

Thomas & Henry Tauntow b. Col. J. K. H. H. H.

20708-9

Exford July 6 - 1813.

Sir

The nature of the occasion must be my apology for presuming to address you on the subject of this letter.

Mr. William Taylor who was for upwards of 15 years in the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, & raised himself from the ranks to be a Quartermaster, & who from the period of his quitting that Regiment about six years ago has settled in Exford, where he has kept a public house, stands charged with the suspicion of having knowingly uttered three forged Bank of England notes of £2 each. This charge rests upon the fact that three such notes can be traced back to Taylor as the person who circulated them within a period of about 5 weeks. But although his house & person were consequently and strictly searched & his pocket book & private papers examined, no bad notes were found, nor any discovery made of any communication or intercourse with persons engaged in the traffick of them. It should be added that Mr. Taylor's house is especially resorted to by coach passengers & other travellers, so as to expose him to the hazard of taking bad notes, without the chance of being able to trace them.

Under these circumstances it is that Mr. Taylor is to take his trial at the approaching Sessions for this City for wilfully uttering these notes. The charge affects his life, and though it rests on the

X See 20658

more part of papering away the notes, which is of itself  
only too equivocal to put his life in to serious  
danger, as I trust, yet the occasion is obvious &  
too important to warrant either him or myself  
(who am his legal Adviser) in overlooking or neglecting  
the fair and honest means of his defence: and as the  
surest and indeed the only effectual shield against an  
imputation such as this consists in shewing that  
the person against whom it is made is not likely from  
the uniform tenor of his character & conduct in life to  
give into dishonest practices, it is highly essential  
to Taylor to shew upon his Trial from the best authority  
he can, that such have been his character & conduct:  
and as so great a portion of his life was passed in the  
10<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, indeed the whole of it since he  
became his own Master except what he has since  
passed at Oxford, it is considered of the deepest  
importance to him to obtain the most undoubted attestation  
to his good conduct whilst in the 10<sup>th</sup> Dragoons.

This brings me to the immediate purpose  
of my letter. Taylor flatters himself that he is not un-  
known to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, who was  
his commanding officer, & that the correctness of his conduct  
& the credit with which he governed the Regiment may still

Thomas Henry Taunton to Col. J. Ketchum

20709

be in the remembrance of his Royal Highness, and that upon such an occasion as the present His Highness might possibly condescend either to honour him with some attestation to that effect, or to cause some attestation or certificate to be sent, which under the sanction of his Royal Highness's authority, might be received as evidence upon the trial, which will take place on Monday next the 12<sup>th</sup> instant. I have the honour to send herewith a copy of a most satisfactory testimonial to Taylor's character in a letter from Major Howard of the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, but I fear that the reading of this letter unauthenticated & unvouched would be objected to, and I do not think it is too much to expect that Major Howard would attend personally.

I am sure you will forgive this long intimation in consideration of the obvious nature of the occasion. I will only add that I beg to commit to your better judgment the disposal of this application. If it shall appear to you presumptuous or improper, you will be good as to withhold any communication of it from His Royal Highness. You will allow me to repeat the honour of an answer, & to subscribe myself, Sir,  
your most obedient  
humble servant  
Thos. Henry Taunton

x See 20658

20792



J. H. Jambon

July 6. 1873

*[Faint, illegible cursive handwriting covering the majority of the page]*