40275_88 Correspondence re Richard Heaby – an officer in H.R.H's Regiment
July 23 – Aug. 29 1804 (Last date shown)

To precede the Letters

Some Disputes having existed in the Regiment in which it had been falsely reported to the Prince, that Mr. Manby. took a Part — induced it is supposed, His Royal Highness to send by Col. Mr. Maker the Message stated in the following Letters

40276 To Col. M. Mahon July 23. Guilford No. 1

Sir

No. 1 —

The Communication I had the honor, through you of receiving from his R.H. the Prince of Wales, (reflecting upon the consequences likely to ensue from) has left me under considerable anxiety & embarrassment. My behaviour in two points, which you informed me had come to the Princes hearing, would, if true, infallibly have drawn down upon me disgrace & blame, & if not true, I have little hope of justifying myself unless I can obtain a fair & impartial investigation of my conduct — You told me, "it had been represented to his R.H., that I, as Paymaster, have in many "Instances interfered with the military duty of the "Regiment, that I am the chief cause of the present "dispute which unhappily subsist in it & that I "foment them as much as possible" — These complaints Sir, being general I can only deny generally, but I beg to assure you, for his R.H.'s information, that they are as false as they are serious — and that I require to know in what particular point I am marked out to be so offensive to the welfare of the service, & general harmony of the Regiment, in

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that I may with propriety defend myself against any complaints that my opponent may think proper to allege against me. — I have the honor to be Sir

&c &c Signed Richd Worley.

Carlton House July 25th

Sir, No. 2

I had the honor to lay your letter which I received this morning before the Prince of Wales, but his R H not having expressed any sentiments whatever upon it, I can of course have nothing to communicate on the subject. — I have the honor to be Sir &c &c — Signed John McMahon

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~~Extract~~ —

To Colt McMahon Guilford July 27th

Sir, No. 3

In consequence of what passed to day at Mr Greenwoods, I think it necessary to tell you, that I have seen Mr Dunitiss that he denies having in the letter he wrote to Baron Eben expressed himself in the terms you mentioned, viz. that I offered Baron Eben civilities provided he would give up the party of Colt Leigh. — Baron

Eben who was also present disavows having received any letter expressed in those terms. I have the Honor to be Sir &c &c. Signed Richd Hanby.

~~Enclosure the Letter to Col. McMahon as above~~

Two days after the receipt of the above letter, I waited on Col^l McMahon with a desire to see the Prince; I stated my reasons for this, which he told me he would communicate to His R.H. & meet me in half an hour at Mr Greenwoods (this being Friday July 27th) and on my entering the room at Mr Greenwoods he told me that he was sorry to be the bearer of a message like the one he was charged with; which was that he had H.R.H's directions to say "that "he had the moment before seen a letter written "by Lt Quintin to Baron Eben, wherein it was "stated that I had had a conversation with Mr Q. "offering to lend Baron Eben money to pay "him attentions if he would give up the fasty "of Colt Leigh" – on hearing this, without a moment's hesitation I declared it to be a wicked & abominable falsehood. What I would prove it so. B.B. I sent the narration short as possible to avoid the pain & tedium. I proceed therefore to copy the

4 ~~[illegible]~~

according to their dates, & Numbers

Guilford July 28th

To Lt Drinkwater

Sir

No 4

Colt Mc Mahon told me yesterday that you had written to Baron Eben a letter (which letter had been read by HRH the Prince of Wales) in which you said that I had, in conversation with you, offered Baron Eben civilities provided he would give up the party of Colt Leigh. This speech, I positively deny, & upon my calling upon you last night you denied having written any such terms. Baron Eben being present at the time I spoke to you discovered receiving such a letter; I therefore call upon you to confirm in the presence of Mr Johnson & any officer you think proper, the truth of what I have herein related. I am Sir

Yours

Signed Richd Berby

~~[illegible]~~ (No 5.)

To Mr Berby (A) Guilford Bks Augt 8th

Drinkwater assures Mr Berby that he never send any such expression, namely

that Mr Heaney offered Civilities or attentions to Baron Eben, provided he gave up the party of Colr Leigh. If further Baron Eben acquainted Mr Heaney that he never received such a letter. Mr Quintin has written to H.R.H. on this occasion, who has desired Colr Leigh to explain the circumstance to Mr Greenwood.

Signed A. Quintin Lieut
Fredk Eben. Capt

Guilford Augst 16th

To H.R.H. the Prince of Wales

Sir

No. 6

Altho' I have undergone the greatest anxiety from the apprehension of having unintentionally incurred your R.H's displeasure, yet I am prompt to hope you will do me the justice to listen to a few words in vindication of my general conduct & character. — I have had the mortification of receiving thro' Colr Mr Mahon a message stated to come directly from your R.H. signifying that I had interfered with the military duty of the Regt. That I was the cause of the disputes arising in it. That I fomented them as much as possible. Subsequently I have received a second me

the same gentleman, stated to be in corroboration of the former, that in a conversation with Mr Quentin, I had offered to lend Baron Eben money if he would give up the property of Col Leight, which supposed fact had made its way to your R H thro' a letter from Mr Quentin to Baron Eben. — Before I take upon me to detect the falsehood of this last assertion, I beg to lay before your R H. the high sense I have ever entertained of your condescension & kindness to me since I have had the honor of holding a situation in your R Hs' Household. That it is impossible for me to act in any manner unbecoming a gentleman, ever holding in terror, a just notion that when I conduct myself otherwise, I am no longer fit for the society in which I live — in addition to this, I have ever considered that it is to your R Hs' favor, I owe all the comfort I ~~now enjoy~~ by looking back to the situation I left, I am penetrated with the highest gratitude & attachment to your R H. both as my Prince & my Benefactor, with such sentiments I am incapable of doing a thing intentionally adverse to your R Hs'

wishes, nor have I ever done so in the slightest degree; I have not interfered with the military duty of the Reg^t – unless endeavouring to avoid the prodigious deduction from the War Office and representing my embarrassment on that account can be so wilfully misconstrued – I have never uttered a syllable in derogation of the conduct of any Commanding Officer, or a word in reference to any Regimental orders except in contradiction to what I may have heard related by other people – and I have instead of fomenting disputes, not only endeavoured to reconcile those which may have subsisted, but I have silently passed by many personal insults for the sake of preserving harmony & good humour. — As respects the letter reported to me to have been translated from the german by your R.H. I subjoin the following disavowal of such a letter being either written or received.

(~~[illegible]~~ here the paper signed by St. Quentin & Baron Eben dated 8. Augt is referred to, 14)

Satisfied that your R.H. will acquit me of holding such a rediculous conversation, that such a letter as presented to your R.H.

must have been fabricated for the very purpose of misrepresentation & mischief — of the person so imposing upon your R H. I forbear to specify being solicitous only for the consistency & integrity of my own character — having in view no other object, & independent of all other considerations. — I have the honor to be with the profoundest respect & with the highest personal regard, Your R Hs most obedient humble Servant

Signed Richd Sharby —

Guilford 27th Aug^st

To Col Leigh.

No 7

Sir

I enclose you a copy of a paper, I have received from Mr Dimitan, relative to a conversation supposed to have taken place between that gentleman & myself, reflecting upon my conduct, & which I thought it necessary should be contradicted — and as he has stated in that paper, that you (in his presence) received this R Hs directions to write to Greenwood to explain the circumstance

I take the liberty of calling upon you in common justice to my character to comply with those directions his R H has been so graciously pleased to give, not understanding that any communication from you has yet been received. - It is not my intention to press you to do this hastily, tho' it is three weeks since you received the orders, but I expect, Sir, you will not delay it longer than necessary as it is a circumstance on which my satisfaction very much depends - nor shall I think my conduct and honour sufficiently vindicated without it -

I have the honor to be Sir &c &c

Signed Richd. Hanby

To Mr Greenwood. No 8 Guilford Augst.

Dear Sir

I thank you for your attention relative to the unpleasant business in which I have been involved - & I shall esteem myself still more obliged to you, if you will let me know when Colt Leigh either verbally or in writing communicates with you on that subject as I shall not consider my character sufficiently vindicated until his HRH's

directions as stated to me under Mr Quintin's signature
are complied with. – I have the honor to be

Sir &c &c

Signed Richd Mosley –

No 9 Carlton House Aug 26th

Dear Sir

In consequence of your letter to the Prince which I had the honor to deliver him, H R H has commanded me to request you will be so obliging as to meet me here on Sunday next at 11 o'clock. I have the honor to be

Dear Sir

Very faithfully Yours

Signed J Mc Mahon

In consequence of Mr Mc Mahon's letter of 26th Aug I repaired to Carlton House & the following statement was merely what my memory assisted by some minutes I took on the occasion furnished me; & I firmly believe them in substance tho' not in letter to be strictly correct – On meeting Baron Stein Mr Quintin at Carlton House in presence of Colt Mc Mahon and Mr Lindeman,

two sheets of paper were produced by Colt McMahon each containing questions to be put to Baron Eben, & Mr Quinten; That Baron Eben was first asked whether he had received any letter from Mr Quinten, & if he had, whether he remembered when he had received it; to which he replied, that he had received a letter from Mr Quinten about the 24th July: Baron Eben was then asked whether that letter contained any account of a conversation between Mr Heaby & Mr Quinten; & if it did, what the nature of that conversation was; his answer was that it contained an expression of Mr Quinten, "that if it was their wish to go once from the Party of Colt Leigh, attentions and civilities would be shewn to them from the opposite party". Baron Eben was asked who he meant by the opposite party, to which question no definitive answer was given; he was asked whether Mr Heaby's name was mentioned as being one of the opposite party: he answered, No. He was asked whether the expression contained in Mr Quinten's letter, implied that civilities would be shewn to him Baron Eben or that any proposal through Mr Quinten directly or indirectly was made by Mr Heaby of tending him (Baron Eben)

money to induce him to give up the party of Col. Leigh – he answered No. – You have Baron Eben in your note denied having received any such letter (as you now describe) at any time from Col. Dunning how do you reconcile such denial with the account you have just given? and under what impression did you give such denial? I did not sufficiently understand the English language to comprehend the note. I meant to deny that any thing in the letter reflected upon Mr Merby's conduct, I signed it at the instance of Mr Dunning for the purpose of being shewn by Mr Merby to Mr Greenwood, trusting that nothing more would have been said upon the subject. What Baron Eben is become of the letter which you received from Mr Dunning? I gave it to Mr D. when he went to Brighton; Did he return it you? No, he did not. Upon which answer Mr Dunning said "Gently, you go too far". –

Mr Dunning did you write any letter to Baron Eben? I did on the 24th July. Did that letter contain any thing relative to a conversation between you and Mr Merby as you have heard stated? No it did not.

N.B. – Before Mr Dunning agreed to be questioned

he required in strong terms that his conduct might be referred to a Court of enquiry where he could answer any questions, & adhered to that determination until he was prevailed upon to consent. — Mr Quinten now asked Mr Merby if Baron Eben did not deny on the evening of the 27th of July the receipt of any such letter from him, to which Mr Merby said that Baron Eben did positively deny it. — Mr Quinten was here desired to state what the contents of his letter of 24th July to Baron Eben were. He said it contained familiar subjects relative to a variety of friendly matters, & to money. Mr Merby asked Mr Quinten if he was now in possession of that letter – he answered "No, I gave it to Baron Eben at Godalming, by putting it on his table whilst he was shaving, he requested to have it" — Mr Quinten added – I will say something "Baron Eben has not said the truth, I positively asserted "that I gave the letter of July 24th to him on my return "from Brighton which I had taken in my pocket to "show to the Prince". Mr Merby said, Did you Mr Quinten show it to the Prince? — "No, I did not. "I thought myself under some obligations to Baron Eben "Therefore as far as I could (honestly by Mr Merby) I was "desirous of screening him".

N B — I was promised a copy of the questions & answers which were afterwards refused.

The answers to the questions, which were all leading questions & partially put rather observed than developed the transaction of which I was not so sensible ~~at the time~~ as I was afterwards, for being mostly concerned for my individual reputation; lost sight against my own sense, of the palpable contradiction that appeared on the investigation — and Mr Mc Mahon representing to me, that H R H satisfied with my conduct, & the letter, except in that part where it stated, "that the letter was fabricated for the sake of "misrepresentation & mischief", which seemed to bear a reflection on Colt Leigh; & from some circumstances carefully concealed from my knowledge, no positive fact appearing in proof of its being a fabrication I was induced to write the following letter to Mr Mc Mahon for H R H's satisfaction, and as stated to me to be H R H's express desire. —

To Colt Mc Mahon. No 10 Carlton House Aug 26th

Sir

Upon the investigation that has this day taken place, I am made sensible that a letter

from Mr Dumbin to Baron Eben has been presented to HRH the Prince of Wales, which letter has been misrepresented. What the letter does not appear to have fabrication; I think it necessary to state this to you, as I have made some allusion of that kind in my letter to HRH.

I have the honor to be &c &c

Signed Richd Stanley

But upon maturely considering the whole affair & as I reflect again the contradiction the investigation contained (a Copy of which, I was not permitted to have) I cannot but say that the circumstances are more perplexed than ever. The real truth, now rendered more difficult to be got at; I was not informed of all I am now aware of, & which lead me to be of my first opinion that Mr Dumbin's letter presented by Baron Eben to HRH was a fabricated letter; & of that opinion I shall remain till the letter be produced, or until the transactions are more fully & impartially investigated.

Reasons for signing the letter B. 10 to Colt Mr Mahon

When I wrote the letter B. 10 to Colt Mr Mahon, I was impressed with a notion that Mr Dumbin

(tho' in direct opposition to what he said) might have expressed in this letter something of a wish to the effect mentioned by Baron Eben, I thought so, because, tho, Mr Dimitrin has previously said that when he had taken the letter from Baron Eben to carry to H.R.H that he had shewn it to the Prince; and in his answer before Colt Mc Mahon and Baron Eben he said, he had been a friend of Baron Eben's, that he owed him some obligations & that he did not shew the letter to the Prince, from a desire to screen him in the business as much as he could – This I conclude made one believe, there could be only one letter, & Mr Dimitrin, by giving us the identical letter to Baron Eben on his return for Brighton ~~I was at a loss what to think~~ (having disconnected myself from any such conversation as far as the Prince's conviction went) I was at a loss what to think. To have left off in my letter at the word misinterpreted, I felt that I was casting (not slightly) a censure on H.R.H, which I declare to God was the farthest from my thoughts. – and not being able to reconcile Mr Dimitrin's conduct altogether during the examination, nor Baron Eben's; I was then inclined not to think the letter a fabricated one. –

It however appears from deliberating upon the evidence of Mr Quinton who protests he never wrote such a letter, wherein such a conversation was mentioned, nor that any such conversation took place which Mr Manby himself positively denies & moreover that when Mr Manby charged Mr Quinton on the night of the 27th July in Baron Eben's presence & mentioned to him the contents of the Prince's message, that Baron Eben without hesitation positively denied receiving such a letter, in consequence of which flat denial from both of these gentlemen on the same evening Mr Manby wrote the letter No 3 - and the next morning also both Baron Eben & Mr Quinton with earnestness declared it must be a mistake, that nothing of the kind had been ever expressed in the letter; thereby rendering the Prince's message as sent by Mr McMahon without any foundation. But for what reason Mr Quinton did not show the letter which he did write, & which he took from Baron Eben for the purpose of delivering to the Prince I cannot guess; nor for what reason it was he delivered it to Baron Eben on his return, when the perusal or sight of it by any other person was of so much consequence to his character & mine is beyond my powers of conjecture. He says he did not present

it out of friendship to Baron Eben to whom he was under obligations & of course to whom the detection of such a falsehood & forgery would be ruin; But what is still more extraordinary, Baron Eben says that he did receive such a letter from Mr Dunten mentioning such a conversation, that he signed the paper contradicting it, out of consideration for Mr Dunten's conduct & character & that he should not be injured whereby each charges the other with absolute falsehood. But Baron Eben has protested equivocates and just as he may have been pressed & at every answer ~~[illegible]~~ compounds himself, but what is still worse, he persevere in contradiction to the investigation of Sunday & gives out that he did receive such a letter, of which Lord William Somerset, Mr Goddard & Mr B. Johnson are witnesses. ~~notwithstanding this investigation on Sunday 27th Aug. & when he asserted my name never appeared~~ But why does he not produce the letter which he still has in his custody or he knows what is become of it. I recollect also another circumstance not easily to be reconciled that Mr McMahon told me when he delivered the message which not only mentioned pecuniary assistance, but that I would invite Baron Eben to dinner as usual, if he would give up the party of Colt Leigh, & that when Mr McMahon

received the message from the Prince, Col. Leigh himself & Baron Eben were present. that Baron Eben took his pocket book from out of which he took a letter & delivered it to the Prince who read it in English & Mr McMahon said, "the Prince understands German as well as we do English" & I delivered the message to you exactly as he ordered me. — It is a wicked & abominable falsehood I replied, & who has the letter? The Prince has got it & Mr McMahon answered (and I am not saying too much if I add that Mr Greenwood is well recollected) repeated — & this same gentleman told Mr Seymour that the Prince, addressing himself to Baron Eben after giving the message to Mr McMahon, asked "Is that the true interpretation of the letter" — when Baron Eben bowed, & said Yes. Then forestalling all circumstances together, & above all, the former message relative to my conduct in the Reg.t; independent of the conversation reported of me; I am not disposed to blink a thorough investigation of my general behaviour — added to which Col. McMahon told me it was the Prince's intention to send a General Officer to inquire & report to him the cause & state of the dispute which must subsist where calumnies are so attended to, & supported — It has been represented to me also that I have sent Col. Leigh

an indecent message – that I have spoke improperly to a Serjeant about an orderly book; I therefore do require an accurate & impartial inquiry not for the purpose of disavowing the letter only, but to substantiate & fix my character as it may appear good or bad – I do not any wrong by making such a requisition, I desire to bring no charges or complaints against other people, but literally to establish & protect my own reputation. Colt Leigh then said he would write me, & swore to it more than once, the now may there a fair opportunity. My application by letter to the Prince may be only an attempt to induce an inquiry, but I shall pertinaciously insist on it. Had the investigation on Sunday last produced any one satisfactory answer from either of the gentlemen, I had been content, but all was contradiction & nothing was proved but that each criminated the other. – Colt McMahon said he could not suffer any name to be mentioned, or any question asked but such as led to do away the suspicion of fabrication, but not the truth of the conversation for that in part was admitted to be true, by Baron Eben, tho' so positively denied by Mr Dwarten, – Questions that were proper before a Court of enquiry, were not convenient & proper before

such an investigation! I required to know under what impression it was Baron Eben could be prevailed on to lay before H.R.H. a confidential & friendly epistle of his Countryman & friend, & for it related by Mr Quintin's testimony, only to familiar subjects & that too in the Presence of three other People, I could get no answer, What also could Baron Eben mean by saying that Mr Quintin talked of Party in the Reg. the party of Col. Leigh, & the opposite party; he was asked to name one belonging to any party, but he was silent. He should be made to specify & declare what, & who he meant. — In the end unless I get a proper investigation, I will take upon me to do myself that justice which is immediately in my own power, I will ~~publish~~ make public every letter of what is here stated with such comments as the nature of the transactions may furnish me; for having written to Mr Mc Mahon a second letter & received the answer following, I am apprehensive of obtaining any regular means of expounding & bringing to light the truth of a fact where two people are so much at variance, but it is less for that end than for my behaviour in other respects, & what I do ask now, is no more than what I solicited in my first letter.

To Colt Mc Mahon. Guilford Aug.st 28th 1804

Sir

You will recollect my having before Heft Carlton House on Sunday last, mentioned to you the necessity it appeared to me, there would probably be of my troubling you again upon the subject which was then discussed; Tho' I did not hesitate to state according to the wishes of the Prince; that upon the investigation, which then took place, it did not appear to me that a fabrication had been resorted to; still from the length of time that has elapsed since the rumour of the supposed letter first found it's way into circulation; and reflecting upon the various insinuations so highly injurious to my character, which have been propagated in the Regt and in the World, as well as upon the contradictions that manifestly appeared upon the investigation, I feel it a duty I owe to myself to require a much more full & satisfactory explanation of the business before some Military Characters of Rank and Responsibility; in order that the World, the Regt in particular, may be in possession of positive proofs of the Rectitude of my conduct.

I have now only therefore to request you will have the goodness to lay this letter before H R H the Prince of Wales who will I trust allow me the means of justifying myself in the manner I have proposed. — I have the honor to be Sir &c &c

Signed Richard Memby.

Carlton House Aug^st 29th 1801

Sir

I have had the honor to receive your favor of yesterday and as the Prince returned to Brighton yesterday after giving me his final commands upon my setting out for Cheltenham tomorrow under an arrangement I have long solicited on account of my health, having no occasion to address his Royal Highness until my return in Oct^r, I must beg to decline transmitting your letter to him, for as the Prince was pleased to permit my closing all business with him during that time, I cannot possibly enter into any fresh matter at this period, but Mr Greenwood has directed me to say that before you convey the wish you express through any other channel, he is anxious you should see him, for master as he is of the

entire subject, he cannot but see the matter in a different light. He concurs with me that the investigation which took place on Sunday is a complete exemption of your conduct in that transaction; & therefore the application might appear to the Prince at best as unnecessary. I have the honor to be

Sir

Your very obedient Servant

Signed F. R. Mahon.

P.S. I have left your letter to me with Mr Greenwood that you may use your own judgment upon it.

Before I conclude I beg to make one remark on Mr McMahon's answer of the 29th – Mr Greenwood may see the matter in a different light by the representation of Mr McMahon; it is to be remembered that he & Baron Eben & Mr Lindemann are all of H.R.H.'s household, that a partiality to each other is natural tho' it bear ever so hard on an individual, they dont like to interfere with each other's conduct where they can avoid it, & where they cannot, they like to give it as favorable a turn as possible. – Mr McMahon is not an impartial person to be a judge in such an investigation, divested of this partiality,

but wherefore is Mr Lindemann to be fired on as the other investigator; Stick Mr Lindemann to be the interpreter for Baron Eben who pretended to be at a loss for the interpretation ~~of his~~ own confession, but not as my judge, but Baron Eben does understand English as well as any foreigner nor is it any exculpation of my conduct to have Mr Lindemans ~~his~~ acknowledgement of my innocence; It was the Prince's opinion, the opinion of the World & the Bp. [BE] that I ought to have ~~[illegible]~~ at present I have not the satisfaction offered me by HRH his orders, that the conversation stated of me, should be denied by Colonel Leigh before Mr Greenwood who was present when Colonel McMahon delivered the Prince's message to me. and at best when this is done Mr Greenwood can only be satisfied of my conduct in that transaction — whereas it is not to that, only that I attach the injury done to me by the calumnies that have been so industriously spread about to effect the purpose of my ruin; & considering the great sanction the authority of the person before whom I have been traduced bears in the public mind the more it behoves me to be my own protector against the ~~imputations~~ artifices of my oppressors. There has been ~~Rascality~~ Bad Behaviour somewhere and I wish my conduct to be properly inquired into; I depend

once more tie it on account of the Letter I am so solicitous; tho I don't mean to lose sight of that very extraordinary circumstance, but from all other false imputations which His Royal Highness has ~~[illegible]~~ listened to respecting me previous to my knowledge of the Letter — Mr. McMahon as well as Mr. Greenwood may remember I made such an application on the 28th July, — to my Lord Lyons of the 28th ~~[illegible]~~ expressing an earnest desire to defend myself against any such Complaints as my ~~[illegible]~~ adversary, whoever he is, may think proper to allege against me &c

Jno. Phipps —