

W. Maxwell  
Oct. 17. 1813

Court Martial

20997-8

My Dear Sir,      Fensworth Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> 1813

Permit me thus late to offer you my most sincere  
& grateful acknowledgments for your kind letter  
address'd to Mr. Maxwell of the 26<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> which  
should not have been so long delayed, but that the  
situation of my mind under the oppressive severity  
of recent Events, render'd me incapable of any exertion.  
You are doubtless already apprised of the Court Martial  
lately held upon me with the sentence & the Prince  
Regent's decision thereon; but I owe it to myself, & to  
the friendly interest you express in our favor, to  
state, that however appearances are against me, &  
however serious the charge upon which I was  
arraign'd & found guilty, the circumstances of my case

are such & were so proved in the investigation, that  
not a shadow of culpable intention has been imputed  
to me & indeed this is confirmed by the sentence of the  
court (who were obliged to find me guilty upon my own  
admission of my inadequacy to make good the Balances  
as stated against me) which has not declared me  
unworthy or incapable of future service. You are fully  
competent my Dear Sir to appreciate this circumstance  
which to a military Mind is so important, I doubt not  
when possessed of the following brief details, you will not  
consider me undeserving your Friendship or excluded from  
your esteem. You know that my Career of Life commenced  
with the possession of every comfort which Man could  
enjoy, but by an expensive habit of living I exceeded  
my income, & in the course of time extremely deranged  
my Fortune. Not having been brought up a Man of

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Business I did not duly estimate the value of Money, & it is not surprising I should become entangled with Accounts. When I was appointed Paymaster I found the Business of the District far exceeded the means allotted me, & I repeatedly but vainly solicited assistance, supported by the representations of the Inspecting Field Officer of the District. The consequence was the Accounts fell greatly in arrear, & being at the commencement of a new System, when nothing was intelligible, the confusion increased without the possibility of avoiding it. Thus circumstanced I was wholly unaware of the State of the Accounts between me & the public, & was overwhelmed with distress when it appeared by a summary examination made by order of the Secretary at War, a Balance appeared against me far beyond my power of liquidating. The result is known to you, but I must add, that a great portion of the Accounts being yet to read, I have a right to expect important Errors will be discovered in my favor,

for in truth I am not involv'd so that I stand, but am  
in the most complete conviction of my mind, the victim of  
a mystery which time will one day elucidate. In the mean  
time the Odium rests with me, but as throughout the whole  
proceedings the most ample testimony has been borne  
to my Honor, & all those persons with whom I have been  
in the habits of a poeinty while I held the appointment  
consider me with undiminish'd regard, my feelings are in  
some degree consol'd under the Event. - Allow me My Dear  
Sir, to hope for the assurance that I still enjoy the favor  
of your good opinion, & that you will not withdraw the pro-  
mise of your favorable exertions on behalf of M<sup>r</sup>. Maxwell  
& myself, which has given us both the most lively satisfac-  
tion. Reduced in Fortune & humbled by adversity, with a  
large Family of eight Children, our means are too limited  
for their Support & Education without some addition, and  
as the Door of Honorable Service is not shut against  
me,

allow me to entreat your kind assistance in obtaining some  
Employment which may at the same time benefit my Family  
& afford me the opportunity of redeeming my Name from  
the Reproach which at present covers it. My eldest Son  
is now in his eighteenth year & has been the Object of an  
application to you through the Friendship of Sir Walter  
Dargyhar for an appointment as a Writer to Ceylon.  
These appointments, I understand, are in the nomination  
of the Colonial Secretary, & a certain number of them  
annually made out. It will be a great relief to us to  
get him fix'd in some pursuit, & as I have Friends in  
the Island, the prospect appears advantageous, if it can  
be attain'd. — I have trespass'd at length upon you, as  
I was anxious to place before your view the real circum-  
stances of my present situation as connected with the  
Late Events, & while I solicit the interposition of your  
favorable auspices in our behalf, by you will be assur'd

that I should not have obtruded myself or affairs upon  
your indulgence, had I not the perfect consciousness  
of being free in every thought of my life from dishon-  
orable intentions, & that though unhappy, I am not  
unworthy of your friendship. —

M<sup>rs</sup> Mapwell begs me in the strongest manner  
to express to you her deep sense of your obliging notice  
& to say that the object of her solicitude in approaching  
the Prince Regent is removed. —

I remain with the greatest respect  
& esteem  
My Dear Sir,  
Your faithful & Obedt<sup>l</sup> Servt.  
W<sup>m</sup> Mapwell —

The Rt. Honble.

J. Pitt Rivers

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