

Baron Eberle
to
H.R.H.
Copy, 22195-6 Translated.

Hambourg 30. April 1818.

To His Royal Highness the prince Regent,

Hambourg April 30. 1818.

Copy of a letter from

Baron Eberle to His Royal

Highness the prince Regent.

Died. May 8. 1818.

The recollection of so manifold proofs of Justice and magnanimity emboldens me most respectfully to submit to Your Royal Highness the following observations, which my ill state of health prevented from appearing sooner. I was accidentally drawn into the well known Portuguese affair; for my conscience acquits me of every criminal enterprise or participation in it; nor does the sentence published on that occasion charge me with any crime, or state the grounds and reasons of its being pronounced upon me. I will employ no arguments to prove how easily such sentences are passed in a country like Portugal, where the Judge decides arbitrarily. My ruin was resolved, but thank God! my Innocence prevented my total destruction - But my enemies, by levelling against me the shafts of calumny, so far - succeeded in their object as to deprive me of the good opinion of Your Royal Highness, my most
gracious

gracious master and Protector. The Treatment
I have experienced in Portugal has injured me
more than I can express! at my examination
with closed doors, they wrote down, not what I said,
but what it suited them to write; no interpreter
was allowed me, though I twice requested it, nor
was I permitted to make my Statement upon
oath. The gentleman appointed by the
government as my council, visited me once;
it was on the 12th of September 1817. although
he assured me that I should be liberated in a
few days, he advised me to write a petition;
this I refused to do relying on my Innocence
and the Justice of my cause. I expressed a wish
to dictate my defense, but my request was not
granted; I then wrote it with my own hand in
the french Language; but it was all in vain.
on the 22. October 1817. after the sentence had
been made public, the same gentleman again
came to see me, but informed me at the same
time, that he would not be permitted to repeat
the visit. Of the 33. Individuals arrested on
account of that affair, I was personally acquainted
with but two. I requested the Portuguese
Government

Government to furnish me with a liberal copy of my trial; but they refused it; my object was to place the case in its true light, for the sentence, as I have before said, touches upon nothing that concerns me individually or what is not misrepresented; and I intended to lay the case at the feet of Your Royal Highness and thus to remove Your displeasure, being conscious of my Innocence.

During my Service in Portugal I experienced much unmerited Treatment; third persons frequently receiving rewards, in cases where I was responsible, without my name ever being mentioned! these are Facts, and facts which in the end will come to light. I relied on those in power, and followed their advice, which is evident from my Journal in which every Interview with my superiors is noticed, and in which, even the sentence states, nothing of a criminal nature was met with. My embarrassed pecuniary circumstances caused me to remain in the portuguese Service, and I was prepared to go to the Brazils, finding that other English officers were engaged there.

I never enjoyed the same advantages as other English officers in the portuguese army -
 Though

though no one could find any fault with me.
I have frequently encountered death for the
welfare of England, & have faithfully and
disinterestedly executed the orders of Sir Charles
Stuart, Your Royal Highness's minister at
Paris, and thus essentially promoted the interest
of the English Government, and yet the
Portuguese government chooses to place me
in so unfavorable a light. . . . Although I have
ever been remote from revolutionary principles,
and intent only to prove my attachment and
fidelity to my superiors, yet it is probable,
that the freedom with which I have expressed
myself respecting many things, met with
disapprobation, and I found in my own
person a confirmation of the well known
truth, that the flatterers of the fortunate are
often the persecutors of the unhappy.

I became connected with General Gomes Freyre,
because I had written a book upon the service
of light troops, and the use of rifles. Who
upon earth is better able, ^{to judge} than Your Royal
Highness, whether I can give instruction in
that Branch? I had dedicated this Book to
His

His Royal Highness the Prince of Beera, and that General corrected the stile - as to his own secret plans, I was altogether ignorant of them, and this fact he has himself asserted and proved.

How happy should I feel had honest Englishmen constituted my Judges! had they found me guilty, and had the hand which I have so often lifted, while my heart overflowed with gratitude - signed my sentence; death would have proved more welcome to me than this life of pain and humiliation!

In my present melancholy and embarrassed circumstances I behold in Your Royal Highness my sole protector and Saviour.

I implore Your Royal Highness whose heart is so noble and great to commiserate my unhappy situation, and to look down with compassion on my wife and children. Every one, thinking me criminal, withholds assistance from me - I cannot any longer call on the humanity of Mr. Ackermann of the Strand, to continue his pecuniary succour to me; and I have no resource but Your Royal Highness's Generosity - most humbly soliciting the aid of a few hundred pounds Sterling.

Frederic Baron Eben.

