

NOBBY'S ISLAND.

Laid upon the Council Table by THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, and Ordered by the Council to be Printed, 18th July, 1854.

RETURN to an Address from the Legislative Council of New South Wales, dated 14th June, 1854, praying that His Excellency the Governor General would be pleased to cause to be laid upon the Table:—

“ A Copy of any Petition presented to the Colonial Government
 “ against the destruction of Nobby's Island, at the entrance to
 “ the Harbour of Newcastle, preparatory to erecting a Light
 “ House upon it; and of all Correspondence which may have
 “ taken place between the Government and the Petitioners, or
 “ any other parties, upon the subject.”

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No. 1.

COPY OF A LETTER *from* THE COLONIAL SECRETARY *to* THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE
BREAKWATER, NEWCASTLE.

No. 53-20.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 31st January, 1853.

SIR,

It being proposed in the Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Newcastle Light House, of which I enclose a copy, that Nobby's Island be cut down to the level of sixty-five feet above the high tide mark, leaving or erecting as may be found desirable, a parapet of six feet high round the edge of the rock to protect the dwelling and the base of the Light House from the effects of the wind, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor General to request that you will have the goodness to favor me with your report on this proposal, stating particularly how far a compliance with it would interfere with the work at present in hand.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. ELYARD, JUN.,
For the Colonial Secretary.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE BREAKWATER,
NEWCASTLE.

No. 2.

COPY OF A LETTER *from* THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE BREAKWATER, NEWCASTLE, *to*
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Breakwater, Newcastle,
3rd February, 1853.

SIR,

I have had the honor to receive your letter, No. 53-20, dated 31st ultimo, accompanying a Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council, proposing that Nobby's Island be cut down to the level of 65 feet above the high tide mark, leaving or erecting as may be found desirable, a parapet of 6 feet high to protect the dwelling and the base of the Light House from the effects of the wind; and requiring by direction of His Excellency the Governor General my report, particularly as to how far a compliance with it would interfere with the work at present in hand.

2. I beg in reply to state that, on the arrival here of the 60 additional prisoners daily expected from Cockatoo Island, about 30 men could be spared for the purpose of cutting down Nobby's Island without materially interfering with the works at present in hand, but in this case an additional free overseer would be absolutely necessary to superintend the detached party, and their dinners must either be sent ready cooked from the Gaol, or a cooking place be established on Nobby's, the distance from thence to the Gaol being too great for the men to return to their dinners without much loss of time.

3. I have this day visited Nobby's, and to the best of my belief it would occupy 30 prisoners for nearly three years to cut it down to the height proposed, and therefore I would beg to suggest (as the erection of the Light House as speedily as possible is considered of great importance) that the whole strength of this establishment should be employed on this work, with the exception of a few men to be continued in facing the wharf, and removing ballast, the party at Nobby's being at all times available to fill up any *material* breaches which might from time to time be caused in the Breakwater. Indeed much of the stone, &c., on Nobby's might be removed with great facility and advantage to the Breakwater, there being a tramroad already and the distance short.

4. There is a building on Nobby's which would answer the purpose of a cook-house, and there is also a mess-shed; all therefore that would be required would be a couple of boilers, those at the Gaol being required for cooking the breakfast.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. M'PHERSON,
Visiting Magistrate and Superintendent.

THE HONORABLE
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 3.

SIR,

I have the honor, by direction of His Excellency the Governor General, to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Visiting Magistrate and Superintendent of the Breakwater at Newcastle, reporting upon the amount of labour required in performing the proposed work of cutting down Nobby's Island to the level of sixty five feet above the high-water mark, with a view to the erection thereon of a Light House and dwelling, in accordance with the recommendations of a Select Committee of the Legislative Council, and to request that, conjointly with Mr. Mann (the Civil Engineer), you will be good enough to take an early opportunity of proceeding to Newcastle to examine the work proposed to be done, and to report whether it might not be considerably expedited by blasting the rock in order to reduce it to the proper level.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. ELYARD, JUN.,
For the Colonial Secretary.LIEUT.-COLONEL BARNEY,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 4.

SIMILAR LETTER ADDRESSED TO MR. G. K. MANN, CIVIL ENGINEER.

No. 5.

COPY OF A LETTER from LIEUTENANT COLONEL BARNEY, AND GOTHER K. MANN, ESQ.,
to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Sydney, 4th March, 1853.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 28th ultimo, with copy of letter from the Visiting Magistrate and Superintendent of the Breakwater at Newcastle, reporting upon the amount of labour required in performing the proposed work of cutting down Nobby's Island to the level of 65 feet above high-water mark, with a view to the erection thereon of a Light House, in accordance with the recommendation of a Select Committee of the Legislative Council, and requesting us to take an early opportunity of proceeding to Newcastle, to examine the work proposed to be done, and to report whether it might not be considerably expedited by blasting the rock in order to reduce it to the proper level,—we have the honor to state, that with the knowledge we possess of what is required to be done at Nobby's Island, we have no hesitation in expressing our opinion that the work may be most materially expedited by the application of gunpowder; and should it meet the approval of His Excellency the Governor General, we are prepared to proceed to Newcastle, to make the necessary survey and sections of Nobby's, as will enable us to report fully on the proposed work of cutting it down to the level required for the Light House.

We have, &c.,

(Signed)

{ GEO. BARNEY,
G K. MANN.THE HONORABLE
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 6.

COPY OF A LETTER from THE COLONIAL SECRETARY to LIEUTENANT COLONEL BARNEY
AND G. K. MANN, ESQ.

(No. 53-211.)

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney,
10th March, 1853

GENTLEMEN,

In reply to your letter of the 14th instant, on the subject of the proposed reduction of Nobby's Island, I am directed by the Governor General to express to you His
thanks

thanks for the readiness with which you have undertaken to make the necessary enquiries and report; and to inform you, that His Excellency is of opinion that it is desirable you should proceed to Newcastle for the purpose of making the required examinations, at as early an opportunity as can be arranged, without interfering with your other duties.

I have, &c,

(Signed)

W. ELYARD, Jun.,

For the Colonial Secretary.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL BARNEY,
GOTHER K. MANN, Esq.

No. 7.

COPY OF A LETTER from LIEUTENANT COLONEL BARNEY AND GOTHER K. MANN, Esq.,
to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Sydney, 18th April, 1853.

SIR,

We have the honor to report, for the information of His Excellency the Governor General, that we have proceeded to Newcastle, and made the necessary preliminary survey and measurement of Nobby's Island, for the purpose of carrying out the instructions contained in your letter of 10th March, No. 53-211.

2. The plans and calculations are in a forward state, and will be submitted for His Excellency's information when completed.

3. Parties of prisoners are now engaged driving the galleries; and as accuracy in this portion of the work is indispensable, we will be careful to devote to it the necessary supervision.

4. We have to request that the sum of Fifty Pounds, to be accounted for, may be £50. placed to our credit, for the purpose of procuring wires, and such apparatus as may be requisite, and which the Civil Engineer proposes preparing, as far as practicable, on Cockatoo Island.

We have, &c.,

(Signed)

{ GEO. BARNEY,
{ GOTHER K. MANN.

THE HONORABLE
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 8.

COPY OF A LETTER from THE COLONIAL SECRETARY to LIEUTENANT COLONEL BARNEY
AND GOTHER K. MANN, Esq.

(No 53-409.)

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 23rd April, 1853.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to inform you that, in compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 18th instant, the Honorable the Auditor General has been instructed to prepare a Warrant for the advance to you of Fifty Pounds, to enable you to £50. procure such apparatus as may be requisite in preparing Nobby's Island as the site of a Light House.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

W. ELYARD, Jun.,

For the Colonial Secretary

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL BARNEY,
GOTHER K. MANN, Esq.

No. 9.

COPY OF A LETTER from LIEUTENANT COLONEL BARNEY AND GOTHER K. MANN, Esq.,
to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Sydney, 14th May, 1853.

SIR,

Referring to our letter of the 18th April last, we do ourselves the honor to transmit, for the information of His Excellency the Governor General, an Estimate of the £1,002 11 6 amount requisite to cover the Mining operations in progress for the demolition of Nobby's Island, Newcastle Harbour, a sketch of which is enclosed.

*Demolition of Nobby's Island
Estimate of £1,002 11 6
with sketch of Nobby's Island
Colonial Secy
14 May 1853*

*

2. Anticipating no unforeseen difficulties or delays in arriving at the general estimate, we calculate the period at four months, in which this important work may be completed.

3. The item £11 10s., is inserted, for the purpose of procuring the services of some steady men, whom it will be advisable to employ whilst charging the Mines, and in the Laboratory.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) { GEO. BARNEY,
{ GOTHER K. MANN, C.B.

THE HONORABLE
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.
&c., &c., &c.

[Enclosure in No. 9.]

Encl. in No. 9. ESTIMATE of the probable Cost for Material, &c., required in the Mining operations for the demolition of Nobby Island.

		£	s.	d.
17 Tons of Blasting Powder,	@ £45 00 Ton...	765	0	0
10 lbs. of Fine ditto,	@ 2s. 00 lb	1	0	0
150 Yards of Bickford's Fusee,	@ 3d. 00 Yard ..	1	17	6
50 lbs. Sulphuric Acid,	@ 1s. 00 lb	2	10	0
2 Cwt. Sulphate of Copper,	@ 6d. 00 lb	5	12	0
10 lbs. Quicksilver,	@ 2s. 6d. 00 lb .	1	5	0
2 Gallons Spirits of Wine,	@ 10s. 00 Gallon	1	0	0
500 lbs. Copper Wire, No.	@ 1s. 00 lb	25	0	0
25 lbs. Bees' Wax,	@ 2s. 6d. 00 lb .	3	2	6
10 lbs. Common Sealing Wax,	@ 6d. 00 lb	0	5	0
50 lbs. best Tallow,	@ 4d. 00 lb	0	16	8
2 Cwt. Vegetable Pitch,	@ 28s. 00 Cwt. .	4	16	0
56 lbs. Resin,	@ 28s. 00 Cwt. .	0	14	0
20 lbs. Common Tape,	@ 1s. 00 lb	1	0	0
700 Yards common Canvas or Calico,	@ 3d. 00 Yard ..	8	15	0
25 lbs. Twine,	@ 6d. 00 lb	0	12	6
25 lbs. Stout Thread,	@ 6d. 00 lb	0	12	6
¼ oz. Platinum Wire		1	0	0
To provide additional Galvanic Battery		25	0	0
Conveyance of Powder Stores, Passages, &c.		50	0	0

Wages for Assistant Labor.

2 Non-commissioned Officers, 10 days, at 2s.					
per diem	£2	0	0		
4 Privates,	at 1s. per diem ...	2	0	0	
Incidental Expenses for same 2s. 6d. do. ...		7	10	0	
			11	10	0
			911	8	8
Contingencies, one-tenth		91	2	10	

Civil Engineer's Office,
Sydney, 14th May, 1853.

£1,002 11 6

No. 10.

COPY OF A LETTER from THE COLONIAL SECRETARY to LIEUTENANT-COLONEL BARNEY AND GOTHER K. MANN, ESQUIRE.

No. 53-993.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 5th October, 1853.

GENTLEMEN,

£1,000

With reference to your letter of the 14th May last, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor General to inform you; that a sum of One thousand pounds has been voted on the Supplementary Estimates, to meet the expense of the Mining operations in progress at Nobby's Island, preparatory to the erection of a Light House in that locality.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) W. ELYARD,

For the Colonial Secretary.

LIEUT.-COLONEL BARNEY,
GOTHER K. MANN, ESQ.

No. 53-1267.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 17th December, 1853.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor, by the direction of His Excellency the Governor General, to request that you will have the goodness to favor me, at your early convenience, with your Report as to the progress of the work on the Nobby Rock at Newcastle, in preparation for the Light House.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) W. BLYARD,

For the Colonial Secretary.

LIEUT.-COLONEL BARNEY,
GOTHER K. MANN, Esq.

No. 12.

COPY OF A LETTER from LIEUTENANT-COLONEL BARNEY AND GOTHER K. MANN, ESQUIRE, to THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Sydney, 30th December, 1853.

SIR,

In attention to your letter No. 53-1267, we do ourselves the honor to report, for the information of His Excellency the Governor General, the progress that has been made in the operations at the Nobby Rock at Newcastle.

2. It being necessary to lodge charges at the points A. B. C. and subsequently, probably, at D., as indicated on the accompanying tracing, galleries have been driven in from the face of the rock at No. 1 to a distance of 77 feet, and at No. 2 to a distance of 79 feet.

3. The rock, as the drift or gallery proceeded inwards from the face, has proportionally increased in density and hardness, which circumstance, combined with the inexperience of the prisoners employed as miners, has retarded this part of the operations.

4. The portions colored red in the plan indicate the extent to which the galleries have been completed; that colored yellow what remains to be done.

5. Some difficulty at first was experienced in obtaining the requisite length of wire, and some small but necessary material for the voltaic arrangements, but these have all been procured, and the Battery and its appurtenances can now be at once completed.

6. We are informed that there is a sufficient supply of blasting powder in charge of the Colonial Storekeeper, to supply the demand for the operations in question.

7. We therefore recommend that Major Macpherson should be instructed to expedite the work at the galleries by every available means in his power, and that additional labor, if requisite, should be supplied to him expressly for this purpose.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) { GEO BARNBY.
 { GOTHER K. MANN.

THE HONORABLE

• THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
 &c., &c., &c.

No. 13.

COPY OF A LETTER from THE COLONIAL SECRETARY to THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE BREAKWATER STOCKADE, NEWCASTLE.

(No. 54-9.)

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 10th January, 1854.*

SIR,

I am directed to inform you, that His Excellency the Governor General considers it desirable that the operations in progress at the Nobby Rock should be completed

completed with as little delay as possible; I have therefore the honor to request that you will cause the works at the Galleries to be expedited by every means in your power.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. ELYARD,
For the Colonial Secretary.

THE SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE BREAKWATER STOCKADE,
NEWCASTLE.

No. 14.

COPY OF A LETTER *from* THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, *to* LIEUT. COLONEL BARNEY
AND GOTHER K. MANN, ESQ.

(No. 54-34.)

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 10th January, 1854.

GENTLEMEN,

I am directed by the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, reporting the progress that has been made in the operations at the Nobby Rock, at Newcastle, and to inform you, with reference to the sixth paragraph, that you will be supplied with a sufficient quantity of blasting powder, on your making requisition for it in the usual manner to the Colonial Storekeeper.

2. With respect to the recommendation contained in the concluding paragraph of your communication, I am directed by His Excellency to acquaint you that the Superintendent of the Breakwater Stockade, has been instructed to expedite the work at the Galleries by every available means.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. ELYARD,
For the Colonial Secretary.

LIEUT. COLONEL BARNEY, AND
GOTHER K. MANN, ESQ.

No. 15.

COPY OF A MEMORIAL *from* THE INHABITANTS OF NEWCASTLE, AND OTHERS, *to* HIS
EXCELLENCY, SIR CHARLES A. FITZ ROY.
TO HIS EXCELLENCY, SIR CHARLES A. FITZ ROY, GOVERNOR GENERAL
OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES, &c., &c., &c.

The Memorial of the undersigned Inhabitants of Newcastle, and others concerned
in the preservation of the Port of Newcastle,

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That the Port and Harbour of Newcastle is indicated to Shipmasters arriving at it, by a remarkable Promontory (formerly an Island,) called Nobby's, which is of the most important service in sheltering vessels entering with southerly gales; and further is a most eligible position for a Light House.

That your Memorialists have been informed that it is intended to destroy the said Promontory by means of Gunpowder, and two chambers are already excavated in it for that purpose.

That your Memorialists believe that there is danger of obstructing the entrance to the Port, (the channel being already exceedingly narrow), by the destruction of said Promontory.

Your Memorialists therefore humbly request, Your Excellency will cause enquiry to be made in the premises, in order that the Promontory may be preserved for the purposes of shelter, and of erecting a Light House thereon.

And your Memorialists as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Newcastle,

22nd November, 1853.

Here follow 49 Signatures.

No. 16.

COPY OF A LETTER *from* THE COLONIAL SECRETARY *to* LIEUT. COLONEL BARNEY.
(No. 53-1256.)

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 16th December, 1853.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward to you the accompanying Memorial from certain Inhabitants of Newcastle, and others concerned in the preservation of that Port, praying that Nobby's Promontory may be preserved for the purposes of shelter, and of erecting a Light House thereon; and to request the favor of your Report for the information of His Excellency the Governor General.

22nd Nov.,
1853.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. ELYARD,
(For The Colonial Secretary.)

LIEUT. COLONEL BARNEY, R.E.

No. 17.

COPY OF A LETTER *from* LIEUT. COLONEL BARNEY *to* THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Sydney, 19th December, 1853.

SIR,

In returning the Memorial of certain Inhabitants of Newcastle, praying that Nobby's may be preserved for the purposes of shelter and of erecting a Light House thereon, and in reference to your letter of the 16th instant; I have the honor to state, it seems to me, that the Memorialists apprehend the entire removal of Nobby's, whereas it is only proposed to cut it down to 60 feet above high water mark.

It is evident that the Memorialists are under a misconception as to the nature and result of the work in progress, which will neither have the effect of destroying the shelter now afforded to vessels entering the Port during southerly gales, nor of obstructing the entrance, as feared by the Memorialists.

With reference to the erection of a Light House on Nobby's, 60 feet above high water mark is considered the most advantageous height for the base of the Light House, the erection of which has already been authorised.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEORGE BARNEY.

THE HONORABLE
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 18.

COPY OF A LETTER *from* THE COLONIAL SECRETARY *to* JOHN BINGLE, ESQ., AND
OTHER INHABITANTS OF NEWCASTLE.

(No. 53-1338.)

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 31st December, 1853.

GENTLEMEN,

With reference to my letter of the 16th instant, I am now directed by the Governor General to inform you, that under a Report obtained from Colonel Barney on the subject, it appears to His Excellency that you are under a misconception as to the nature or results of the work in progress for reducing the height of Nobby's Promontory, and which will neither have the effect of destroying the shelter now afforded to vessels entering the Port during southerly gales, nor of obstructing the entrance, as is feared by you.

2. The entire removal of Nobby's is not intended by the Government, as seems to be apprehended by you; it is only proposed to cut it down to 60 feet above high water mark, a height which is considered most advantageous for the base of a Light House, proposed to be erected thereon.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. ELYARD,
(For the Colonial Secretary.)

JOHN BINGLE, ESQ., J.P., AND
THE INHABITANTS SIGNING THE MEMORIAL,
NEWCASTLE.