

The Franklin Family papers contain several letters written by Sir John concerning his duties and the problems he faced, but much of the collection concerns the Gell-Franklin dispute over Sir John's will. The correspondence of R. C. Gunn contains about 30 letters from Lady Jane Franklin and 5 from Sir John during the time that he was their private secretary. The letters discuss travel arrangements and document Lady Franklin's interest in political affairs, particularly the plight of female convicts, as well as the interest she shared with Gunn in natural history.

Transportation is the predominant theme in the papers of Henry Chapman who had a short career as Colonial Secretary under Sir William Denison. They include letters relating to the extension of Denison's term of office, general correspondence on the administration of the Colony and several memoranda summarizing the events which led to Chapman's dismissal in 1853.

Two further collections, those of Thomas Arnold and T. B. Collinson, offer descriptions of Hobart Town and its inhabitants at the time. Arnold records his first impressions on taking up his appointment as inspector of schools in Tasmania: The Governor he says 'is rather short, but strongly built, and with the solid compact brow, and intelligent but unimaginative eye, which you see so often in men of science. He has a straight forward decisive manner of delivering himself which I like. . . He is brave and truth telling'. Bichens, the Colonial Secretary 'is an immensely fat jolly looking old man, rather a bon vivant I believe, but with literary tastes. . .'

Later in a letter to Collinson he describes a tour Governor Denison took around the island which so greatly increased his popularity that a demonstration of loyalty was arranged by the inhabitants of Hobart on his return:

On the evening of the day that this took place a demonstration of the 'native youths' and others took place, against transportation. There was a great bon-fire on Knock lofty, and Lord Grey was burnt in effigy. Certain parties unknown burnt Sir William in effigy also, though this had not been intended by those who had got up the demonstration. Mr Knight the barrister, whom you may recollect, was present as a spectator during the affair, taking no other part in it than to join in the cheers for the Queen, Sir William Molesworth and Mr Gregson; which perhaps he had better not have done. A few days after he was rather needlessly I think, officially called to account for his having been present at the meeting: and after a long interview with the Governor, he sent in his resignation . . . in a thundering letter which I dare say will be published.