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War Office 10 Feb. 1813.

Dear Terrens,

I rather think from this letter of yours that H. R. H. The Commander in Chief is not aware that the great Coats furnished to the Army are not at present Inspected by the Inspectors of Clothing themselves, but by certain Quarter Masters of the Guards deputed by them for the purpose, but paid for their trouble not by them but by the public at the rate of 10s. a day while so employed. The very hasty manner in which these Inspections are made has more than once attracted my notice and having called upon these Quarter Masters to state the number of Coats Inspected in a year and the number of hours during which they were employed, it appeared that the Inspection of each Coat occupied but a few seconds

although they professed to measure it in
 several different dimensions and also to weigh
 it, in short it was quite evident from their
 own statement that the business has been done
 in a very sleevy manner. The consequence
 has been a gradual & progressive deterioration
 in the quality of the cloth, and when the
 adjutant general & commissary in chief tried
 some months ago to procure some cloth of
 the original standard for pattern coats
 there was none to be found in London, &
 they were obliged to send to have it specially
 manufactured. In order to avoid a recurrence
 of this inconvenience the commissary in chief
 now contracts for the cloth, causes it to be
 accurately inspected in the piece by the
 storekeeper general, who either himself or
 by those whom he employs is accustomed to look

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Inspections, and then gives it to the Contractors
 to be made up by them into coats. The
 principal ^{or most material} part of the Inspection therefore having
 been made before the coats are cut out &
 sewed, it occurred to me that it was a needless
 expence to the public to continue the
 ceremony of making these Quartermasters of
 the Guards take their periodical walks to
 their storerooms, and that the coats might
 as well be inspected as to their admittance
 & sent after they are made up, by the same
 persons who are employed to examine the
 quality of the cloth before hand

Dear Sir

Yours sincerely

Palmerston

No 16.

New Spain 10 July 1813

and Robertson

Mode of inspecting the
great Coats furnished to
the Army -