

Wm. Cartwright to H. P. H.

40316-7

King's News 22 October 1804.

Sir,

With much reluctance, and with a great many
Apologies for troubling your Royal Highness on a subject
which can no way be a very pleasant one, I beg leave
to represent to your Royal Highness, that the pecuniary
concerns of Capt. Soutter are so very materially deranged, as to
render it highly necessary, as I conceive at least, that they
should very speedily and very accurately be investigated; as his
regimental debts are so considerable, as to amount, according
to the reports which at different times have reached me
upon the subject of them, to a sum that really is quite
astounding - and these debts, if proper means are not soon
taken to ascertain their amount, and in consequence to
secure the payment of them prior to the sale, or any

exchange of the Commission of Capt: Souter, must I very
much fear fall either upon Your Royal Highness as being
Colonel of the Regiment, or upon the Commanding Officer of
it as being Your Royal Highness's representative; the debts
being all as I believe for Cloathing, or appointments of
different kinds, procured from regimental Tradersmen
for the equipment of Your Royal Highness's Regiment.
The amount of which ^{ought to be} is in Capt: Souter's hands, but which
it appears he has made away with -

I feel peculiarly desirous to lay this matter at this
time before Your Royal Highness, from understanding that
there is great probability that the Paymaster of the Regiment
may ere long quit his present situation, in which event
the difficulty of bringing the matter stated in this letter
to any settlement wou'd be increased in a very great degree,
as M^r Monty from his official knowledge of these
concerns is thoroughly master of the business, which I am
confident no other Individual of the Regiment very how
possibly can be.

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If it were not too presuming in me to point out to Your Royal Highness such mode of proceeding as in a case like the present would appear the best to be adopted, I should take the liberty to suggest to Your Royal Highness that as Council of the Regiment, Your Royal Highness might with great propriety appoint a Court of Inquiry, consisting of some of the Field Officers and older Captains, as also of the Pay-masters; and this Court having investigated the whole of this concern, and having made its report to Your Royal Highness on the matter which had been submitted to it, Your Royal Highness would be empowered to authorize Mr Greenwood, to withhold the amount of all regimental Debts from the sale, or other disposal of Capt. Souter's Commission, whenever a measure of the kind might be sanctioned by Your Royal Highness -

Your Royal Highness will I am satisfied excuse the liberty I have taken, and will have the goodness to consider my letter as being confidential.

Col. Leijfe has probably mentioned to Your Royal

Altho' my request to be allowed to retain a Post Man
from the 10th if it met with Your Royal Highness's
approbation - some man of at least equally good appearance
being transferred to your Royal Highness's Regiment from
the 23rd -

I have the honor to be

With the most perfect Respect,

Yr. Royal Highness's

Most Obedient

and Devoted Servant

Wm. Cartwright

The Prince of Wales