

Translation of Governor Etoline's Letter to J. McLoughlin  
C.F. H.B.Co. dated

N.W. Coast of America  
New Archangel 1st September 1843<sup>1</sup>

SIR

I had the pleasure to receive your letter of 6th July on the 2nd August by the *Columbia*, which brought our Wheat and other provisions. I agree with you entirely, Sir, in regard to the circumstances which you mention relating to the murder of your son, and I am as much surprised as you, at having received no Instructions from St. Petersburg regarding the prisoner whom Sir George Simpson left here. I expect however to receive by Ochotsk instructions in this affair, from the Directors of the Russian American Company at St. Petersburg, which I will not fail to communicate to you, by first opportunity. In regard to the scoundrel Urbain Heroux, I must inform you he has shewn himself here to be a man of a ferocious disposition, having attempted to murder his keeper, who prevented his escape.

The Wheat brought by the *Columbia* is very dry, but not sufficiently free from dust and other impurities. Some of the Kegs of Butter were found very good, others on the other hand are become so bitter we can hardly use them, and the weight of the Butter was deficient almost 9 lbs. on each Keg.

I consider it my duty to inform you that the late arrival here of the *Columbia*, with the cargo of Wheat, has given me great trouble, as I could not send our Ship, with the wheat, to the other Colonies before August, instead of the middle of the month of June, as used to be usually the case, and I believe they will, in consequence, be some months without bread. I beg of you, Sir, most earnestly, if possible for you, in future to send the Wheat and other provisions always at the date fixed, that is to say the 1st June or about that date, and, if possible, I request to get from you, in 1844, five thousand fanegas of

<sup>1</sup> B. 223/b/30, fos. 33d.-36.



wheat, over and above our annual quantity,—the deficiency in our contract which you did not send us the first year.

I am much disappointed that the *Columbia* could not bring all the Goods brought for us by the *Diamond*. It is true we are not in immediate want of several articles, but the false pearls have remained at Vancouver, and this important article for our Colonies ought to be sent now to the different places, which I could not do as they remain at the *Columbia*. I request of you, Sir, not to alter your intention, and to send us, by the first opportunity by the *Cadboro*, the Remainder of our Goods. In case the *Cadboro* cannot carry the whole, I send you, with this, a list of the articles we require the most. I thank you kindly for your favorable and pleasing information that our cargoes of Goods, sent from England, will not in future be exposed to the danger of being lost, by going in and coming out of the *Columbia*, or other places, in their voyage from Vancouver to Sitka, and are to come here direct from England without touching at the *Columbia*. I write on this subject at present to Sir J. H. Pelly, and have thanked him beforehand for this kind arrangement, by which he will not only confer a favor on the Russian American Company, but also on you, if we consider the limited means you have to send annually to Sitka, at the date fixed, such heavy cargoes of Goods and Provisions, besides the supplies for your own Establishments.

Availing myself of your kind offer, I beg of you, Sir, to order for us, through the Agent of the Honble. H.B.Co. at the Sandwich Islands, 5 or 8 puncheons of good Molasses, also 10 or 20 cwt. of common brown Sugar, as I am entirely of your opinion that in future we can have Molasses from the Sandwich Islands at a cheaper rate, as also the brown Sugar, which, as I have been just informed by Capt. Snow, is cheap at that place. It is for these reasons I request you to send me this quantity for trial.

I forward with this a small order of China, silk Stuffs, and other trifles, which I beg may be got from the Sandwich Islands. As at present the trade to China is open, as abundant a supply of these articles will be found at those Islands as formerly. I request of you also to send us annually, from



Fort Vancouver or some other of your Posts, 30 cwt. Salt Pork, and to increase your supply of Hops to 80 lbs.

As to building at Sitka a vessel for the Honble. H.B.Co., I sincerely wish I could be of use to you and undertake this job, but seeing the impossibility to build such a vessel, as you specify, at this place, I must with regret decline it. Except Scotch fir and Canada Balsam Pine, we have no other kind of wood fit for building; moreover we have no seasoned timber, and our buildings are with timber just from the forest; and we have here no kind of oak or other hard wood. All my other observations, in regard to this affair, I have verbally communicated to Captain Humphreys, with a request to communicate them to you, and hand you the plan of the vessel and specifications. But I offer you, Sir, a small vessel of 70 tons, not new, but yet strong enough and fit to be towed in the Straits by your Steamer. I have requested Capt. Humphreys to examine this vessel, and report you his opinion and if you wish to accept my offer, you can have the vessel for the very moderate sum of about £300 Stg., without anchors or cable,—or you may use her till you build another.

I have just received from St. Petersburg the correspondence between Baron Wrangel and Sir George Simpson, regarding the exchange at this place of Beaver for Otters. It is your opinion this exchange will cease after the two years appointed for the trial, if we cannot deliver our Beaver in advance. I beg leave to inform you, Sir, that nothing would prevent me sending you, even at present, 5000 Beaver for the Otters which we are to receive from you in 1844, as these Beaver will remain here uselessly. But all our furs have been, in the month of May, shipped for Ochotsk, and our Vessels with our Returns of the year, never get here before the middle of September, and sometimes even later. If therefore, for this reason, you could manage so that at that date one of the vessels of the H.H.Bay Co. was here to take these Beaver skins, they could then always be sent to Europe the same year, in the vessel which, it appears to me, sails annually in the month of November from Fort Vancouver; and if this year, according to your promise, you send the *Cadboro* with our Goods, or if she



is already on the way, and that the Captain has orders to receive these Beaver skins, by giving a receipt, he would have time to get to Vancouver before the departure of the vessel for Europe. But to delay the vessel with the wheat and provisions to the middle of September, when we receive the furs, is what I cannot hereafter consent to allow.

The provisions for the H.H.B.Co.'s Steamer *Beaver* have been received from the *Columbia*, and will be stored till applied for. A part of the Otters for the Rent have also been received here,—they will be kept in Bales till the receipt of the remainder.

As you requested, the *Columbia* has received every assistance I could afford, and I can assure you that every diligence has been made by Captain Humphreys to unload his vessel as soon as he could. But I think it is impossible for a merchant vessel of 400 tons, which requires 150 tons ballast, to get clear of this port under 15 or 16 days' labour, and with her own means only, not even in 20.

Sir J. H. Pelly informs me from London that you have been instructed to bake 86 cwt. Biscuit for us. Having received from Captain Humphreys a sample of the Biscuit you bake at Vancouver, I find we can bake similar to it at Sitka, and we do not require such from Vancouver, — but if you can bake Biscuit of the same quality as the sample now sent, I will be happy to take 50 cwt. at 30/- Stg. per cwt.

It is my duty to inform you, according to Instructions sent me from St. Petersburg, that we can no longer receive here from the H.B.Co. any Foxes, Lynxes &c. or any other furs (except Otters). I beg therefore that none be sent.

The 10 cwt. of large Sea horse teeth, which I at present ship, are intended to be sent to Sir J. H. Pelly of London, who will pay the freight on them. I have also given order to send you by the *Columbia* all the furs belonging to you as per agreement, & traded here from Kooloushes (Indians) after the departure of Mr. Douglas, so as you may forward them to Europe this season, the two Invoices are sent with this.

At the request of the Engineer of our Steam Boat Mr. Moore, who having completed his contract, is desirous to



return this year to his native country; I beg as a favor, you would allow Mr. Moore to proceed to Fort Vancouver, so as he might proceed from thence to the United States, with a party of the Hudson's Bay Company's people. In acceding to my request you would oblige me much, and if you do, I beg of you to inform me which is the most convenient way for Mr. Moore to get to Vancouver—on board the *Cadboro* or on board your Steamer, and will the latter be here with the Furs in time for Mr. Moore to get to Vancouver before your party leave for the Rocky Mountains.

The letter you sent me with yours of 8th July for Mr. Manson has been, according to request, forwarded to Stikene, by Indians, immediately after its arrival here, and I now send you Mr. Manson's reply.

I have handed to Capt. Humphreys two drafts, one for the Wheat & Provisions brought by the *Columbia* of £2942. 19. 8 Stg., the other for Freight on Goods by same vessel of £335. 12. 6 Stg., both at 60 days' sight.

I have ordered to be shipped in the *Columbia* a case with 6 of our damaged Chronometers, & I request you to give Instructions they be sent to London to Sir J. H. Pelly, to whom I write on the subject. I beg of you to forward my letters I now send to Sir J. H. Pelly & Sir G. Simpson. I have the honor to be, with profound respect—Sir—Your very hble. St.

A. ETOLINE

Post Capt. of the Im. Russ. Navy—  
Knight.