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[Jan. 12 - Feb. 12 1787]

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As I had frequently had occasion to be
 dissatisfied with Lieutenant Schomberg's Conduct, for want of
 respect to me as his commanding Officer, and more particularly so
 whilst his Majesty's Ship Pegasus, was refitting in English Harbour,
 I thought proper on the 12th January 1787, to write M. Schomberg
 the following Letter.

(N^o. 1.) Pegasus, in English Harbour Antigua, 12th January 1787.

Sir,

From my situation in the World, more is expected
 from me than from any other Captain in his Majesty's Service,
 and since his Majesty has thought proper to honour me with
 the command of the Pegasus, I have ever endeavoured to conduct
 the business of the Ship to the advantage of the Service, with mildness
 towards the Officers and Men, and have ever studied to avoid showing
 my authority in a disagreeable or imperious manner. — I have
 more to do with you from your situation in the Ship as first

Lieutenant,

26749

Lieutenant, than with any other of the Officers, it is incumbent on you to promote and rigidly follow all directions and orders you may from time to time receive from me as your commanding Officer, and by no means whatsoever make the least objection, as it is directly contrary to that respect which is ordered and directed by the articles of War to be shewn by every inferior Officer to their superior. — I am sorry to say, that in your general Conduct from the 5th October 1786, when in Halifax Harbour, until the date of this Letter, many and various have been the objections made by you to what I have thought conducing to the better disciplining of his Majesty's Ship under my Command, particularly so, when on Monday the 9th instant, Captain Nelson, Senior Officer of his Majesty's Ships in this Harbour, had ordered me to transport the Pegasus into Freeman's Bay, when you observed to me, that since I had been in Company with other Ships, I had constantly found fault with you in your duty: likewise your negligence in not complying with my orders concerning Sheets, to be sent for from the Hospital, intended for the use of the sick on board, and the style in which you this morning answered me, when I called to you concerning these

these sheets, as I was rowing on Shore in the Rattler's Boat: at that time I was on the point of ordering you into arrest, for disobedience of orders and neglect of duty. — I was happy I did not take that step, as Courts Martial upon Officers are things of a most disagreeable nature and ever to be avoided if possible, more particularly so, in a Ship commanded by a Person of so elevated a situation of life as Providence has thought proper to place me in, and likewise from the uneasiness of mind I should feel in bringing an Officer before a Military Tribunal, who ever has served with distinction, and is patronized by the ablest and most honourable Officer in our Service My Lord Hood.

These Sir, and these only, were my motives for not writing for a Court Martial on you; I hope you will consider this Letter, though on his Majesty's Service, as an admonition to you: there are few Officers in His Majesty's Service, more zealous, or more conversant with the duty of an Officer, or blessed with better Sense than you, and I hope that for the future, I shall find your conduct in these respects altered, otherwise, I must though ever so reluctantly, be obliged to bring matters to a disagreeable issue.

Before

Before I conclude, I must inform you that M. Whitehead, who
I consider as my private Secretary, and therefore bound to secrecy,
has wrote this Letter and not my Clerk, I do not either mean
to enter it into my public, but into my private letter Book.

. I am Sir,

Lieutenant Schomberg.

Your most obedient Servant.

of His Majesty's Ship Pegasus.

William.

To which He made this answer.

N^o 1.

Pegasus, in English Harbour Antigua, th 13. January

Sir,

1787.

Your Royal Highness's letter of last night
has given me infinite concern, and did I not feel myself innocent
of the accusations contain'd in it, should esteem the manner in
which your Royal Highness has thought proper to reprove
and admonish me, one of the greatest marks of your Royal Favor.

I have ever considered the elevated Situation
of your Royal Highness, and how much I have been honour'd
by serving in a Ship under your immediate Command;

This

This Sir, and other private Reasons would stamp me with
 unmerited and disgraceful Epithet of an Ingrate did I act
 contrary to your wishes, and as an undeserving Officer if contrary
 to your Orders.

Since my appointment to the present
 moment, I have ever made it my Study, by an unwearied
 and indefatigable attention to the duty of the Ship to merit
 and deserve your Royal Highness's approbation, and not to have
 unintentionally incurred your displeasure.

The visible Change in your Royal Highness's
 conduct since the Pegasus arrived in English Harbour might
 perhaps have drawn from me the expression which you allude
 to on Monday the 9th, in consequence of the observation your
 Royal Highness made use of previous to it. "that of late there
 seem'd to be nothing but difficulties, objections, &c. These pointed
 Reproofs Sir from an Officer of your distinguish'd Rank must
 make me feel most sensibly so undeserv'd a Rebuke, particularly
 as I have ever shewn an arduous Zeal in forwarding the Service,
 and happy in having on former occasions acquitted myself

to

to the satisfaction of my Captain.

My not sending to the Hospital for the Sheets, I confess Sir was an neglect, but I had little conceived your Royal Highness would have deemed it of so heinous an nature, as from the multiplicity of other duties, and that to be carried on with so very few men, and only two Boats those almost constantly employed made me perhaps neglect one Service in order to facilitate another.

Your Royal Highness must certainly have not distinctly heard my answer relative to the Sheets, as you would not have termed it disrespectful, It was I fancy as near these words as possible. "I have not yet sent for them Sir, as the Boats and few men we had, had been constantly employ'd, and no Boat had been to the Hospital."

This will I trust be accepted by your Royal Highness as a just vindication of my Conduct, and that I shall not deserve the censure which you have placed on me, as having been guilty of so capital an Offence as to merit a Court Martial.

I thank you Sir for the good opinion you are pleased to entertain of me as an Officer which I shall ever

exert

exert myself in preserving unsullied for my own credit, as well
as those who have honored and may hereafter think me deserving
their Patronage. — I am Sir,

with the greatest respect

To

His Royal Highness

Prince William Henry. —

Your Royal Highness's

most obedient and humble Servant

J. Schomberg.

And as I did not consider his answer, as respectful as it
ought to be, from an inferior to a superior at all times, but
more particularly so, when the inferior is found fault with
by the superior, and as I was desirous to avoid carrying
matters to a disagreeable issue, I wrote him a second Letter, viz.

N^o. 2. Pegasus, in English Harbour Antigua, 13th January 1707.

Sir,

After the Letter I last night wrote you, I must confess
it was with surprise I this morning received yours in answer
to mine, in which you positively deny every Charge I there
exhibited against you, even the peculiar circumstance of
the

the conversation you had with me whilst in the Rattler's Boat.
With respect to the omission of your duty in not sending for the
Sheets when I ordered you, it is that sort of thing that may
happen either through forgetfulness or through omission to
any man, for no man can at all times do right, but to deny
that you have shewn me disrespect as your commanding
Officer on Monday the 9th instant in His Majesty's Careening
Yard Antigua, is a thing I cannot pass over: with respect to
the affair of the 5th October 1786 in Halifax Harbour, I will now
refresh your memory, which was interfering with, and giving
your opinion in an affair, which from the nature of the Naval
Instructions, lays solely in the breast of the Captain, I mean,
when you gave me your Sentiments unasked on the propriety
of punishing William Hinton, Seaman, and William Madden,
Marine, for hanging up their cloaths to dry between decks, I did
not then take notice of your disrespect towards me, as it was the
first instance of your impropriety of conduct, and I was
unwilling to push things to an extremity at once: in your Letter
you observe to me, you have ever gained the approbation of
your

your Captain: it is my firm belief, if you had represented in that manner to the Honourable William Cornwallis, Captain of His Majesty's Ship Canada in the late War, when he thought proper to inflict punishments, he would have taken it up at once. — I have now Sir, to inform you as your commanding Officer, and as Captain of his Majesty's Ship Pegasus, I shall be obliged though ever so reluctantly, and against my inclination, to bring you to a Court-Martial, for disobedience of Orders, Neglect of Duty, and disrespect to me as your commanding Officer, unless you make me full and ample concessions for your impropriety of Conduct. — I am Sir

Your most obedient Servant,

Lieutenant Isaac Schomberg

William.

of His Majesty's Ship Pegasus.

In answer to which He sent me the following Letter:

N^o. 2.

Pegasus, in English Harbour Antigua, ¹² 14 January

Sir,

1787.

As it is impossible for me to answer your

Royal

Royal Highness's letter of yesterday, in so full expressive and
(perhaps) satisfactory a Manner as I could wish.

I shall therefore esteem myself much honor'd
by your Royal Highness favoring me with an Interview in
presence of the Officers of the Pegasus, in order to vindicate my
Conduct before matters are carried to the extremities which
your Royal Highness have threaten'd. — I am Sir

with the greatest respect

Your Royal Highness's

most obedient and very

His Royal Highness
Prince William Henry.

humble Servant
J. Schomberg.

As he express a wish of seeing me in the presence of the other
Lieutenants of the Ship, I accordingly complied with his
request, in hopes he would then before his brother Officers,
make proper concessions for his ill Conduct, which he was
so far from doing, that he solemnly asserted he was innocent of
the Charge. — I then ordered him into arrest on the 14th January,
and prepared the following Letter and Narrative of facts, to

send

send to the Commander in Chief whenever he should arrive in
the West Indies.---

Sir,

Lieutenant Schomberg having behaved with
disrespect to me as his commanding Officer on sundry occasions,
and having neglected his duty in disobeying my Orders for not
sending to the Hospital at Antigua for Sheets, intended to be
distributed to the sick on board, when his Majesty's Ship Pegasus
was detained in Port from her state of sickness; and having
disrespectfully answered me in the Rattler's Boat concerning
these Sheets, I on the 14th January suspended him from his
duty, and have to request you will be pleased to enquire into the
affair, as you judge best.

Enclosed I have the honour to send you
a narration of the matter, and the correspondence between
M. Schomberg and myself.

I am

To the Commanding Officer
of His Majesty's Ships and
Vessels employed and to be employ'd
at the Leeward Islands.---

Sir

Your most obedient Servant
William.

Wm

First..... Whilst his Majesty's Ship Pegasus lay in
Halifax Harbour, I was going to punish William Olinstone,
Seaman, and William Madden, Marine, for hanging up their
cloaths to dry between decks; M. Schouberg came up to me
and said (no person being present) words to this effect (the
particular words I cannot now mention, from the length of time
since the affair happened) but the intent of these words were,
that if We punished for every trifling offence, We should
make ourselves unpopular, and be constantly punishing. This
language from a first Lieutenant to his Captain when on
his Majesty's Service, struck me at that time as highly
disrespectful and improper; I then said nothing to him, not
wishing to push things to extremity at once.

Second..... During the passage of his Majesty's Ship Pegasus
from Halifax to the West Indies, I thought proper to give out the
following Order: "It is my positive orders and directions that the
Officers and Midshipmen belonging to His Majesty's Ship
under my Command, be not prevented when at Sea, from
spreading abaft the Mizzen-mast or hanging up in the Mizzen
rigging their cloaths, so long as the things hung up, do not impede

His

His Majesty's Service, and it is expected that these things are taken down as soon as they are dry." Mr. Schomberg thought I had given this Order on account of my disapprobation of his proceedings with Mr. Church's things hanging up in the Mizzen-rigging:— after dinner, Mr. Schomberg sent William Gunn, my Servant, into the Cabin, to beg leave to speak to me on the King's Service; He then asked me if he had incurred my displeasure in taking these things of Mr. Church's down, which he conceived he had, by the order that I had given out concerning the drying of cloaths, I told him he had not, though, I thought he had greatly abused his power in taking down these things, which if I had thought they ought to have been taken down, I would myself have ordered; I did so, to avoid bringing matters at that time to a disagreeable explanation: He then went on by informing me of the little respect that was shewn him by the Officers particularly Lieutenant Slope, in asking my leave to exercise the Boarders.— Mr. Schomberg said he thought these things should go through him, otherwise, it was making a Cipher of the day Officer, and if that was the case, he would rather keep his Watch, this conversation appeared to me highly disrespectful,

but

but I was desirous of keeping this disagreeable explanation off,
until his Majesty's Service would require my exerting my
authority as commanding Officer, still hoping M. Schomberg would
remember the respect due from a Lieutenant to his Captain.

Third..... That in his Majesty's Careening Yard Antigua, I gave M.
Schomberg orders to prepare to transport the Ship down to Freeman's
Bay, after Captain Nelson the Senior Officer of his Majesty's Ships
in this Harbour, had ordered me to move the Ship, he made objections
that from the sickness of the Ship's Company and the few men left
to do duty, it would be a long and tedious business to get the Stores
on board; I then told him it was sufficient for me to propose, for
him ever to object, that no other Ship of His Majesty's West
India Squadron, had ever objected to the orders of the commander
in Chief, and that Captain Collingwood of His Majesty's Sloop
Rattler, had had his marines at watch and watch in the Dock
Yard, and had not represented the business to Captain Nelson
the Senior Officer. He M. Schomberg then replied, that since I had
been in company with other ships, I had ever found fault
with him on duty, and he had made objections for the good
of

of His Majesty's Service, and for the conveniency and comfort of the Ship's Company in general. His answer so surprised and hurt me, that I was on the point of coming to an explanation with him at that time, and ordering him into arrest, but that I deferred it, until the Ship's Company were afloat. This affair happened on the 9th January 1787.

Fourth, That on the 10th January, I ordered M^r. Schomberg to send to the Hospital for Sheets for the use of the sick on board, that on the morning of the 11th. He informed me of the Steward's refusing them, as it was unusual and unprecedented a thing in His Majesty's Service; in the course of that day, I settled it with the Surgeon of the Hospital, and ordered M^r. Schomberg to send for them as soon as the people had dined. — On the 12th, when I returned from S^t. John's, I observed with surprise and astonishment that the Sheets had not yet been sent for — as I was pulling on Shore in the Rattler's Boat, I called to M^r. Schomberg on the Quarter Deck, why he had not sent for them, he replied, the multiplicity of business, and the few men were the reasons; it was not the words themselves, but the manner in which

4

which they were delivered, appeared to me to be highly disrespectful
I then wrote him Letter N^o. 1. to which he answered in my
opinion not with respect, but totally denying the charge,
except the not sending for the Sheets, and absolutely pleading
innocent of the disrespect. I thought he shewed me in the manner
of his answer concerning these Sheets, as may be seen by his Letter
N^o. 1. I then wrote Letter N^o. 2. to which he answered he was still
innocent of every charge, and wished to exculpate himself
before his brother Officers, as N^o. 2. from him will prove. From
my desire to avoid bringing W. Schomberg to a Court Martial,
I thought proper to comply with his request, and summoned
the Officers in my cabin, still hoping he would there make
proper concessions for his impropriety of conduct. So far from
that, he asserted solemnly he was innocent of every charge;
upon which I confined him as a Prisoner at large, for disrespect
to me as his commanding Officer on sundry instances, and for
his neglect of duty in disobeying my orders concerning these
Sheets, particularly when His Majesty's Ship Pegasus was
detained in Port from her State of sickness

William.

Upon

Upon M. Schomberg's being put into arrest, he thought proper to write me the following Letter.

N^o. 3. Pegasus, in English Harbour Antigua, 14th January 1787.

Sir,

In consequence of your Royal Highness having thought proper to put me under an arrest this morning. I must request you will inform me whether I am to consider the last Letter I had the honour to receive as the Charges exhibited against me, or whether your Royal Highness means to furnish me with them. I am

Sir,

With the greatest respect
Your Royal Highness's
most obedient and very

His Royal Highness

humble Servant

Prince William Henry.

J. Schomberg.

Which I answered as follows.

N^o. 3. Pegasus, in English Harbour Antigua, 14th January 1787.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your Letter of this days date, and in compliance with your request, I send you enclosed

a copy

a copy of my Letter to the Commander in Chief, I intend for Him
as soon as he arrives, and a copy of the narration I mean
to give him as a further insight into this affair.

With respect to your liberty, I do by no
means consider you as a Prisoner, but as an Officer suspended
from his duty, and any thing that lays in my power to make
your situation comfortable or agreeable I shall with pleasure
do, as I wish to carry on this affair merely for the good of His
Majesty's Service, and without any private pique of my side.

I am Sir

Lieutenant Isaac Schomberg.
of His Majesty's Ship Pegasus.

Your most obedient Servant
William

The next morning the 15th January, Mr. Hargood the second Lieutenant,
delivered me a message from Mr. Schomberg, that he was ready
to make me every concession I thought proper, I then sent for
him into the Cabin, where before his brother Officers, he made me
a full and ample apology for his past misconduct, upon this,
I reinstated him in his command, and was in hopes that Mr.
Schomberg would pay more attention to his future deportment.

On

Second Part.

On the 22^d January in the morning, I saw a boat going on shore to his Majesty's Carcening yard Antigua, upon which I went on Deck, and asked the Midshipman of the Watch (M^r Smollet) "who had sent the Boat on shore?" he told me he had, without acquainting M^r Schomberg, for whom I immediately sent. I told M^r Schomberg I had been extremely angry with M^r Smollet for presuming to send a boat on shore without his leave, as I should be with M^r Schomberg himself, if he ever was to send a boat on shore without having first obtained my permission. — at noon the same day, to my utter surprise and astonishment upon my coming on deck, I saw M^r Garnier going on shore in one of the Ship's Boats, I called him back to know, by whom he had been sent on shore, he replied, by M^r Schomberg, to whom I turned round, as he was standing on the Quarter Deck, and told him he had disobeyed my positive orders of this morning. — the next day the 23^d January, I thought proper to give out the following Order: — "From M^r Schomberg's neglecting to inform me yesterday of his sending a boat on shore, and M^r Smollet's doing the same; I think proper to recommend the reading over of these orders with attention by the Officers and Gentlemen; as for the future, I shall make them accountable for their conduct

in disobeying my commands or orders, I may from time to time
give out." — Upon my reading this Order to M. Schomberg,
he observed to me, it was throwing out a reproach against his
conduct before the Officers and Ship's Company, and as he did not
feel himself guilty of the charge, he was determined to exculpate
himself before his brother Officers, this language appeared to
me so highly improper, that I stopt him short by ordering him
to see every thing ready to move the Ship, as she was that morning
to be warped down from English Harbour into Freeman's Bay. —
I dined in the country that day, and upon my return on board
in the evening, I found the following Letter, and the enclosed on
my Table.

Pegasus, English Harbour Antigua, 23rd January 1787.

Sir,

Your Royal Highness having thought proper
this Morning, to charge me in the general Order Book with
neglect of Duty, of which I by no means feel myself culpable,
I have therefore in order to vindicate my Conduct, wrote the
enclosed Letter to the Senior Officer of His Majesty's Ships and
Vessels

Vessels employed in these Seas, to request he will, whenever an opportunity offers, order a Court-Martial to enquire into the justness of it. — I am Sir,

With the greatest respect

Your Royal Highness's
most obedient and humble Servant
J. Schomberg.

His Royal Highness
Prince William Henry.

Pegasus in English Harbour Antigua, January 23,

Sir,

1787.

As his Royal Highness Prince William Henry
Commander of His Majesty's Ship Pegasus, has thought proper
this morning to accuse me with Neglect of duty in the General
Order Book of which I do not conceive myself Guilty.

I must therefore in Vindication of my Conduct
as an Officer beg you will be pleased, whenever an opportunity
may offer, to order a Court-Martial on me to enquire into the
Charge alledged against me.

Enclosed I have the honour to send you a copy
of

of the accusation for your Perusal.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient

and very humble Servant

J. Schouberg, 1st Lieutenant

of His Majesty's Ship Pegasus.

To

Horatio Nelson Esq.

In his Letter, Mr. Schouberg having acquainted me with his application to Captain Nelson the Senior Officer upon the West India Station to be tried by a Court-Martial, I sent for him into the Cabin, and told him he was wrong; he answered me that I was grown so particular in the duty of the Ship, that no Officer could serve with me, and that they must be broke, and that he did this to clear his Character, and would then quit the Ship, I told him he should not quit the Ship; as the Commander in Chief was not empowered by the Admiralty to let Officers return home from foreign stations but for their healths. Mr. Schouberg's applying to the Senior Officer on the Station for a Court-Martial without his previous application to me his Captain, I consider as one

of

of the greatest marks of disrespect that an inferior Officer can shew to his superior: there must be an end of discipline in his Majesty's Naval Service in my humble opinion, if a Lieutenant either because he dislikes the Captain he serves under, or because he disapproves of the orders this Captain thinks proper to give out for the better disciplining of the Ship he has the honour to command, writes for a Court-Martial to the Senior Officer on the Station at a time he is well aware there are not Ships enough to compose this Court, he likewise makes the innocent suffer for his impropriety of conduct, in making others do his duty from the smallness of the number of Officers allowed to King's Ships - From these motives, I considered it as my duty to keep him a close prisoner on board, more particularly so, as I received the following Letter from Captain Nelson, the Senior Officer on this Station, authorizing me to do so if I thought proper:

Boreas, 23, January 1787.

Sir,

I have the Honour of acquainting your Royal Highness, that in consequence of a Letter which I this day

received

received from Lieutenant Schomberg, i. Lieutenant of His Majesty's
Ship Pegasus under your Command, I have thought proper
to order him under arrest, and beg that you will grant him
such Indulgencies, or lay such restrictions on him during his
arrest, as his behaviour shall appear to you, to deserve. I have
the honour to be

Sir

His Royal Highness
Prince William Henry
Captain of His Majesty's Ship

Your Royal Highness's
most obedient humble servant
Horatio Nelson.

Pegasus.

From Mr. Schomberg's past Conduct, and from his behaviour
in this last affair, I cannot but look upon his Conduct as
down right Mutiny, and as absolutely giving me the lie,
when I taxed him with disobedience of Orders the last time,
and which it behoves me, both as an Officer who is Zealous for
His Majesty's Service, and as a Man who has his own honour
at Heart, to prove the falshood of.

After Mr. Schomberg had been twenty days in confinement
he thought proper to write me the following Letter.

Sir,

Pegasus. Montserrat, 12th February 1787.

Sir,

However difficult it may be to address your Royal Highness in my present situation, yet I must divest myself of that feeling, in order to call to my remembrance the good opinion you was pleased to have formerly entertained of me; the fear of having lost that, has given me infinite uneasiness; to be infallible, would be more than to be man. I trust and hope my Disposition has never been such as to be too obstinate not to know when I have gone beyond the bounds of discretion. — Should I therefore in this instance have exceeded them, I hope your Royal Highness's Goodness will extend to forget and forgive.

On my part I can with truth and confidence say that I am most sincerely Sorry for what has passed, and that I doubt not but your Royal Highness will find me as sincerely as ever attached to your Royal Person. — Should your Royal Highness approve of my concession, I will with your approbation write to Captain Nelson for leave

to

to recall my Letter. I have the honour to be

With the greatest respect

Your Royal Highness's

most devoted and obedient

His Royal Highness's

Servant

Prince William Henry.

J. Schomberg.

Which I answered in these words.

Pegasus, at Montserrat, 12th February 1787.

Sir,

I have to own the receipt of your Letter of
this days date, and must confess myself very much surprised
at your writing in the manner you have, after the
conversation that passed previous to your last arrest.
It is now Sir too late; your misconduct has given me
a lesson never to forgive an Officer for disrespect the first
time, but much more so after an Officer has still treated me
with greater marks of disrespect, in writing to the
Commander in Chief, without his Letter going through

my

my hands:— Had you been sensible at first of your error when I reinstated you in your command, you would have endeavoured by your rigid obedience to all my orders to have regained my good opinion, but as your conduct till Captain Nelson the Senior Officer on this Station thought proper to order you into arrest was so diametrically opposite, I must prove for the good of his Majesty's Service that disrespect from a Lieutenant to his Captain must and will be severely punished. I am Sir

Your most obedient Servant,

Lieutenant Schomberg

William.

of His Majesty's Ship Pegasus.

My motives for writing my answer in the manner I did, were these, that there must be a total subversion of Military discipline in his Majesty's naval Service, if a Lieutenant is first of all put into arrest by his Captain for disrespect to his commanding Officer on sundry occasions, and for his neglect of duty in disobeying his positive orders,

and

and then forgiven and reinstated; and in the course of a few days he again disobeys his Captain's commands, who thinks proper to reprimand him in the publick Order Book of the Ship, upon which this Lieutenant is again guilty of disrespect by writing to the Commander in Chief for a Court-Martial to exculpate himself without his Letter going through his Captain's hands, and is then put into arrest by this Commander in Chief, and after feeling the inconvenience of being a Prisoner, writes to his Captain how sensible he is of his obstinacy and indiscretion, and begs that his Captain will forget the business and forgive him, and with his approbation and concurrence he will write to the Commander in Chief to have his Letter requesting the Court-Martial recalled: If this is permitted to go on unpunished, there must be a final stop to all obedience and respect to superiors in the Royal Navy, and the Captain or Commander who passes over these things unpunished, is unworthy of having the honour to serve His Majesty.

W. M. A.





