S't. Discovery

Lyttelton, Dec 8

Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter of Dec 6th. containing an inquiry by His Worship the Mayor of Christchurch as to when it would be most convenient for us to receive the sheep so generously for us by the people of Canterbury, I beg you to inform you that we must be prepared to receive them on Dec 18th. Should we not be ready by that date, we can no doubt make suitable arrangements for their temporary disposal in the port.

I take this opportunity of thanking you for your kind offer and I will convey it to His Worship and to the subscribers. In the name of the Royal Geographic Society of London for their generous gift, the presidency and I feel assured that their offer will be gratefully received when they receive my report of the practical sympathy which has been shown.
Extended by the Colony to the undertakers for which they are responsible.

I only regret that I was not aware of such a kind intention before leaving England where more suitable arrangements could have been made to benefit by it.

As however I have been informed that the Canterbury people are still desirous of helping the expedition in this manner, I have taken the liberty of recommending to Mr. President that our relief ship shall be better prepared in which case we shall be in the discovery with that count forward to again benefit by their kindness when we meet our relief in the far south.

I have the honor to be

Sdr.

Your obedient servant

H.R. Smith Esq.

Town Clerk

Christchurch.

Captain