

ADM 1 / 4229
Bathurst to Baines

20 May 1814 (continued)

inseparable from commitments of such a description. If however any individuals Negroes shall in the course of your operations join you or give you assistance and if you have reason to believe that they would in consequence be exposed to the vengeance of their masters after your retreat you are at liberty on their earnest desire to take them away with you and you are authorized, if they are willing to enlist, to enlist them in any of the Black Corps; but if they evince no such disposition, you will consign them to the care of the Admiral commanding who has received instructions as to their disposal. But you must distinctly understand that you are in no case to take Slaves away as Slaves, but as free persons not subject to any restrictions incompatible with the State of Free persons.

I have the honor to be
etc etc etc

/signed/ Bathurst.