? in a situation  
to such poor talents, as I myself possessed to get an any or all the talents  
at the Bar? I think you, Sir, in that case he dared to have used language  
that so applied was murder; His entire charge is in the hands  
of my doctor, who has also in his possession the whole facts of the case  
which if made known are calculated to cast consternation into the  
Public mind: & if this charge be read, it will be found that the words  
were directed diametrically contrary to Law: & whoever sees it will hold  
me excused for saying that the Judge throughout this trial was in such  
a state of mind as completely unfit him to preside on any trial.  
He was as much intoxicated with Fury as if he were drunk with wine.  
His last remark will abundantly prove this assertion. — When he had  
extorted the verdict which an obsequious & servile Jury yielded. He said  
as said in the usual words. "What have you said, &c. — I commenced  
by saying in a most respectful & very subdued tone "I am fully aware  
that any thing I can say now can be of no avail", when the Judge broke in  
with great violence. "Stop here Sir, it shall be worse for you for that."  
"Death recorded — Put the prisoner down". which has been since com-  
mitted to fifteen years, the first time in London: Assure Sir! as there is  
a Judge who sits with a twelve Millionaire, by whom this injured Judge  
will hereafter be condemned, I am guiltless of any crime whatever against  
our earthly laws; Had he asked guidance from above in the administration  
of his great pin, he would not have been abandoned by his God & handed  
over to the dominion of Satan. — I am under no delusion in this matter;  
neither was it a mere error in judgment: It was a wilful determination  
to outrage Justice, after the manner of those Judges — Scroggs, Alibon, &  
Jefferys, all of whom society says are Murderers. —  
Previous to trial I had employed no solicitor, but, shortly after it I sent  
for Mr. Weyley, 83 Swanston St. who without any knowledge, as during the  
3 mos. I was detained in Melbourne after trial, he never could obtain  
access to me, but one memorialized the Governor; His Memorial  
laid 7 mos. in the Attorney Genl's office during Mr. Ireland's administration  
without any report being made on it: This I attribute to the fact that Mr. Ireland  
& the Chief Justice were at issue, & that Mr. Ireland had a choice of

The responsibility, of advising His Excellency wrongfully: & had not moral  
courage to damage his interests in the Chief Justice's Court, by opposing  
his desires; A month after Mr. Aspinall came into office: & at that  
considering or enquiring into the memorial drawn from my instructions,  
I received a letter from the Governor's Secretary informing me that  
the Atty. Gen. had advised His Excellency not to interfere; I have since  
learned from an undoubted source of information that the Hon. Mr. Atty.  
Gen. so advised His Excellency, his own opinion was  
that the conviction was utterly untenable; I expect the present Minister  
of Justice has the memorial under his consideration; but having such  
abundant reason to know both from my own case & others, how useless  
it is to memorialize - without obtaining other influences: & that a  
Memorial to His Excellency, is in effect, merely an appeal from the Judge  
to the Judge, I adopt the course which I know both the Constitution & Customs  
have provided, in the course now taken in addressing yourself -  
I beg leave also, that in your place in the Legislated Assembly, you  
will enquire from either the Chief Secretary or the Ministers of Justice,  
to produce a statement of my case written by me twelve months  
ago, addressed to the Inspector General of the Penal Depart-  
ment, wherein I requested the exercise of the Privilege of memorial-  
izing the representative of my Sovereign: a right which as a  
British subject, I know is mine: & ask him to shew cause  
why the exercise of this right has been withheld from me; in  
consequence of the Inspector General withholding from me  
this right, I have been compelled to employ a solicitor at a very  
heavy expense to perform a service which was perfectly competent to  
myself - this my own knowledge & experience tell me is a violation  
of Justice; I have also to request that at the same time, you will  
call for the production of a letter written by me addressed to  
Robert Horn Esq. forwarded you here by the Superintendent  
& which was intercepted by the Inspector General -  
In the event of my memorial being rejected, it is my desire to be  
enabled to lay the entire facts before the Imperial Privy Council  
to accomplish which I shall require your aid, experience having  
shewn me, that shall not be permitted by the Atty. Gen. & the  
General has shewn, to set forth all that is necessary. With the exception  
of these grounds of complaint, I have every reason to speak in terms  
of gratitude for the consideration I have met with here; & the Super-  
intendent, must ever speak with the highest respect, for the facilities  
he has given me for free communication

Dear Sir,

Legislative Assembly  
Melbourne

With high consideration

Your most Obedient & Humble servant,

W. A. A. S.

G. Bateson

Puttidge October 27th. 1861

Robert Howe Esq

4248

Sir,

Being under an erroneous impression as to the object & address of your enquiries on the occasion of your kind visit to this place: & knowing also, that in my interview it would be impossible to make you comprehend the points of my unhappy case, I crave your excuse for this communication. — As the whole details would be too lengthy to be again gone into, & as ~~these~~ they have already been ~~supplied~~ supplied to Mr. Wigley, 83 Swanston Street, I beg leave to refer you to him, that you may inspect my correspondence & my ~~trials~~ trials & the depositions; I am advised by Mr. W. Thabbe has forwarded an amended Memorial to the Governor, through the Attorney General's Office, drawn from the instructions, ~~of~~ of which, as doubt, he will show you: & that previous to his presenting this Mem<sup>o</sup>; he took the opinion of Counsel Mr. Atkin who pronounced the case a good one for the favorable consideration of the Council; & it be your intention to take any steps in the matter, I beg to suggest that you be in support of the Memorial that has gone in: & although I feel assured, that when you have informed yourself in the ~~case~~ case, your opinion will be that the Executive will reverse the verdict, it may be, that the strength of the advocacy may have as great an effect in accomplishing this object, as the goodness of the cause.

From observations that I had from you, when here, I think it right, that I should disabuse your mind of the cause of Mr. W's being employed by me: — I should have made no movement to set aside the verdict, but, at the instigation of an opinion solicitor, I must inform you, that on the very day after the trial, I made application to be allowed to amend my life; three months afterwards I repeated this application to the Sheriff: & after being sent here, I have thought

implored the Inspector General, to super me to do so -

For corroboration of my statement to yourself in person: & in writing to Mr. Wigley, as to the events of the Trial, they to refer you to Mr. Stoddart, Chief Turnkey of the Central Jail, who was present; I have reason to believe that this Gentleman feels very strongly in the matter: though the delicacy of his own position will doubtless make him diffident, in expressing his feelings to the full extent: if he is approached in the judicious manner, you will doubtless adopt, & he understands the wisdom for the enquiry, he will conform all that I have stated; He is a well educated & intelligent man, knows nothing of me, save as a Prisoner in the Jail & is therefore not likely to give an account partial to me, as his position would produce an opposite tendency; As he heard the entire Trial, he had the same opportunity of forming an opinion, with the Jury; He has great experience in Criminal Trials, having been for some time past always present in charge of Prisoners: in company with all the Penal Authorities, he cannot fail to be aware of the diabolical nature of the men, that were arrayed against me: & if his opinion can be obtained upon the point, I am sure, it will be that had there been no summing up, there would not have been a Verdict of Guilty -

Your remarks showed me, that you had gone for information to Eason, the very foundation stone & concocter of this most wicked plot; He has now the strongest possible inducements to endeavor to keep me here & is sure to use every means, his devilish disposition can devise, to counteract any effort made for my release; for he knows full well, that his own liberty will be, at once imperilled, if I obtain mine.

In my correspondence with Wigley, you will find some of the charges remarks set down: I will furnish another that I think I had contained herein: when the Jury had pronounced the Verdict he had desired them to find the Associate just the usual question What have you to say de. &c. & commenced by replying in a most subdued voice, "I am guilty aware that anything I can say now can have no avail"; upon which his Honor bowed in with

"Stop then Sir, I shall be worse for you for that" - there can be no question that the sentence, he had addressed the Executive to pass in virtue of the high office, with which he had been intrusted, contained a Term of Years, and for the offence of which had been found guilty: but for these few harmless and indispensible words; the grounds of offence were these; I went to trial, with the determination to defend myself: the Judge enforced Counsel upon me, but refused to allow me to call for Counsel to be instructed; I knew that the Act, under which Counsel is provided in Capital charges was framed in beneficence and as a Trap to ensnare an accused person: & that the Legislature in passing such an Act contemplated that Prisoners should have the full benefit of all the learning & legal acumen Counsel could bring to bear: & though I had gone into Court, believing that my own language would carry stronger conviction of my Innocence <sup>to the Jury</sup> than what might appear to them by the plausible titles of Counsel, knowing that I was not in the condition when "Conscience makes a Counselor of a Man": & believing that truth is a Tuler in to speak from, that should carry all before it: I did not then decline Counsel: but when I found Mr. Perrie was about to sit down without submitting the principal witness to any cross examination worthy of the name, I asked the Judge's permission to put some questions: when he desired in a loud & angry voice, Counsel to interpose no further; & to me he said "take the consequences Sir" with great meaning. I am sure the summing up, for Partiality, Misdirection, & injustice, knows <sup>no</sup> parallel since the Reign of the second James when I pray'd discharged the Indigent - went into Court as confidant. The quittal advertisement stepped Bride to the altar certain of becoming a Married Woman, & no words will express my feelings when I saw my defence so authoritatively demolished by the impet of the Judge's Jury.

Remember that when you were here, I expressed my assurance of my Innocence in strong language; I now repeat that with the Sup. of Holy Sacrament of my life or in any position in which I could be placed, during life or after death I must ever say, that both in fact & in intention I am innocent of the charge of which I have been found guilty: & that I am now imprisoned as unjustly as was Joseph for the Nazaron's Wife; & despise temporal suffering more than most men: & none more dread eternal wrath: if I obtain my liberty, I know it would be only to recommence a life of hard struggles & would not be induced to write what I have written or say what I have spoken, were it not done. - I have requested that whatever steps you may take on my behalf, you do not apply for Mitigation of Punishment; I have never done any thing to deserve

116/9

This letter contains your reflections on the impetuosity of the Judge who turned the prisoner, and returned without it to be sent to the ...

John ...

Edward ...

William ...

Madame ...

~~Madame~~

Robert ...

William ...

Madame ...

Printed and sold by the Author at the ...  
53 Great Court Street ...  
The Author has had the pleasure of receiving ...  
The Author has had the pleasure of receiving ...  
The Author has had the pleasure of receiving ...

6/6/64  
W 4248

I have read this  
statement, and I  
cannot see any  
ground on which  
a further memorial  
to His Excellency  
would be of the least  
use, there are no  
new facts disclosed  
and the arguments  
adduced were no  
doubt urged on the

The V. S. P. J. J. J.  
Pentridge

by Butcher during  
the elaborate defence  
which he appears to  
have made.

In regard to the  
statement of the black  
man even supposing  
it to be true which  
is doubtful, it is a  
mere assumption that

Gardner was the  
person referred to by  
him.

31/7/61  
1981 July 30 1861  
Fitzroy & Co  
Fitzroy & Co  
Fitzroy & Co  
Fitzroy & Co

To the Inspector General Geo: Bateson

28-7-61  
61/2804

de. de. de.

Sir,

I have the honor to lay before you a statement of the case, which has placed me in the unhappy condition of a Prisoner under the heaviest sentence known to the Law, with the view of requesting you to grant the privilege of memorializing His Excellency the Governor, & petition that further enquiry be made herein; the circumstances of my case are these;

William Gardner, who had been known to me for two months previous to these alleged occurrences taking place: & for most of that time had been in the habit of seeing me almost daily, as his ostensible object in seeking me, was that I should find him employment in a Boiling down establishment, & was during the whole of this time endeavoring to make arrangements for, met me at half past eleven on the night of Monday November 17<sup>th</sup>, as I was coming out of the Albion Hotel: I was proceeding down Bow Street, having a letter to post in the General Post Office: & intending to proceed to North Melbourne where I was staying by way of Elizabeth Street: We had a glass of ale together at the house of post, when we did not remain beyond the time necessary to drink it: & when I was in the act of bidding him good night, he observed in the sky the reflection of a large fire in a Westerly direction: Gardner at once said Oh! let us go & see where it is: I declined saying "Fires are very deceptive things: I may be a long way off" he urged me very strongly & again said "it is very well for you to see it & go out of my way, when your home lies in that direction": he then said "well come at all events to the top of the Hill; We went & when we arrived at the spot indicated, we saw it was a ship on fire; I was in the night the "Arabia" was burnt; he then proposed We should go on to Batman's Hill: & as a ship on fire is an object of great interest, he acceded; when we arrived upon the Hill, we found it occupied with a great many people; three men entered into conversation with us, with whom we remained until we came away: & who remained there after we left; We stayed upon the Hill much longer

