

H. Maclean (Custom House)

Feb. 9, 1818

Sir,

I had occasion to trouble you in the course of last Summer respecting two Pipes of Port Wine which you ordered for Mr Darbon & which arrived in July 1815; and you were kind enough to write him <sup>but he had,</sup> notwithstanding, observed the most unaccountable silence.

Finding that he seemed determined to take no notice of any Letter either from you or me, I went yesterday morning early to Mr Green's Row Chelsea where he resides, & saw him, when he informed me that he never had the Wine, or gave any Commission for it, nor knew any thing about it, & that having left off Business in the year 1814, he could not have had any occasion for it.

I remonstrated with him upon the great impropriety of his Conduct in not having answered any of my Letters & particularly in not having informed me that he declined having the Wine, either in July 1815 when I apprized him of the arrival of it, or in Octr 1815 when I sent him an account of the Prime Cost & Freight, amounting, without the least Charge for Commission, to £133.11.-

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but the only answer I could obtain, was, that he never had the wine & knew nothing about it. I have this morning caused particular Inquiry to be made in order to trace it, and to my great surprise find that it still remains in the Cellars at the London Dock, under the Locks of the Crown, where it was deposited upon its arrival in consequence of the Harbor not having passed any Entry for it. I have had it examined by a Wine Cooper who is a competent Judge, and a Person upon whom I can rely. He is of opinion that from its Age, & the length of time it has remained in the Pipes, it is not advisable to have it bottled until it has been reinforced by some of the wine of the vintage 1815 now in London, which would make it excellent, & when I have no doubt there are Gentlemen who would be glad to have such wine. The Cooper has suggested to me that there is ample room in the Cellars at the Horse Guards (where he has bottled wine) for performing the operation he recommends. I therefore request the favor of your Instructions respecting the Wine

H. Maclean (Custom House)

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Wine in question with your earliest convenience.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

your most obedient  
humble servant

H. Maclean

Custom House  
9<sup>th</sup> Feb 1818

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