

Sir Alexander Johnston an Wilhelm von Humboldt, 08.10.1830

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Bülow, Gabriele von Bülow, Heinrich von Farquhar, Sir Robert Townsend Farquhar, Sir Thomas Harvie Froberville, Barthélémy Huet, Chevalier de Jeffreys, Rev. John Metcalfe, Keturah (Witwe des Rev. John Jeffreys) Froberville, Barthelemy Huet, Chevalier de: Dictionnaire Français et Madecasse (Port Louis, Mauritius: 1816)

[153r]

19 Great Cumberland Place
8 October 1830

My dear Baron.

I had the pleasure of writing to you **yesterday** & enclosing to you the copy of a letter which I had received from **the widow** of **the Madagascar Missionary** relative to the papers in her possession upon the subject of her husbands inquiries into the Madagascar language.

I have been this morning engaged with the late **Sir Robert Farquhar**^[a] **executor** in looking over some of his papers relative to **Madagascar**. Amongst others I saw in manuscript [153v] – a dictionary in seven volumes folio which was compiled some years ago by a **frenchman** **french gentleman** at the **Isle of France** from whom I believe the late **Sir Robert Farquhar** at that time Governor of **the Island** purchased it. I know that **Sir Robert** thought this a most valuable <work> & often spoke to me upon the subject. I told **his brother** who is his executor that I wished to give you the full advantage of any information which you can derive from the work. he told me he would give you any facility you might require for making such use of its contents as you might wish. [154r] You must therefore write & let me soon hear how I can be of any use to you in the business. It appears to me to give the french & **Madagascar** words in Roman character in two colums *[sic]* opposite each other. it gives you also, throughout the words which are used both by the inhabitants in the North & by those in the South of the Island of **Madagascar** & therefore may throw much light upon the object of your inquiries. **Sir Robert Farquhar** had an immense

a) [Editor] Sir Robert Townsend Farquhar (1776–1830), britischer Generalgouverneur der Maskarenen (mit Sitz auf Mauritius) von 1810 bis 1823. [FZ]

collection of papers relative to **Madagascar** & I will with pleasure ask **his brother** for any [154v] information you may be anxious to procure from them.

Believe me,

My dear Baron

Most truly yours

Alex. Johnston

The **Baron** & the **Baroness Bulow** are returned again from **Brighton** to Great Cumberland Place. They are quite well & I hope to have the pleasure of seeing them tomorrow.