No 1

Wed. 23. 1788. Wilderness — all here well & I hope proceeds happily. remember that Fanny my Love is in the Net.

My Dear Stewart.

I wish I was able by letter to communicate as freely my opinions & sentiments upon this unfortunate Crisis as I c^d by speech in conversation, yet I think I can write so much of the present situation of the Country as to make you as much Master of the subject as I or any body else in ye present uncertainty of the result & probable consequence of the King's illness if it shd continue. The Parl^t met the day before yesterday & the King not being present to open the Session, the Parl^t c^d do nothing but adjourn wch they did for a fortnight. If the King shd recover during that interval, the Government is again upon its legs. If not, some Regency must be appointed. How that new System is to be modified the powers to be given & the Restraints to be laid upon the Person or persons who are to be invested with the Delegated Prerogative of the Crown is a business that will employ every working brain in this Kingdom during the present fortnight. The Power of altering this important measure devolves upon the Parl^t. The present Majority is in favour of the existing Administration who is all probability will be dismissed, if the Regent (who can be but one person) is impowered to make his own Administration, wch brings ye argum^t to this Dilemma, that if the present is to remain unaltered, the Execution will remain in the hands of Subjects, & the Regent overruled. if on ye contrary

the Regent has ye nomination of his own Ministers, the present are removed: now this is a selfish consideration in the persons of the present Ministers & merely private: but if ye King don think it of consequence, it is in that light a publick one, but how can that be known, or how can those in power propose a Plan for they must be ye proposers to Parlt) to continue themselves? But if the indifferent person was to move such a scheme, & the Parlt to be precisely upon to adopt it, ought the Ministers to benefit it? Consider the Objns. The first perhaps will make all the rest unnecessary. The Prince will refuse, & no man will blame him to be set at ye head of ye Government a cypher w'h too disgraceful for ye their Approval of ye Crown to submit to. in this case there can be no second choice. suppose he accepts. He must of necessity have the disposal of all Offices & unless you will give them nominations to ye majority of a council w'd be an aristocracy of the worst kind & is inadmissible. The Regt. then being the given of every thing on one side, & the Ministry with Patronage on ye other, if they chance to disagree, as they certainly w'd, the Government w'd be torn asunder by two opposite factions, equally irremovable & neither of ye strong enough to destroy ye other. possibly nothing short of a Civil war w'd terminate the dispute. I state the Consequences shortly to you. your own reflexion will lead you to many others that must ensue in such a divided government. I would give you my own opinion particularly in respect of foreign affairs you may guess at it. But thus far I wish should see my self, that upon this question I will be a publick man & throw aside every consideration of Interest or friendship, & I do verily believe Mr P. will act upon the same principle. Suppose then ye Regt to be supreme. The Opposition will find some difficulty in making a total Change. their Power is tem

porary & uncertain. le Roi may unmake ye. The King's disorder is by no means desperate, & cannot under a great length of time be pronounced incurable. He was popular before this misfortune. Compassion will increase the Subjects affection, & the change of person will give no con=solation to ye public mind. sooner let it with the change of administration. How her will this measure be relished by the people? to set aside his father's choice while he is only his substitute & representative, & place a worse in their room of persons the most obnoxious to him & by no means popular in ye Kingdom. This step w'd alarm the boldest & make him pause respec=tably as the King's recovery w'd undo all in a Minute. from all these con=siderations, it is not improbable that some compromise may be pro=posed: if it is, it will not be sincere, at least it will be suspected. I w'd with nothing of that kind may be attempted, because I w'd rely with my friends in the way of being reduced by such a temptation, who ought never to lose sight of this question. how w'd the King like it, if he sh'd recover? You see the chance of this recovery mixes with every consideration in the present conjuncture. As to ye state of the Kg's disorder, it is not so bad as you w'd conclude fro' the Physicians publick report. He has intervals, & I do verily believe he will get well but the Publick cannot wait for that event — so ye Parlt must immediately upon their meeting provide a temporary substitute. ye Prince was among the first cross words that struck me upon this occasion. possibly the Regent may be restrained fro' making Peers, but that will & must be confined to England. ye Parlt I guess will never submit to such a restraint. You see ye difference in this respect between the 2 Kingdoms. The Ld Lt will you always makes good the Engagements of his Ancestors, & you have besides in this Lord a sure friend in a Pr. I expatiate upon this subject but my paper forces me to be short. fail not however as I am with this great & publick dispatch — I must not forget to thank you for your hobe present of the Carpet believing here are but few people in the world whom you w'd have distinguished

will suit a mark of your friendship, & I think there are not many
from whom I could have preferred upon my self to have accepted it
when I compare this with my petitfule return of thanks & Beck
mart, I am put in mind of that celebrated exchange of presents
between Glaucus & Diomed in Homer upon the discovery of their kin
dred to each other. Our connexion is much closer: we are fastened to
friends in the bargain in which respect, you will value my offering

Nov 23 1808

1808

The Rt. Hon. the
Earl of Rosslyn
Gt. Russell St.
Bloomsbury
London
By Dublin

3

as highly as I do yours. You see what large demands I make of your
Friendship when I desire you to consider a Penny in your estimation
as equal to a Guinea in mine. A word upon your famous dispute about
game. A Lord of a Manor has no property in the game, but what starts
from his own or Licensee ground may pass & kill it in another Mr. Manor.
If the party is not qualified, you may punish him by some Act of Parl.t or you
may sue him for a trespass. He who has fee Warren has property in his game
and none else, & he may claim ag.t Trespassers for killing same & your
Question happens well you know you shall be acquainted with all Pleasing
wipe

yours
Camden

1788 November 23, Camden

Private

London Wednesday night 2 July 1800

My Dear Lord

Much as I wished to hope that the Letter I wrote to The Lord Lieut. on the 27th of last month has removed every possible doubt that can have occurred to you respecting the Opinion of The Kings Servants upon the manner in which the important & arduous work of the Union has been conducted on your side of the Water, & that you are thoroughly satisfied of the desire & anxiety with which it will be to do you the fullest justice in every step that has been taken by you throughout the course of that great measure; I can not help troubling you with a repetition of the assurances I addressed to the Lord Lieutenant, for the express purpose of adding that in all those trying occasions to which you were so frequently exposed & in which, it was impossible for you to resort to the assistance of The Ld Lieut.s advice & experience all determinations you formed have so constantly & inexplicably manifested such powers of Talents & Judgement as can not but be considered as exhibiting you to our particular acknowledgements & thanks, & to the Respect & Gratitude of both Kingdoms. After such a declaration which I make with equal pleasure & sincerity I feel myself in some degree called upon to state to the subject of the English Peerage to Lord Londonderry & to enter into such an explanation respecting it as

The Lord Viscount Castlereagh & Londonderry

as may put You in full possession of the King's gracious intentions towards
You Lord Londonderry & all Your House as may convince You of
the justice His Majesty is disposed to do to Your Lordship & that the
idea of not giving an English Peerage to Lord Londonderry was
suggested only by those Parental Feelings which despose, His Majesty
to attend to every means of promoting the interests of His People. In this
principle H. M. wished that it should be stated to You & to Lord
Londonderry that ~~your~~ your respective interests & those of Your Family
together with those of the Empire at large ~~that~~ might be taken
consulted by Lt Londonderry's not being created a British Peer &
by ~~your~~ not coming into the H. of Lds of the United Kingdom with
age Infirmity or the desire of Repose should make You wish to retire
from the more busy & active scene of the H. of Coms, & that, at what time
that Retirement should shew itself & be expected whether during the
life time of Lt Londonderry, or not until after Your Lordship had
succeeded to that Title, the Descendants of Lt Londonderry by his
present or any future Countess should be included in the same point to
the Peerage in the same manner as if it had been or was now to be
granted to Him. & I should further add that if neither Lt Londonderry
nor Your Lordship should ever hold a British Peerage His Majesty would
to say that Your Services would not but be so remembered as to secure
that distinction to You & Lt Londonderry's Descendants at any future
period. Although the Services which His Majesty desires Your Lordship
render to the Publick by remaining in the H. of Coms have warmed Him
to direct me to make this opinion known to You I am as especially
commanded to acquaint You that it is H. M.'s particular & earnest desire
& hope that Your own determination with respect to the Peerage, which
H. M. would be sorry at to expect this moment upon Lt Londonderry
if there was any doubt on his mind with regard to the propriety of
delaying it, will not be influenced in any respect whatever by H. M.'s
Opinion, & it is moreover His desire that it should not even be mentioned
to Lt Londonderry if it can be imagined that it can give Him the
least uneasiness or any sort of embarrassment whatever. The Peerage
You will consider absolutely in Your own hands to take at this or
at any other time that may appear to You to be most desirable with
all the consequences & advantages to Lord Londonderry's Family
that it would confer if given in His or Your Lordship's life time. Although
this Letter is of so confidential a nature as not to be publick
conversation; Your Lordship will consider it ~~of~~ for the publick purpose
that the details of it shall not make the subject of

to

to communicate it to Him, as no less addressed to Lord Londonderry than to Yourself, & that You & Your Descendants respectively are at liberty to produce it at any time that the interests of the Family may make it requisite. I am with the most perfect Truth & Regard

My Dear Lord

Your Lordships

most sincere faithful Servant

Portland

Duke of Portland's Letter

To be carefully preserved,
as the Contents are of
Importance to the future
Interest of my Family
July 5th 1800

Private London Wednesday night 2 July 1800

The Duke of Portland to Lord Castlereagh

My Dear Lord

Much as I incline to hope that the letter I wrote to the Lord Lieut^t^ [CAMDEN] on the 27th of last month has removed any possible doubt that can have occurred to you respecting the opinion of the King's Servants upon the manner in which the important & arduous work of the Union has been conducted on your side of the Water, & that you are thoroughly satisfied of the desire and anxious wish which is felt to do you the fullest justice in every step that has been taken by you throughout the course of that great measure. I cannot help troubling you with a repetition of the assurances I addressed to the Lord Lieutenant, for the express purpose of adding that in all those trying occasions to which you were so frequently exposed & in which it was impossible for you to resort to the assistance of the Ld Lieut^s^ advice & experience the determination you formed here is so constantly & unexceptionably manifested such powers of talents & judgment as can not but be considered as entitling you to our particular acknowledgement & thanks & to the Respect and gratitude of both Kingdoms. After such a declaration which I make with equal pleasure & sincerity I feel myself in some degree called upon to raise to the subject of the English peerage to Lord Londonderry & to enter into such an explanation respecting it as may put you in full possession of the King's gracious intentions towards you Lord Londonderry & all your House as may convince you of the justice His Majesty is disposed to do to your Lordship & that the idea of not giving an English Peerage to Lord Londonderry was suggested only by those Parental Feelings which dispose His Majesty to attend to every means of promoting the interests of His People. On this principle H.M. wished that it should be stated to you and to Lord Londonderry that your own respective interests and those of Your Family together with those of the Empire at large might be better consulted by Lord Londonderry's not being created a British Peer & by not coming into the H of Lds of the United Kingdom would Age Infirmity or the desire of Repose should make you wish to retire from the more busy & active scene of the H of Coms, and that at whichever time that Situation should shew itself & be expressed whether during the life time of Ld Londonderry, or not until after Your Lordship had succeeded to that title, the Descendants of Ld Londonderry by his present or any future Countess should be included in the succession to the Peerage in the same manner as if it had been or was now to be granted to Him. & I should further add that if neither Ld Londonderry nor Your Lordship should ever hold a British Peerage, His Majesty was pleased to say that Your Services would not but be so remembered as to secure that distinction to Your & Ld Londonderry's Descendants at any future period. Although the Services which His Majesty believes you may render to the Publick by remaining in the H^s^ of Coms have occasioned Him to direct me to make this opinion known to you I am no less expressly commanded to acquaint you that it is H.M.'s particular & earnest desire & hope that Your own determination with respect to the Peerage, which H.M. would be sorry not to confer at this moment... of Ld Ely... place upon Ld Londonderry if there was any doubt on his mind with respect to the propriety of declining it, will not be influenced in any respect whatever by H.M.'s Opinion, & it is however His desire that it should not even be mentioned to Ld Londonderry if it can be imagined that it can give him the least uneasiness or any sort of embarrassment whatsoever. The Peerage you will consider absolutely in your own hands to take at this or any other time that may appear to you to be more desireable with all the consequences and advantages to Lord Londonderry's Family that it would confer on you in His or Your Lordship's life time. Although this letter

is of so confidential a nature as that the details of it should make the subject of private conversation, Your Lordship will consider it if You think proper to communicate it to Him, as no less addressed to Lord Londonderry than to Yourself & that You & Your Descendants respectively are at liberty to produce it at any time that the interests of the Family may make it requisite.

I am with the most perfect Truth & Regard
My Dear Lord
Your Lordship's
Most sincere friend & Servant
Portland

Note 1 - A reference to this letter may be found in DNB, vol. LIV, p. 345, which is particularly interesting in view of Londonderry's pursuit of a peerage in 1822-23, and his indignation at that which is offered as inadequate.

Note 2 - There is much correspondence from 1822 Sept. 25 to 1823 March (Letter nos.) dealing with Londonderry's attempts to obtain a higher rank in the Peerage than the King (and Liverpool?) was prepared to give him. Londonderry always argued his claim on the basis of his own services and respect due Castlereagh (his brother). But he does not mention this letter of Portland's. Why? Did he know of it?

Private

London Wednesday night 2 July 1800

The Duke of Portland to Lord Castlereagh

My Dear Lord

Much as I incline to hope that the letter I wrote to the Lord Lieut.k on the 27th of last month has removed any possible doubt that can have occurred to you respecting the opinion of the King's Servants upon the manner in which the important & arduous work of the Union has been conducted on your side of the Water, & that you are thoroughly satisfied of the desire and anxious wish which is felt to do you the fullest justice in every step that has been taken by you throughout the course of that great measure. I cannot help troubling you with a repetition of the assurances I addressed to the Lord Lieutenant, for the express purpose of adding that in all those trying occasions to which you were so frequently exposed & in which it was impossible for you to resort to the assistance of the Ld Lieut.s advice & experience the determination you formed here is so constantly & unexceptionably manifested such powers of talents & judgment as can not but be considered as entitling you to our particular acknowledgment & thanks & to the respect and gratitude of both Kingdoms. After such a declaration which I make with equal pleasure & sincerity I feel myself in some degree called upon to raise to the subject of the English peerage to Lord Londonderry & to enter into such an explanation respecting ~~respecting~~ it as may put you in full possession of the King's gracious intentions towards you Lord Londonderry & all your House as may convince you of the justice His Majesty is disposed to do to your Lordship & that the idea of not giving an English peerage to Lord Londonderry was suggested only by those Parental feelings which dispose His Majesty to attend to every means of promoting the interests of His People. On this principle H.M. wished that it should be stated to you and to Lord Londonderry that your own respective interests and those of your family together with those of the Empire at large might be better consulted by Ld Londonderry's not being created a British Peer & by not

Why Ld ?

coming into the H of Lds of the United Kingdom would ~~Age~~ Age Infirmity or the desire of Repose should make you wish to retire from the more busy & active scene of the H of Coms, and that at whichever time that Situation should shew itself & be expressed whether during the life time of Ld Londonderry, or not until after Your Lordship had succeeded to that Title the Descendants of Ld Londonderry by his present or any future Countess should be included in the succession to the Peerage in the same manner as if it had been or was now to be granted to Him. & I should further add that if neither Ld Londonderry nor Your Lordship should ever hold a British Peerage, His Majesty was pleased to say that Your Services would not but be so remembered as to secure that distinction to Your & Ld Londonderry's Descendants at any future period. Although the Services which His Majesty believes you may render to the Publick by remaining in the H of Coms have occasioned Him to direct me to make this opinion known to You I am no less expressly commanded to acquaint You that it is H.M.'s particular & earnest desire & hope that Your own determination with respect to the Peerage, which H.M. would be sorry not to confer (unfer?) at this moment . . . . of Ld Ely . . . place upon Ld Londonderry if there was any doubt on his mind with respect to the propriety of declining it, will not be influenced in any respect whatever by H.M.'s Opinion, & it is however His desire that it should not even be mentioned to Ld Londonderry if it can be imagined that it can give him the least uneasiness or any sort of embarrassment whatsoever. The Peerage you will consider absolutely in Your own hands to take at this or any other time that may appear to you to be more desireable with all the consequences and advantages to Lord Londonderry's Family that it would confer (on? if you) in His or Your Lordship's life time.

Although this letter is of so confidential a nature as that the details of it should make the subject of private conversation, Your Lordship will consider it if You think proper to communicate it to Him, as no less addressed to Lord Londonderry than to Yourself & that You & Your Descendants respectively are at liberty to produce it at any time that the interests of the Family may make it requisite.

I am with the most perfect Truth & Regard
My Dear Lord
Your Lordship's
most sincere friend & Servant
Portland

insert both.

Note 2 - There is much correspondence from mid 1822 to ~~early~~ March 1823 (insert dates? or numbers of letters? R.H. please advise) dealing with Londonderry's attempts to obtain a higher rank in the peerage than the King (and Liverpool?) was prepared to give him. Londonderry always argued his claim on the basis of ~~[illegible]~~ his own services and respect due Castlereagh (his brother). But he does ~~[illegible]~~ not mention this letter of Portland's. Why? Did he know of it?

~~A reference~~

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1800 July 2. Portland.

(2)

War Office 23rd April 1805.

My dear Sir,

Mr Brown was appointed Deputy Commissary General in the year 1793. being at that time a Clerk in the War Office. On his appointment, it was signified to him by desire of the then Secretary at War, that whenever his Commissariat Duties, & those of his situation in the War Office should be found to interfere with each other, he would be permitted to attend in preference to the former: & under this permission, recognised by the two succeeding Secretaries at War, (Mr Windham & Mr Yorke,) he was at intervals absent from the War Office, until the reduction of the Commissariat at the peace of 1802.

When the war broke out again in 1803, it was the express desire of the Commissary General, that Mr Brown should return to active service in the Commissariat, & take charge of the Southern District. Accordingly, he was allowed by Mr Yorke, & afterwards by Mr Bragge, to perform the above duty; notwithstanding the material interruption, which a charge of such importance occasioned, especially in the outset, to his attendance at the War Office.

Under these circumstances, I would have had no difficulty in prolonging the leave, had it not been represented to me, that as a part of some interior official arrangements, ~~decis~~ devised to meet the increasing pressure of business, it was of much importance, that a new situation of peculiar responsibility

should be filled by Mr Brown. Having on such grounds required him to relinquish his Employment, it is obvious that regret I must feel, if Mr Brown should be deprived of all remuneration, for his Commissariat services, & should thus become so great a sufferer, directly in consequence of the sense entertained of his ability, & usefulness.

A sufferer at all events he will be, since his full Pay as Deputy Commissary, was 5/ a day, whilst the Half pay attached to the Commissariat, is 15/- only; being no higher rate, than that allowed to Deputy Commissaries, whose full Pay is but 20/- a day.

How unexpected the legal decision was, which precludes Mr Brown from receiving his Half pay, may be easily conceived, when it is recollected, that at the close of the late War, he was actually placed on Half pay after a discussion in regard to the rate, which could not have failed to draw the attention of the Treasury, to the circumstance of his situation—

I am &c.

W Dundas—

W Huskisson Esqr.

&c &c &c

B Copy

Letter from the Secretary at War (Mr. W. Dundas) to Mr. Hutchinson (Secy of the Treasury)

23 Apr. 1805

1805 April 23. Dundas.

(3)

Copy.

Treasury Chambers.
30th March 1807.

Sir

Having laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury Your Letter of the 24th January last, with a Copy of a Memorial of Mr. Brown of your Office, I have it in Command to acquaint you, that my Lords considering that it was clearly understood, when Mr Brown was called from his Situation as Deputy Commissary General, to resume his Situation in the War Office, that he was to receive from that time his Half Pay as Deputy Commissary General, or an Equivalent; and being fully aware of Mr Browns merits and Services, are of Opinion, that under all the Circumstances of this Case, he should receive such an Additional Allowance in the War Office, commencing from the time of his quitting the Situation of Deputy Commissary General, as will be an Equivalent to his Half Pay as such; and their Lordships are pleased to desire you will give the necessary directions accordingly.

I am, &c
(Signed.)
George Harrison.

The Right Honorable
the Secretary at War.

C

Copy

Letter from Secy of the Treasury authorizing the Secy at War to cause to R. P. Brown an allow. equal to his half pay as Dep. Com. Gen.

30 Mar 1807

1807 March 30. Harrison.

(4)

This is not indifferently written

War Office,
May 1812.

Sir,

In reference to the conversation which I had the honor to have with your Royal Highness, on the subject of supplying the Troops in this Country generally, with Meat by Contracts, made under the Superintendence of the Commissary in Chief, I am desirous of bringing under the view of your Royal Highness, some considerations connected with that subject and which have led me to think that such an arrangement might be advantageously adopted.

As far as Public Economy is concerned, there appears reason to suppose, that, if Contracts upon so extensive a Scale were Established by the Commissary in Chief, the Meat would be furnished at a lower

His Royal Highness
The Commander in Chief
&c &c &c &c

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13,797
342

As far as Public Economy is concerned, there appears reason to suppose, that if Contracts upon so extensive a Scale were Established by the Commissary in Chief, the Meat would be furnished at a lower

To
His Royal Highness
The Commander in Chief
&c &c &c &c

lower price than is now generally paid for it, because the Commissary in Chief would probably engage with Men of large capital, who, upon a certainty of a great supply, would be able to make arrangements of a permanent nature, and could be satisfied with a smaller profit upon each pound, than a Man who supplied for a limited time, and on a much smaller Scale; And this opinion seems confirmed by what your Royal Highness stated, with regard to the comparatively moderate price at which the Ordnance were enabled, by their Contracts, to supply their Men with Meat.

In as far as regards the feeling of the Men themselves, which, in a question of this sort, is undoubtedly a leading consideration, it seems probable that any prejudice, which may at any former time have existed against Contract Meat, must now be done away; because, almost all the

Troops

Troops in this Country are supplied under Contracts, made locally either by the General of the District, or the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, and therefore, if the Meat supplied by Contract with the Commissary in Chief, were equally good, there does not seem to be any reason for apprehending that the Men would care under whose orders the Contractor acted.

It may reasonably be expected, that Contractors, who ~~should~~ could have the choice of a large Market, and the certainty of a large supply, would be more likely to furnish good Meat, than a Butcher in a Country Town, who might not have the same means of procuring his Cattle, and it happens to have come to my knowledge, that, in the South west District where there is an extensive Contract Established by the General Officers Commanding, a Regiment of Local Militia, composed of Men, who, from their habits

have

have more prejudices with regard to their food, than regular Soldiers, & who refused to eat the Bread with which the Army is supplied, preferred the Meat furnished by the Contractor, to that which was purchased for them, of a very good Butcher in their neighbourhood.

But, as it is undoubtedly of the utmost importance to secure the goodness of the Meat, it might perhaps be right to Stipulate in the Contracts, that any Quantity of Meat determined by the Commanding Officer to be bad, should be returned to the Contractor without payment; and that it should always be in the power of the Commanding Officer to refuse to receive the Meat if he thought it of a bad quality, or if his Men objected to take it.

2d

Under these, or some such Stipulations, I would submit to your Royal Highness, that there appears a fair prospect of producing a saving to the Public,

without

without prejudice to the interests, or feelings of the Troops; and if a general arrangement of this sort were adopted, there would not seem to be any difficulty in acting upon the suggestion thrown out in conversation by your Royal Highness, to permit all the Officers of the British Army at Home, to purchase their Meat from the Contractor, at the contract price. The Contractor would not object to any measure that would tend to increase his Supply, to the Public it could make no difference, and to the Officers, it would certainly be very advantageous.

I have the honor to be,
with the most profound respect,
Sir
Your Royal Highness's most
obedient humble Servant

1812 May . Palmerston.

(4c)

Horse Guards
3rd August 1812.

My Lord,

Having given every Consideration in My Power to the subject of Your Lordship's Letter of the 27th May, relative to the Supply of Meat to The Troops under Contract made by The Commissary in Chief, I am now to acquaint Your Lordship, that, with every possible Disposition on My part to concur in, and to give facility to, any Measure having a tendency to public Economy, I really cannot consider that it would be expedient to enter into a general arrangement of the kind, upon a subject that is so closely connected with the Feelings & individual Comforts

The Right Honble
Viscount Palmerston
&c &c &c

Comforts of the Soldier as the Supply of Meat, and to which so large a portion of his daily Pay is appropriated.

Your Lordship will be aware of the Jealousy and prejudice, with which a Soldier looks to the Distribution of his Pay under general Contracts; and therefore the more local and confined those Contracts are, the greater is the Confidence of the Troops, as coming more within their own Observation: — and even allowing that a saving would attend the arrangement you propose, I am doubtful whether it would be of such a Magnitude as to justify the hazard of such a new System of Supply; and when it is considered that for the purpose of carrying such general Contracts into effect the Commissariat Staff must be considerably

augmented

augmented, I am doubtful whether the saving of Expence which you anticipate from the adoption of the Measure would not be counter-balanced by the increase of Establishment necessary for carrying it into effect.

In many instances much dissatisfaction has arisen in the supply of Meat by District Contracts; and as such dissatisfaction originated in the very feeling of which I am apprehensive, there is every reason to fear that it would be more general under Contracts made by The Commissary in Chief; and the case Your Lordship mentions to have occurred in The South West District is calculated to confirm the Grounds for this Mistrust, by evincing a disposition in the Men to avail themselves of a Supply made under

Quite the reverse. My case has been wholly mistaken.

local

local Arrangements, and to reject that made by The Commissary in Chief.

Upon the whole I am of Opinion that the grounds of saving are too speculative and effects of the System ~~too~~ uncertain, to sanction the expediency of a Change in the present mode of supplying the Troops with Meat.

I am,

My Lord,

Your's.—

Frederick

Commander in Chief

1812 August 3. York.

(4.A)

Horse Guards
24th September 1812.
Recd 26th

My Lord,

I am favored with Your Lordship's Letter of the 12th Inst., and from the representation which Your Lordship therein makes, of the saving that may accrue to The Public, by the Supply of Meat to The Troops, under the Contract of The Commissary in Chief; I can no longer withhold my assent to the adoption of a Measure (by way of Experiment at least) which holds out such probable advantage. —

I have therefore only to hope that, in carrying this arrangement into effect, none of the Embarassments may be found to occur, of which I have expressed my Apprehensions in the former Correspondence

The Right Honble
The Secretary at War
&c &c &c

on

on the Subject.

It appears to me a necessary precaution that I should instruct Commanding Officers to report in their Monthly Return the Market Prices of the Station where a Corps may be quartered & Your Lordship will no doubt consider this an useful Check upon the Contractor.

I am,
My Lord
Yours —

Frederick
Commander in Chief

1812 September 24. York.

(5)

Woolwich. — 1816
17th July 1815. —

Sir,

I do myself the Honor to submit to your consideration, a Proposed Peace Establishment of the Ordnance Medical Department, in obedience to your directions of the 15th Instant, by which it will appear, that in the reduction you was pleased to make on the 28th March last, the discontinuance of several of the Establishments in Great Britain, and in Ireland, was anticipated.

After the most careful reconsideration of every branch of the Department, I am obliged most respectfully to state, that I do not think a further diminution of its number, expedient in an Economical point of view, or practicable with regard to Public Duty:- for the half-pay of the Assistant Surgeons added to the Salaries which would be granted to Private Practitioners, would amount to very nearly the same Sum as is now paid to the three First Assistant Surgeons who might be reduced; and the power of relieving a Medical Officer who might from illness or any other urgent cause, be obliged to

when in the receipt of a provisional pensioner

The Honble
The Clerk of the Ordnance
&c &c &c

to relinquish the charge of a Foreign Station, would be thereby destroyed.—

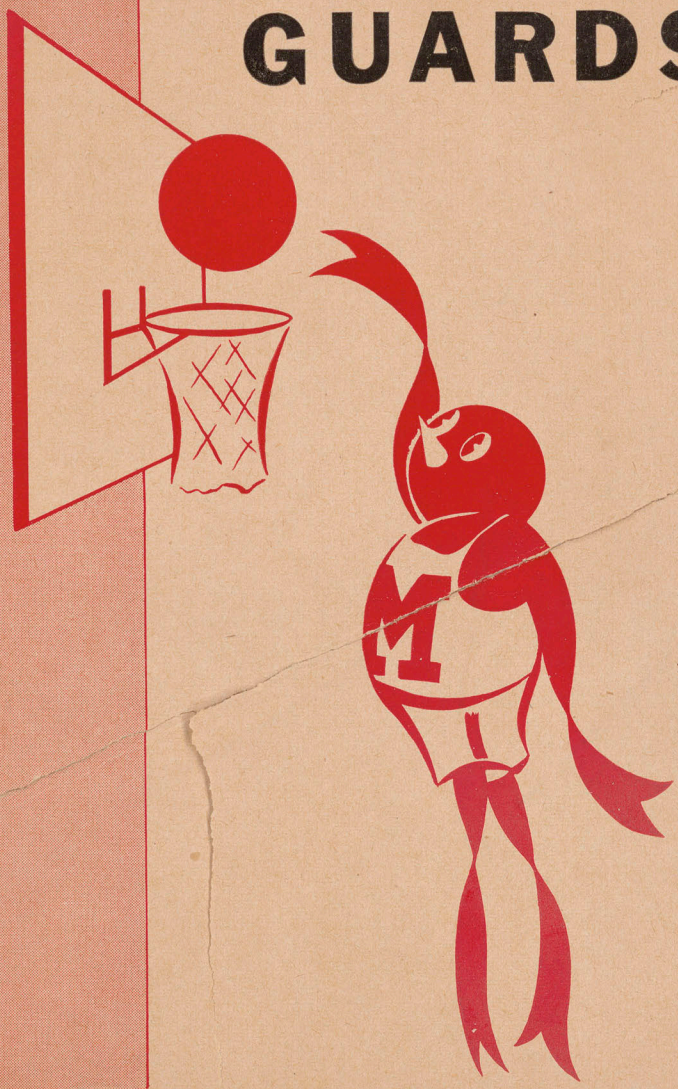
I request permission also to suggest for your consideration, what would be the effect of withdrawing any part of the Medical Aid that is now found requisite in the Leeward Islands, where so much watchfulness is necessary to prevent, as well as to cure the destructive Diseases peculiar to that Climate.— In my humble conception, it would be a source of expence; because after the Military Corps shall have been reduced to the lowest Establishment the good of the Country will permit, that Establishment must afterwards be kept up; and I feel the most perfect conviction on my mind, that if any of the Troops in the West Indies be deprived of Professional Superintendence when in health, and be left to casual Assistance, when attacked with Yellow Fever, the small saving that might be made in the Medical Establishment would be much more than counterbalanced by the increased Charges that would in consequence be brought into the Recruiting Accompts, and into the Pension List.—

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient
and humble Servant.—
John Weir Dep. Inspr. Genl. of Hospls

Refer to the Document
Dated 15th July 1816.
'Proposed Peace Est. of
the Ordnance Medical dept.
arranged in Pursuance of
an order received from the
honourable the clerk of the
Ordnance "

Medical Dept. Docuh

McGILL
VS
GUARDS



Wednesday, November 23rd, 1949

8.00 P.M.

SIR ARTHUR CURRIE MEMORIAL GYMNASIUM

1816 July 17. Webb.

Private

(5A)

Dublin Castle,
13th December 1816.

Sir,

Your Confidential Report of the 5th of November last having been brought under The Lord Lieutenant's consideration as early as circumstances would permit, — I have it, now, in command from His Excellency to state, that, previously to His sentiments being definitively conveyed to you on the various points of arrangement to which your attention has been directed for reducing the Expenditure of the Ordnance Department in Ireland, it was deemed advisable, and of which intention you were before apprised, to collect the Opinion of The Commander of the Forces on the suggestion you had offered upon this subject, but more particularly on the following points, premising, however, that no political reasons occurred to His Excellency why considerable

Retrenchments

Robert Ward Esqr

&c — &c — &c

Retrenchments should not be made therein, viz.

1st. The reduction of the Brigade in the Field from four to two Guns, in order to place this Country, in that respect, upon an equality with England.

2nd. On the Arrangement suggested for the removal of the small remains of the Armoury from the Castle to the Pigeon House.

3rd. The expediency of retaining a portion of these Arms in the Stores at the Castle Yard, a measure which, however, might in some degree be influenced by Police objects, and the Consideration of its being one of precaution in case any sudden emergency should arise.

And 4th — The disposal, or future appropriation, of the Towers and Batteries constructed on the North and South of Dublin.

In conveying to you The Lord Lieutenant's perfect Concurrence in the principle and means which you

you propose with the view of lessening the Expenditure arising from the support of the extensive Ordnance Establishment now existing here, and which, as far as His Excellency is at present capable of forming a correct opinion, appears to him to be, in every respect, judicious, — I have the honor to transmit a Copy of a Letter which has been received from Sir George Beckwith, in which he offers various observations on the several points to which his attention had been directed, — and I am to request that you will bring these communications under the Consideration of the Master General and Board.

Adverting, however, to that part of Sir George Beckwith's Report in which he remarks, that the decision of His Excellency would appear to be in accordance with your opinion, namely that no reason existed why Ireland should be viewed in a different light from England in respect to its internal tranquility, and the consequent organization of its Ordnance Establishment, His Excellency has thought it right to

remove

remove that impression, which has possibly arisen from misconception, by apprising Sir George Beckwith that His Excellency did not intend to convey any opinion that the circumstances of this Country with respect to its internal tranquility are similar to those of England.

The defective state of the General Police of this Country, the frequent and atrocious outrages that are committed in it, — the necessity of constant recurrence to the Military to maintain tranquility — are, unfortunately, but too evident proofs that the General State of this Country, with respect to its internal Peace, must be considered much less satisfactory than that of England.

The Opinion of His Excellency is that, comparing, on the one hand, the probability and danger of such insurrectionary movements in Ireland as would require the concentration of a large force, aided by Artillery, to suppress it, — and, on the other, the retrenchment of Expense which will

result

result from the proposed reduction in the Brigade of Artillery, — the advantages to be derived from the reduction outweigh the possible evils which it may entail; — And He is, therefore, inclined to think, that, with a view of accomplishing so desirable an object, as the decrease in the Public burthen which must arise from the contemplated reduction of the Field Brigade, — that the present State and prospects of this Country will admit of bringing that part of Our Force within the proposed limit.

With regard to the 2nd and 3d propositions for removing the small remains of the Armory from the Castle to the Pigeon House, or retaining a portion of the Arms therein deposited, with a view to objects of Police, His Excellency considers, that, from the great advantages which the Pigeon House may be supposed to possess in this respect, over the Castle, it will be expedient to remove the entire of those Stores to the Depot at the former Station, and the more especially as it is

understood

understood, on communication with the Chief Magistrates of Police, that, in reference to the Security of the City, the intended arrangement is thought by them to be unobjectionable.

On the fourth and last point, namely, the future appropriation of the Towers and Batteries erected on the Coast of Dublin, His Excellency wishes that you would be pleased to bring Sir George Beckwith's suggestion for retaining these Works under the particular consideration of the Master General and Board, with His Excellency's recommendation of its adoption at a limitted Expense if practicable.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

Robert Peel

1816 December 13. Peel.

(b)

War Office
16th April 1817.

My dear Lord,

In a printed copy of the 2nd Report of the Finance Committee, which I have just seen accidentally, I observe that my personal Allowance of £150 is incorrectly described – it is called a retired Allowance, & the Arguments used for its discontinuance, in some measure, hinge on that erroneous view of it; & it is stated or strongly implied, to have been granted by the Secretary at War's authority only.

Your Lordship is the best judge, whether an alteration in the Report is yet practicable.

If it is, I have to request, that you will make the Committee aware, that the Allowance was not granted in the shape of a retired Allowance but for public services performed as Private Secretary to General Fitzpatrick, while Secretary at War, & was to be issued in addition to any Salary, I might have on the establishment of the War Office; & that General Fitzpatrick did not give his authority for this Change to be made in the establishment of the War Office, until he obtained the written Sanction of the First Lord of the Treasury (Lord Grenville). If it is too late to get this altered, before the printed Copy of the

Report is circulated to the House. I trust to your Lordship for seeing to me the undeserved suspension of a pension, which, I presume, has as much formal Authority for its existence & continuance, as most pensions granted for public services performed.

I have &c —

A 2. Copy

Letter from R. Brown
to Lord Palmerston
16 Apr 1817

regarding statement in
Repeal of Finance Com.^n
upon an alt.^n granted
to R. B.

1817 April 16. Brown.

Copy (1)

B^ds 17th April 1817

My dear Sir,

I did all I could through Ld Castlereagh, Mr Vansittart and Mr Huskisson to get the words of the report altered so as to convert the sentence into a record of opinion that the precedent ought not to be followed instead of being as it is intended by Bankes to be an opinion that the existing grants should be discontinued; in this however I failed. Bankes was pertinacious the Committee was ill attended on the last day when the report was considered and discussed and Vansittart & Huskisson found themselves in a minority; I

will however make what fight I can in the House when the Estimates are voted, and I think it would be very useful for our object on that occasion if as the original letter from Ld. Grenville is unfortunately lost, some substitute could be found for it, such as any acknowledgement on his part of having given the authority. but probably he has a copy of it among his private papers

My dear Sir

Yrs faithfully

(signed) Palmerston

B2.

Copy

Lord Palmerston

17 ap. 1817

Copy

"But your Committee wish particularly to observe on the retired Allowances proposed by two Clerks in this Office, on account of their having filled the situation, in succession of Mr. S. to former Secrs. at War, by authorities from the Sec.s at War themselves, when they ceased to fill the Office. Such allowances are certainly unusual if not without example, & therefore (as a) on account of the precedent, wholly unfit to be (followed) continued, more especially as those two individuals still retain their situations in the Office.

We observe that these two cases have been remarked upon in the 6th Report of the Commrs. of Mil. Enquiry Pages 293 & 294 & the practice of making such grants has been discontinued in pursuance of the suggestions contained in that report.

The amendments suggested by me are interlined in pencil.

Enclosure of 17 Ap. 1817

1817 April 17. Palmerston.

Copy (8)

Bd. 19 April 1817

My dear Sir

As I am not personally acquainted with Lord Grenville, I thought that the application would perhaps come better through some friend of Genl. Fitzpatrick's & that you might probably be able to find such a channel readily, but if Ld. G should wish for a note from me on the subject I will send him one

My dear Sir
Yrs faithfully
signed (Palmerston

C2.

Copy
Lord Palmerston
19 Apr. 1817

1817 April 19. Palmerston.

(9) (9)

Copy

My dear Charles

After the recent events, that have taken place at Vienna, I cannot resist taking up my Pen, & sending you a few lines, in my own hand writing — The sincerity & warmth of the affection I have uniformly felt for you, now, for so many years, I thought had been such, as to admit of little possibility of either substitution or increase; but here, I find myself completely mistaken & deceived, for your conduct on the late occasion, in whatever point I consider it, & that it appears itself to my view, has called forth, & given rise to, in my bosom, feelings towards you, far beyond what I ever did, or thought I ever could have felt towards, or for any Individual, even for yourself — Having said thus much, you cannot be surprised, when I tell you, that I cannot find any words, or any language, that one at all adequate to convey to you (& as I should wish) all that my Heart feels towards you — The line you at once laid down for yourself, & pursued, portraits not only all the discretion, stability, talent & firmness of the sound Statesman & Diplomatist, but beautifully blends with it, all the high sense of private honour,

as well as all the delicate & anxious care of the most affectionate of friends — In short, your conduct has been such, as to outstrip all & every thing, that appreciation or encomium could offer, or convey, & as to the effect it has had upon me, I can only say, that it is most indelibly & for ever rooted & engraven on my Heart —

With the most fervent prayers, that you may long enjoy health & every the worldly blessing, & that Royalty & the Country may long, long, long indeed continue to benefit, by the services of so (I mean a friend &) able a Minister, I remain

My dearest Charles

Your most affectionate friend

George P.

Carlton House

May 16th

1817.

turn over

P. S.

I cannot

Mem

The Postscript was a Passage to Prince Metternich, necessary to Copy –

Copy. 1817.

May 16th

The Prince Regent

To

Lord Londonderry

1817 May 16. George.

(10)

Woolwich, 18th November 1817.

Sir,

Since I had the Honour of Waiting on you this morning, I have compared that part of the Report of the Committee of Finance which relates to the Ordnance Medical Department, with The Honourable Board's Order dated the 10th March 1815; and as I humbly conceive that neither The Master General's and Board's object in issuing that Order, nor the intended extent of it's application was fully made known to the Committee, I take the liberty to explain them for your information, in addition to what I have already advanced.

It having been proved by a Calculation which was made in January 1813, that the amount of the Stoppages of 2/2 per diem for every Man belonging to the Ordnance, whilst under Medical Treatment on Foreign Service, which was paid by The Honble Board to the General Medical Department, in lieu of Hospital Furniture, Medicines, and occasional Comforts, exceed in one year, the value of the Stores received, by about £16,281 . 10 . 3½; estimating the respective articles, at the prices then paid for them by the Ordnance; — This Estimate, which proved that the effect of the Agreement

The Honble
The Clerk of the Ordnance,
London.

dated

dated the 24th July 1806, was, to render the Accounts of both Departments fallacious, and at the same time to load the Ordnance Estimates with a heavy apparent expence it had not incurred, was immediately submitted by me to The Board, with a proposed Plan of future Supply; but it was not until two years afterwards, when The Honble Board had repeatedly considered the subject with all the minuteness its importance deserved, and had obtained the further conclusive evidence of two more extensive Annual Claims upon them, for Stores of comparatively small value, that they determined to issue the Order for the New Arrangement. – This Arrangement, (as is well known to The Honble Board,) has brought down their Foreign Medical Expences merely to the provision of their Hospital Furniture, which requires but little renewal, and that of the Medicines actually consumed. – Every other Disbursement is covered by the authorized Stoppage of 10 per diem, from the Soldier's pay.

more Provision of Hospital Furniture

Having thus shewn that The Master General's and Board's intention, namely the reduction of their Hospital Expences, and the Estimates of them, has been fulfilled; – I beg to observe, that, this was the sole object they had in view. – The Ordnance Medical Department in the Peninsula, and that in France, were organized alike, save only that in the latter instance, One Assistant Surgeon has had charge

of the unissued Stores; and their Hospitals were also precisely the same with regard to their interior management, and to the Medical Controul exercised over them by the Inspector of Hospitals, or his representatives, in common with the other Regimental Establishments. — All orders issued by the Inspector of Hospitals in France, are communicated to, and obeyed by the Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons of Royal Artillery, as they are by the Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons of the Line. —

As, therefore, the Ordnance Detachments on Foreign Service, have always been provided with their own Surgeons, like Regiments of the Line; the only remaining Question is, whether they should again become dependent on the General Medical Department of the Army (there being no want of General Hospitals abroad during Peace) for all the Supplies of which they may stand in need? — And with regard to this, I request leave to state my entire conviction, that, if the provision of Hospital Stores, which the Board did not take under their immediate Controul until after long and deliberate consideration of the expediency of the measure, be again removed from their Superintendence, an increase of the present very moderate expence will be the result; both because the prices paid under the Board's Authority (more especially for Medicines,) are the lowest at which the Articles can be obtained wholesale, in the

London

London Market; and because the transfer of Stores from one Department, to another, renders it extremely difficult even to ascertain the expen-diture of either; much less to establish an effectual check upon it, such as is now exercised by the Honourable Board; over Officers too, who are permanently responsible to them, and whose prospects in life depend in a great measure, on meriting their approbation.

I have the Honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
Humble Servant,
John Webb
Director Genl. Ordnance Medical Departt.

As a matter of public convenience in Service the arrang.t of G. Hospitals distinct from the line is wrong even if be cheaper than the Stoppage at 2s. 2d. a man — on the other Hand, unless the Regtal Surgeons were to be considered equally in the same light as the line, & entitled to a proportion of the Genl. promotion to the Med. Staff it wd. by confining their prospects to the 2 Regtal Steps of Promotion greatly discourage them —

1817 November 18. Webb.

(11)

Royal Ordnance Hospital
Woolwich Sept.r 18th 1818

Sir

Having been made to understand that in consequence of the Reductions about to take place in the Royal Artillery, I am likely to be removed from my present situation as Surgeon General and Inspector in the Medical Department of the Ordnance, humbly beg leave to state for your Information that I am now in the 47th Year of my Servitude in that Department by Warrant and Commissions, and previous to my regular admission in the Regiment I was some Years assisting my Father who was likewise Surgeon General in the same Department between 40 and 50 Years (and which I can make appear from the testimony of several General Officers now at Woolwich) so that I can safely aver that every day of my Life for the last Fifty Years has been devoted to the Service of the Ordnance Medical Department, and I trust I have fulfilled the several Duties in which I have been employed with Fidelity and Diligence, and with an unblemished Reputation. The advanced period of Life to which I am now arrived (being 68 Years of Age) precludes all hope of assisting myself by entering into new professional exertions

Under these Circumstances Sir I earnestly entreat you will please to take my Case into your favorable consideration, and as there are Medical Officers both above and below me, that you will please to allow me to retain the situation I have held for so great a number of years, but if it is His Lordship the Master General's pleasure and your own that I must quit the Service, I humbly beg in consideration of my very long Services to be allowed to retire on my present Pay

I have the Honor to be

Sir

with the greatest Respect

your most Obedient

and Most humble Servant

G. D. Irwin

Surgeon General

& Inspector of Mil.

Robt Ward Esq &c &c &c

1818 September 18. Irwin.

Military Library, Whitehall 13 January 1847.

Sir

Another Edition of the Royal Military Calendar considerably enlarged and containing the services of all the General Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels, and Majors of the Army, being in preparation, I beg to state that it will at all times afford me very great pleasure to attend to any communication respecting your military career: and to insert such Ranks and complimentary honors as you may have received in the course of your Services

I request the favor of your directing your reply to be left at this place, when convenient, by a private hand.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient
humble Servant

Hon P Phillipps
K.C.

Lt Colonel
Sir W Hardinge

Lt Colonel
Sir H Fitzroy

Lt Colonel
Sir Ed Kerrison

Lieut Colonel Sir H. Bunbury
16 Sackville Street
Piccadilly
London

Entered the Service & bile the
Peninsular War —
Wounded at Vimeiro —
Corunna — Sir J. Moore
1809 —
10
11
12
13
15 Rd. W. Portugal Army — lost left hand — 16 Jan
rd. Mill order — Netherland order —
1817 — Red Eagle — 1818 Comd. Red Eagle —
a sword from the D. of W. —

1819 January 13. Philippart.