

Private

Windsor Castle July 14 - 1832

My dear Lord,

I have been honored with the King's  
 Commands to communicate to your Lordship the  
 enclosed Portion of a Letter from Lord Grey which  
 relates to the disposal of the Government of  
 Londonderry, and to say that, <sup>having</sup> assured his  
 Lordship that whenever it should become  
 vacant He would confer it upon Sir John Byng,  
 His Majesty does not feel that He can, with  
 propriety, accede from an engagement so  
 contracted, and His word so pledged, notwithstanding  
 the objections which you have made to such  
 disposal of it - The only contingency which  
 could have relieved His Majesty from this  
 obligation, would have been Sir John Byng's  
 declining to take advantage of what had  
 passed between H. M. and Lord Grey, when  
 he learnt the difficulties which had occurred,  
 but, as he has not done so, H. M. has no alternative  
 but desiring that G. C. will submit, for His  
 confirmation, the appointment of Sir John Byng

General Lord Hill. G. C. B.

to the Government of London.

At the same time H. M. orders me to say that He is bound to admit the reason and justice of much which is represented in Lord Grey's letter, and that He believes, from all He has heard, that H. L. is quite warranted in his reference to the practice of your Predecessors in the Office of Commander in Chief - H. M. having indeed questioned me as to the course pursued by the late Duke of Gordon. I have replied, as I am in truth bound to do, that H. L. is not only frequently, and indeed, <sup>in</sup> general communicated with the head of the Government, and the Secretary of State for the War department with respect to the disposal of Governments, and especially those of the higher class and even Regiments, but was often influenced by the wishes of the Government upon those occasions - And for a confirmation of this I beg to refer to my surviving Predecessors in the Office of Military Secretary Sir Robert Brownrigg and Sir William Pitt Gordon - With respect to the distinction of Grand Cross of the Bath, the  
Selection

Selection was more than once made by Lord Bathurst, and even without the immediate concurrence of His late Royal Highness, and there have not been wanting instances in which Officers have been selected for Military Governments abroad, not only without the concurrence but even in opposition to the remonstrance of His late R. H. the Commander in Chief. The last instance of this was the appointment of Sir Frederick Ponsonby to the Government of Malacca.

In authorizing me to state this upon this occasion, it is by no means H. M.'s intention to say that He approves or would sanction or interference to such extent, on the contrary H. M. would consider it His duty to resist it, but He is convinced that Lord Grey would never attempt it, and that it has never been His desire to claim such influence in the distribution of Military Patronage, though he may reasonably expect to be communicated with, and even consulted, as his Predecessors were by your Predecessors—

With

With regard to the Rule for not conferring  
a Military Government upon the General Officer  
who shall have a Regt - or not to allow the  
General Officer to retain both, H. M. has, as  
your Lordship knows, approved the Principle,  
and has sanctioned its application in two  
recent instances, but He believes that it had  
not been previously applied, and that, altho'  
proposed in the instance of Sir John Mordaunt,  
when he obtained a Regt - of Cavalry, it was  
waived - H. M. fears indeed that it would  
be impossible to establish it as a general  
rule to be observed indiscriminately, and  
without exception, as there are many  
General Officers, whose Rank in the Army,  
Services, and Station in Society, would point  
out as particularly eligible or entitled  
to the higher Class of Government, and who  
have long been Colonels of Regiments, and  
could not be called upon to resign them.

All this has occurred to the King since  
this

This Question of the Government of Surdendery  
 has been agitated, and, satisfied as He is that  
 He could not establish a Rule, such as that  
 adverted to, from which no future exception  
 should be made, and feeling, above all, that  
 He had committed Himself upon this  
 occasion, He trusts that your Lordship  
 will not delay to relieve Him from further  
 embarrassment by sending the Memorandum  
 of Sir John Byng's appointment for His  
 Signature -

I remain

Y<sup>r</sup> Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

(Signed) H. Taylor

I beg of you to return the Enclosures -

To Lord Hill  
July 14 - 1832

Respecting Disposal of  
Government of  
Antislavery, & sending  
Bill of a letter from  
Lord Grey.