He asks his correspondent to provide the fleet with a few masts and rafts, “please be kind to tow them across to the headland as soon as all ships have sailed out of harbour. We will have to think about getting some seamen to replace the missing ones and hiring new crew members.”

Jean II d’Estrées was a Marshal of France (1681), and an important naval commander of Louis XIV. His aunt was Gabrielle d’Estrées, lover of King Henry IV of France. He joined the navy in 1668, and took part in the campaigns in the Caribbean, and the Franco-Dutch War; he served as the Vice Roy of the New France in 1681-1687.

A letter of D’Estrees also written on board the “Sceptre” (25 July 1692) is included in the “Inventaire des dessins et estampes relatifs au Département de l’Aisne” of the National Library of France (Catalogue by E. Fleury, Paris, 1887, p. 127, # 2077).

$975USD

72. [NORFOLK ISLAND]
NOBBS, George Hunn, Pastor (1799-1884)

[Autograph Letter Signed, ‘George H. Nobbs,’ to the Right Reverend Christopher Wordsworth, Bishop of Lincoln, asking for an Annotated Copy of the Scriptures “for the Use of the Congregation, and as an Heir-loom for the Descendants of the Community”, Explaining that they are Converting a Former Convict Store into a Church, and Describing the Origin of the Community on Pitcairn Island].

Norfolk Island, South Pacific Ocean, 30 December 1874. Large Octavo (ca. 25x20 cm). 2 pp., with an integral blank leaf. Brown ink on watermarked laid paper. Legible handwriting, but with some moderate water damage probably incurred in the mails, one edge ragged, other minor defects. Overall a good letter.

A great letter and an important Norfolk Island relic, despite the water staining. George Hunn Nobbs, the pastor of the descendants of the HMS Bounty mutineers, by that time for over forty years, is writing to his superior, the Bishop of Lincoln, with the latest news from his “isolated, but happy home.” He asks His Lordship to grant the community with a copy of the Bible and proceeds: “The people I represent are the descendants of the Mutineers of H.M.S. Bounty - and formerly dwelling on Pitcairn Island, but now, by favour of our Gracious Queen, and philanthropy of influential Friends in England, in possession of the large portion of Norfolk Island.” He also refers to the Melanesian Mission, with whom the island was shared in an uneasy partnership, and describes the destruction of the old church in a cyclone, and the whaling boats being washed away by a tidal wave, but “we are now recovering from this elemental war, & hope to have our new Church ready for public Worship by Easter next. The consecration must, of course, be deferred until a Successor to our honoured and beloved Friend Bishop Patterson is appointed...” He expresses his readiness to provide further information about the community, “should Your Lordship be desirous”, and additionally asks for the bishop’s “autograph on the “Fly Leaf” with a word or two of paternal salutation to the community.”

George Hunn Nobbs arrived on Pitcairn Island in 1828 and became the schoolmaster and an unordained pastor to a community descended from HMS Bounty mutineers and Tahitian islanders. On 18 October 1829 Nobbs married Sarah Christian, the granddaughter of Fletcher Christian, who had let the mutiny. In 1852 he was ordained in London and commissioned as Chaplain of Pitcairn Island. In 1856 the community moved to Norfolk Island, a Crown Colony previously occupied by convict prisoners.

$1850USD

73. [NORTH AMERICA]

[Puzzle Map Titled:] Amerique du Nord.

Paris: M.D. Editeur, ca. 1890. Colour lithographed map mounted on wood ca. 32x42,5 cm (12 ½ x 17 in) and dissected into 48 puzzle pieces. Puzzle pieces backed with blue paper. A few spot of soiling but overall the map puzzle is in very good condition.