

[W. L. Macrae to William D. Scott. Original]

1876
2214
1304 Johnson Street,
Victoria, B. C.,
Victoria, 7 March 1881, 1881.

Dear Sir,

Eight a year ago I was one of a delegation of Douglass and others interested in the moral and social reform of the Isle, that met in the Government here, respectfully but earnestly urging that the prisoners under which the East Indians in this Province are suffering, be removed, by permission to limited numbers the wives and families of those now resident here, coming into the country. A few days after this I was referred through your office here, that there is absolutely nothing in the absolute laws to prevent the women and their children from coming here, and the reason why these are kept in this state is that the men have not been allowed to request their admission.

When I communicated this fact to the Hon. Secy of the Interior, he promptly said, "It is not true, the Government is well advised in saying that, for even if our wives were able to obtain transportation they would not likely be allowed to land, and even if all probability be turned out as was done on a former occasion."

A few days after this, however, a few of the more respectable men made application through me for the admission of their wives, among them Jamnasingh, a trusted and highly respected merchant in the Victoria West community. All was done according to the best of my ability that is in now a much better citizen than any other who was in this city. Today I am informed through the Immigration office here that Jamnasingh's application cannot be further considered. Why I do not dare, unless it be that on the ship on which Jamnasingh

W. L. Macrae
1881

IDENTIFIER

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ARTIST

Scott, William D., 1861-1925