J. Ryan to Thomas Tyrwhitt

Enclosure.

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Worthing, Octob.r 15th 1811.

Sir,

In addition to what I had the honor of communicating to you, relative to Col: Wardle's movements, I beg leave to observe further, as the result of minute subsequent Inquiries, that he had been here about six Weeks prior to his late visit, accompanied by a poor miserable looking female, who, from the description and other circumstances, appears to be Mrs. Wardle — at Bognor usually called, in derision, "Mrs. Rum & Onions" — "Mrs. Tabitha Skinflint" — "The little Jew Old-Cloaths-Woman", &c. &c. — Without giving his name, he introduced himself to a fisherman of the name of Wicks, who also keeps bathing Machines, as the particular friend of Sir Francis Burdett, with whom Wicks is well acquainted, having been frequently in the habit of bathing him, and attending him out a shooting, when in this Neighbourhood, as well as of sending him to Town a present of the first her=rings he takes in the Season: for the worthy Baronet is as fond of First Fruits as the Parson himself. — Hence it would seem that Sir Francis & Mr. James Wicks, the fisherman, are old Cronies, tho' I think the latter by far the better subject of the two.

The illustrious Colonel wishing to pass incog in a place where he thought himself not personally known, announced himself at the Warm Bath as a Mr. Bonnet — still as the intimate friend of Sir F. Burdett: but, rather unluckily for his view, he was soon recognized, and the noted, the patriotic Col: Wardle, Mr. Browne, and Mr. Bonnet were identified as being one & the same individual personage! Surely this man never could attempt to avail himself of any mistake in regard to his name in an Action at Law, by pleading a Misnomer. — He could no more prove it than he could an alibi, when detected under the feigned Name of Browne with his Mistress, at the Cadogan Arms in Sloan Street.

At the time above-mentioned, he was also negociating with a brother of the said Wicks,

Thos. Tyrwhitt Esqr.
&c. &c. &c.

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Wicks about the hire or purchase of a large Boat: for what purpose he best knows. At his late visit he commissioned Wicks to engage a furnished house for him, during the remainder of the season, or 'till Christmas. – He was about leaving Worthing immediately, but was to be back in a day or two. – He left his Lodging near Broadwater early on Saturday morning, the 5th Inst. but has not yet returned.

Sir Francis Burdett not having been seen in or about Worthing yet this season, tho' his name had been entered in the Books at both the Libraries, it is doubtful whether he was actually the person who accompanied Col. Wardle from this Neighbourhood.

Could the enterprising Colonel by any means contrive to put the Heiress Apparent of England into Buonaparte's power, he may unquestionably make his own terms. – That a man of his description, and in the present desperate state of his Character & circumstances, would stick at the commission of no Crime, however atrocious, to gratify his hatred to his Majesty's family & Government, on the one hand, and with the certain prospect of ample Emolument on the other, hardly admits of the least shadow of doubt; while at the same time he could take the necessary measures for his personal Security, by removing to another Country. In this he has no Interest, or next to none. – I repeat it, that his motions should be watched with the utmost care.

At Felpham, the Revd. Dr. Jackson (distinguished by the title of Mother Jackson) late Dean of Christchurch, Oxford, and the Revd. Mr. Bede, the annihilator of the aspirate;* and, at Bognor, Lady Collins and Mr Thos. Trowbridge & family, are the principal, if not the only Advocates for Wardle and Wardelian Politics in that Neighbourhood. – Mr Bede is his declared friend, and ready to serve and assist him in any Enterprise whatever. – Three-fourths of the Inhabitants of Chichester are still infected with the like Mania. – In fact, Chichester may well be considered an Hospital for political Incurables.

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* This truly bad man & most worthless Character commits some very ridiculous mistakes by his determined hostility to the poor (h) ... "The lord poured down 'ail ... Madam, shall I ride your 'orse?" &c. Mr Bede.

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Conceiving the celebrated Mrs. Clarke the very properest person I could possibly consult on the choice of a Lawyer to prosecute my Claim on Wardle; to her I accordingly applied, and obtained the Information I wanted. – In a few days after, she sent me a slip of paper with these words: "Col. Wardle is not at Heen".

"Mr Ryan."

To which I returned the following Answer:

"Madam,

"On my return, after a walk on the Steyne yesterday, I observed a printed Hand-bill posted up, offering a Reward for the discovery of the person or persons who lately committed depredations on some poultry at Heene: I should be glad to know if your assuring me that Col. Wardle is not at Heen, was meant to obviate any suspicion of his having been concerned in robbing a farmer's hen-roost?"

"I am, Madam, &c. J. Ryan"

"Mrs. Clarke."

I herewith inclose an Extract from my Letter to Lady Collins, last Winter; occasioned by a disgraceful transaction in which she & her daughters took an active part with her friend, Mrs. Wardle. – I have stated or alluded to none but real incontrovertible facts; and have the Honor to remain, most respectfully,

Sir,

Your Obedt.

and very Humble Servant,

J. Ryan