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W7/29 (1) [written in pencil, different to other text]

Port Arthur

23 August 1855

My dear M^r Walker,

The accompanying Savings Bank Book belonging to William Sibbern [sic] is forwarded to your care for the owner who left it with me when he went to Hobart Town a

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a short time ago.

Sibbern [sic] I hear has got entangled in bad company and is going about the streets in a state of great wretchedness from his intemperance. He had a gold watch which I fear has been disposed of to meet his wants.

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Perhaps he may come in your way, if so a little counsel under his present circumstances might possibly go far towards arresting his downward course. For many years he has been employed as a writer in my offices and I therefore feel an

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interest in his welfare.

I sent up ^{my} own & familys' [sic] Bank Books some days ago for the purpose of having the interest entered. Will you kindly cause these to be returned by M^r. Clifford of the Penitentiary when he calls.

In these troublous [sic] times when so many have conspired to do

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W7/29 (2) [written in pencil, different to other text]

do myself and others serious injury, I naturally look about me for friendly sympathy, and such I am sure you have always extended to those who have sought it. Let me briefly assure you that all the charges brought against me are utterly false

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false as regards anything whatever of a dishonest or dishonourable nature.

The Regulations permitted me as well all other Officers of the Department to employ convict labor [sic] and like many others I did so, paying the accounts

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accounts required.

With respect to the engrossing case the about the stone, all that I can say is that, Captain Hamilton Mr. May & Mr. Hampton had stone ornaments cut here for which they paid _ I most fortunately have no

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no interest whatever in the private houses, for which the stone was used, and the censure passed upon me by The Executive for not stopping the stone cutting whereas a general order in reference to Mechanics of any sort not being employed for private

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[written in pencil, different to other text] W7/29 (3)

[at the head of this page, in different print and ink]

Ja^s Boyd

23/8 Mo 1855

[in same text and ink as rest of document]

purposes was simply for obliging others by getting their work finished. This I admitted to be wrong and I was blamed accordingly by the Governor. There the subject was, in justice, concluded and such I am sure must be the opinion of every unprejudiced

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person. I beg that you will excuse me for taking up your time on a subject so deeply affecting myself & children, but there are few, very few indeed, to whom I can write to on so unpleasant a

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topic.

M^{rs}. Boyd unites with me in kind remembrance to M^{rs}. Walker yourself & family whom we trust are all enjoying the blessing of good health.

Believe me

My dear M^r. Walker

Yours very sincerely

J Boyd

[*Transcribers note

The date appears under the signature, and is underlined. This endorsement is in the same form found on the right hand margins of the two earlier Maria Is letters (W7/27 & W7/28). This endorsement on page 9 of W7/29, does not seem to fall squarely within the margins of the photocopied page provided: but it is important. The endorsement clearly relates to the letter, and accurately dates it to 23 August, 1855. The year 1855 for this letter is verified by the speculative private house building venture to which it refers. Led by Comptroller General of the Convict Dept, Dr. Hampton, Commandant Boyd supplied cut stone from Port Arthur, Superintendent May of the Penitentiary Barracks supplied convict labour, and Captain Hamilton, Commanding Royal Engineer, supplied bricks.]