

Copy

Windsor Castle.

February 28. 1837.

The King acknowledges the receipt of Lord John Russell's letter of the 26th Inst: accompanying a Printed Copy of the Report of the Commissioners for consolidating the Civil Departments of the Army and urging His Majesty for His commands to lay the Report before Parliament.

The King concludes that when Lord John Russell wrote to him He could not have seen the letter which His Majesty addressed to the Secretary at War on the 23rd Inst: and to which therefore The King now refers him

Signed.

William A.

Windsor Castle. July 28. 1832.

Nothing to do with J. Russell

His Majesty's revenues
the receipt of Mr. Pitt's letter
of the 26th and the copy
of the Report of the Comm^{rs}
upon consolidating the
Civil Departments of
the Army.

His Majesty's papers
that Mr. Pitt has not seen
the letter which Mr. Gaskell
of the Secretary at War
upon the subject and
therefore refers them to Mr.

(Copy)

Windsor Castle

March 6th 1837.

The King acquaints Visc^o Melbourne that on the 22nd Feb^r the Secretary at War transmitted to him the volume of evidence given before the Commission of Enquiry respecting the condonation of the Civil Departments of the Army, & that on the 27th ult^o just before A. M. left Brighton, he received from Lord S. Russell a printed copy of the Report of the Commissioners, accompanied by a note in which he stated that "as this Report had been unanimously agreed to, & is signed by five Cabinet Ministers, it must be considered as embodying the opinion of A. M.'s Confidential Servant most conversant with the Civil Departments which regulate the Finance of the Army; - & that he trusted he should receive A. M.'s commands to lay the Report before Parliament -"

In reply the King referred Lord S. Russell to his letter of the 23rd ult^o to Visc^o Howick, in which he

He stated to him that he wished to read the
Evidence, as well as the Report, that he might
satisfy himself how far the Report is borne
out by the Evidence, and, according to the length
of time which had been occupied by the Comtee
in their deliberations, & in framing the Report, it
appeared to H. M. reasonable that some interval
should be allowed to him for his consideration
of it before he sanctioned the Report & the
Evidence being laid upon the Table of the
H of C

Vizt. Malborne will indeed bear in mind that
the King had expressed to him his apprehension that
the Report would be expected to be in the hands
of Mr. Bouverie & other members of the H of C within so
short an interval between the preliminary
communication which Lord Powick had made
to them of its presentation to H. M. as not to
afford time for due consideration of matters in
which he takes a deep interest, (& which he may
now & do be considers as seriously affecting his
prerogative). Nor was this apprehension ungrounded,
for an anxiety is manifested by Vizt. Powick
and by Lord John Russell that this Report should be
presented

presented to the House simultaneously with the introduction of the Army Estimates, and the time of which the King could dispose has been fully engaged since the 1st inst. (when he went to London) in the perusal & consideration of the voluminous evidence which he presumed would be the foundation of the Report.

The first part of the Report describes the duties of the Secretaries of State relating to the Army. The second the duties of the Secretary at War as at present constituted. The third the duties of the Ordnance Department, which appears to have been the principal subject of the Enquiry, & to which the greater part of the evidence produced has referred.

The Comptrolers Department is the subject of the fourth item of the Report. The Board of Audit that of the fifth, and Chelsea Hospital, with its appurtenances, that of the sixth.

These different departments of the Government are stated to be comprized in the system under which the Affairs of the Army are now administered, & the Report states it to be in their opinion

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in many respects defective. It is
opined that the whole charge of
the Army is no where shown in one
comprehensive view. That the cost of
the Land Force is only to be found
divided in different estimates, pre-
pared & submitted to the Legis-
lature by different Authorities. &
it is intended that the various parts
of which the expenditure is made
up should be brought together and
included in a single estimate.

And it is further opined, and
yet more earnestly, that duties which
all have reference to our
common Spirit, & in which there
should exist the most complete
unity of purpose, are entrusted
to authorities not merely separate
& distinct from each other, but
mutually independent, and only
connected together by their common
subordination to the superior
Authority of the Government. &
that hence arise conflicts of opinion,
diversities of system, delays injur-

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to the public service, unnecessary expenses
of establishments, multiplication of correspond-
ence, and needless formalities in the
transaction of business.

These are in the abstract the grounds
alleged for the various projects which
have been produced, & of partial
changes made & of the proposal con-
tained in the Report.

The first project was the D of Linc-
: enns, & it is unnecessary that the
King should enter into it (as it is
fully described in the Report & detailed
in the Evidence) further than to observe
that in his evidence or Statements, His
Grace remarks that it was unanimously
agreed to by the Committee under whose
consideration it was brought, & that two
of the subscribing Members of that Project
were Lord S. Russell, & Sir J. Ashurst,
who have, as Members of the subsequent
Commission, signed this Report, & that
Lord

Lord Shaftesbury, also a subscribing Member
of the Report, has, as an Evidence,
given his Opinion in favor of so much
of the O of Richards' proposals as would
to transfer the Military duties of the
Master General of the Ordnance to the
Commander in Chief, which however
forms no feature of the present
proposal, and which indeed the O of
Richmond appears at a subsequent
stage to have abandoned. In the
internal since his Grace's Report, ^{was prepared} the
Departments of the Army, Navy, & Ordnance
were united in one, that arrangement
is considered satisfactory, & the Consolidated
Navy Department is therefore ^{suffered} sufficient to
escape further amalgamation, & is now
proposed to be placed under the control
of the Secretary at War.

Before the King adverts to the more com-
prehensive parts of the Report, & to the
consideration of what is obviously the
main object of what is advanced &
proposed

proposed, he must notice those parts which relate to the disjunction of the Military & Civil Branches of the Ordnance Department, & the transfer of the Commissariat from the control of the Treasury, under which it had always been placed, to the War Office, & H. M., having carefully read the Evidence which is produced, cannot help asking Vis. Melbourne & his other confidential servants who are stated to have unanimously concurred in the Report, whether they have read the evidence of "those intemperes of great weight who have expressed an opinion adverse to any division of the Civil from the Military Business of the Ordnance" which those who have signed the Report "are not prepared to adopt."

Those who have given this opinion are Officers of the most distinguished character, of the highest professional & special knowledge & experience, of long service & practice

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and of undrawn death feeling - They cannot
be supposed to be influenced in their
opinions by any other motive than the
desire to promote & maintain the advan-
tage & the efficiency of the Service. They
concur in the objections made to the
proposed separation and in the reasons
by which they support them, & A. M. has no
hesitation in declaring that, setting aside
the respect with which he would at all
times be inclined to treat such authority,
he considers the reasons assigned for
not adopting either the project of the
Dof Richmond, or that submitted in
the report, to be conclusive, & such
as ought to convince all unprejudiced
and impartial persons of the danger
& the mischief which may arise to
the Country, to the Public Service, & to the
efficiency of its various branches from
the adoption of projects produced by
theoretical speculations and
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a fancy for innovation & experiments,
 when opposed to the results of experience
 & the safe, useful & efficient working of
 a system which is in operation -

The King is really at a loss to conceive
 upon what grounds, upon what principles,
 the Commissioners can have arrived
 at conclusions which, as they regard
 the Ordnance Department, are so
 diametrically opposed to the force of
 Evidence, for, as observed by his Grace
 Bkph, his R. Highness, & his Highness
 Viscount this part of the project is in direct
 contradiction to the principle on which
 the late arrangement at the Admiralty
 was made, that being consolidation,
 while what is proposed respecting the Ordnance
 is separation, & a change which is
 clearly shown to threaten injury and
 inconvenience to the Service.

The King earnestly requests Vis. Mel.
 to be careful not to suffer the welfare of an
 important department of great & long
 established

established respectability, & the interests
of the Service to be sacrificed to the
desire which appears to be entertained
by a part of the Administration to
create a new office in the State which
shall accumulate to itself, absorb & exer-
cise much of the powers, the influence &
the patronage which had usefully, &
on sound principle, been distributed to
other departments.

This remark applies equally to the
proposed transfer of the Commissariat
to the War Office - A. M. has ever considered
& still considers that, for every purpose
of utility & efficiency, the Commissariat
should be a distinct Department, under
independent superintendance, independ-
ent to & responsible to the Treasury, by
which its expenditure must be authorized
& regulated, checked & finally audited.
Such appears also to be the decided opinion
of the Secy of War as mean practical
authority on this point, & His Grace app^{rs}
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it to periods of ^{C 37} peace & of war, the arrange-
ments made during peace having always
the possibility of war & the application
of them to war in view.

The King cannot help calling Vis^t
Melbourne's opinion to the very sensi-
ble opinions expressed in the evidence
of Mr. Salvan - "That a revision of all
the separate Pieces might produce
arrangements equally economical,
and sufficiently exceeding in expense
to counterbalance the inconvenience
of change".

The King must notice, as connected with
the proposed separation of the Military
& Civil branch of the Ordnance Dep^t, the
suggestion of his & Harrow chiefs, & of me
or to others that the supply of Ordnance to
Sea-stores should be transferred from
the Ordnance Dep^t to the Admiralty.
The King perceives that it has been amply
shown that there does not exist any
sufficient ground for altering the present
arrangement. He agrees with Sir A. Vivian

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& others that the change would be injurious
to both services, that difficulties would
arise from the introduction of various
of multiplied useless experiments & that
the uniformity in the manufacture,
construction & supply of Ordnance & other
articles which is so essential could not be
preserved as at present.

The King's Opinion is confirmed by
personal observation & experience & he has
add that the late Capt. Duncan is stated to
have changed that which had produced
his suggestion of a change, & that even
the G. of Richmond (who does not readily
abandon any opinion he may have
formed) has admitted that further Enquiry
had satisfied him that the expediency
of this part of his original project was
questionable.

The Commissioners however recommended
that this matter should be left to be
settled between the two Departments, and
the King is decidedly of opinion that this
could be inconvenient, & that no
latitude should be afforded for controversy
upon

upon an arrangement which has been shown to be efficient & free from material inconvenience.

Vizt Melbourne will find in the evidence ample reason for leaving the Barracks under the superintendance & control of the Ordnance Department. But he cannot help remarking that Sir T. Hardy, while he approves of the consolidation of the naval departments and admits that it has increased the efficiency of the naval service, deems it would tend to economy to place the Marine Barracks under the Bd of Ordnance.

With respect to the Commissariat supplies the King is of opinion that no part should be placed under the Ordnance, but that the whole should be regulated by a Commissariat Dep^t? which ought to be efficiently capable of undertaking more extensive & active duties, if required. It is impossible not to notice with respect the total neglect which has been shown to the Establishment of a supply of provisions & hospital weapons
for

for a corps of even the smallest
amount, or the inclination to the
improvement of a pattern for this
service, in a country where all
that regards carriers & locomotion
is in constant progress of ameliora-
tion -

The remarks which the King has as
yet made embrace chiefly his objections
to departmental transfers & changes,
but he does not drag to the
that his objections to the arrangements
proposed by the Comptrollers rest on
some general ground & higher principle

He has already indeed alluded
to the inexpediency of creating a prin-
cipal department in the State, partly
on the ruin of others, & partly from the
exclusion or diminution of the authority
the influence & the patronage of those
which are supposed to continue in existence
but shorn of some of their attributes.

There may be advantage in the
consolidation of Financial Departments

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of nearly the same character and
 duties, & when it can be effected
 without inconvenience to the established
 arrangements of the Service, but it
 remains to be shown why Departments
 should be broken up, & their transfers
 made to raise to the highest & almost a
 paramount station an office which has
 hitherto been executive of rare & not
 until lately held by a Cabinet Minister.
 One of the reasons assigned is that, some
 25 years ago, there were differences
 & clashing between it & another Depart-
 ment, which were settled by appeal to
 a higher authority, but it has not been
 shown that this inconvenience has occurred,
 & the answers on this point of Mr. Har-
 dis, who certainly was not an inefficient
 Secretary at War, nor one disposed
 to concede lightly, appears to have drawn
 from the Commission the conclusion
 "that the paramount authority of the
 Secretary of State over both the Secy. at War
 & the Comr. in Chief enables these two
 independent authorities to work together
 to

"to an object."

The Sec^y of War complains that, even when in Cabinet, he has, in practice, been little consulted upon many of the arrangements by which the receipt of keeping up a smaller or a larger force is in a great measure determined, that he has no authority to take measures for reducing that amount, nor any responsibility for the efficiency and adequacy of the force kept up.

The King may remark that the Sec^y of War has always invariably been merely executive Officer for the financial arrangements of the Army & that the authority, of the want of which he complains, has always been vested in the Secretaries of State to whom, & through whom, the Com^d in Chief, another Executive Officer, is responsible for the efficiency & discipline of the force maintained, & the due application and employment of them, according to the orders which may be issued to them.

C. 37

him - But as a Cabinet Minister,
the Secretary at War shares the author-
ity which is vested in the Govern-
ment generally.

But, with the view of removing an
alleged inconvenience from which
the public service has never suffered,
Viz. Nowell now proposes that the Secy
at War should always be a Cabinet Minis-
ter, & that the greater part of the authority
with reference to the Army which was
belonged to the Secretaries of State, should
be for the future vested in the Secy at
War - that he should be the sole channel
of communication between the Adminis-
tration of the Court in Chief, & it would
appear also that the Secy at War, in
the assumption of the attributes of
the Secretaries of State, contemplates
the exercise of power & interference
with details & arrangements purely
military which has never been
completely practiced by the Secretaries of
State, although it is stated that it is not
proposed to make any change in the
the

the duties or authority of the Com^{rs}
in Chief. He, the Sec^y of War, is to
be responsible for the army being
kept on a proper footing with reference
to the duties to be performed.

Besides this authority it is proposed
to give to the Sec^y of War a direct
control over the Military Service
of the Country now managed by the B^y
of Ordnance & the Com^{rs} in Chief
of the Treasury. The Civil divi-
sions of the former & the whole
of the latter to become branches of
the War Office - "a superintending
authority which can take a general
view of the wants & interests of the
Service -"

The Report proceeds to show, by reasons
into which the King considers it
unnecessary to enter that the Treasury
is incapable & incompetent to dis-
charge its own duties which the
War Office can undertake & super-
intend

intend above C 37

This is a question of ability & office
 easy to be settled between the Spanish
 courts.

Upon the whole the King cannot
 but hope that Vis: Melbourne will, upon
 further consideration, concur with
 him in the views he takes of the
 impropriety, the inexpediency &
 the impolicy of the proposed arrange-
 ment & of its objectionable character
 with reference to the general interests
 of the State & the constitution of the
 Government.

Independently of changes in great
 Public Departments, & reduction of
 their power & authority, which it appears
 desirable to avoid the King cannot
 but point out to Vis: Melbourne the obje-
 tion to the enormous accumulation of
 patronage & influence in the hands
 of one Minister holding an office
 which had not hitherto given or seek
 in the cabinet, a proportion of that
 patronage

patronage being taken from the Treasury which has already lost a large portion by the Reform of other departments & in which it is never the less of the utmost importance to the well being & maintenance of the Superior authorities of the Government & the Crown that the great mass of patronage should be concentrated.

These are considerations which may have escaped the attention of Vis. Amiel & whom Mr. M. is far from intending to ascribe an insatiable desire of patronage or a wish to grasp at power - adverted indeed to the uncertainty of Official tenure in this case Mr. M. it would be absurd to ascribe such intention to the Government administration, but this does not affect the measure itself, which if introduced, could not be evaded without embarrassments arising from fresh changes.

From all that The King has
stated. Viscount Melbourne cannot
be surprised to hear that, while
he consents to go thro' the Form
of allowing the Report to be laid
on the Table of the House of Commons
he must distinctly add that he
cannot approve what is therein
written

Signed.

William Pitt

Windsor Castle. March 6. 1837.

Nothing to Lord Melbourne

Upon the Conclusion
of the Civil Department
of the Army.

No answer in
writing was given to
his letter. His
kindness, acknowledged
& answered when the
content especially in the
following lines &
conclusion of the

The King's mind has naturally, in these anxious times, dwelt upon the Measures of various description which have been introduced, or are in Progress in the House of Commons, and He cannot help stating to Viscount Melbourne that, among them, He contemplates with peculiar uneasiness, and not less dislike, one not yet brought under Discussion, the Report made by the Commission of Enquiry respecting the Consolidation of the Civil Departments of the Army.

Viscount Melbourne is aware, from the King's letter to him of the 6th Instant, and from the previous Correspondence

Correspondence upon the Subject how little
Time was allowed to His Majesty for the
Consideration of Matter which had so
long engaged the Attention of those who
framed the Report, and that, short as
was the Period, His Majesty was urged
by Lord John Russell to issue His Commands
for laying the Report before Parliament,
in Terms which certainly conveyed an
Impression to Him that He was to
consider the Measure proposed as a
Cabinet Measure, though possibly such
might not be the Interpretation which
Lord John Russell meant Him to attach
to his Words. Viscount Melbourne is
equally aware of His Majesty's strong
Objections to almost every part of the
Report, in Principle and Detail, that
they applied to the extraordinary and
unprecedented

unprecedented Disregard, not to say Contempt,
with which the Evidence and Opinions of
Persons of the highest Respectability and
Experience were treated, to the proposed
Destruction of the Machinery & Constitution
of many Branches and Features of the
Administration of the Country, and to
the Manner in which the Prerogative of
the Crown would be affected by the
Adoption of the Measures therein
recommended, and His Majesty
concluded Remarks urged at great
length and which it would be
superfluous to repeat, by declaring
that, although He might consent to
go through the Form of allowing the
Report to be laid on the Table of the
House of Commons, He must
distinctly

distinctly add that He could not approve
what is therein proposed. -

The King does not deny
that, after so strong an Expression of His
Opinion and of His Objections, He did
flatter Himself that some Attention
would be paid to them and that His
Confidential Servants would have been
required to take them into Consideration,
that the Cabinet Ministers most conversant
with the Civil Departments which regulate
the Finance of the Army would have
passed before they proceeded to carry
into effect the Intention of bringing into
Discussion by the House of Commons
a Report which had been shewn to be
so obnoxious to His Majesty; nor was
His Expectation lessened by His early
personal Communication with Viscount
Melbourne

Melbourne from which He gathered that, until the Receipt of His Majesty's Letter, the Subject had engaged very little of his Attention. The King's Disapprobation of the Measure was then repeated to Him and further Grounds of Objection were stated to his Lordship, with His Majesty's Knowledge and Authority.

Verbally by
Sir Herbert
Taylor

The King's Expectation was nevertheless disappointed and the Report was laid on the Table of the House of Commons without the slightest Alteration and without any Attempt to meet His Majesty's Objections, or indeed any Notice of His Communication beyond what had passed in Conversation, as before stated.

Yet the King afterwards learnt
that

So far from
that the Secretary at War (who appears to
have been chiefly concerned in framing
the Report) ~~so far from~~ having brought
under the Consideration of the Cabinet
a Measure which proposes a radical
Change in the Machinery and the
Course of the Administration, one of
His Majesty's Ministers, whose
Authority and Duties were to be
abridged and abolished by it in order
to concentrate them in the Hands of
an inferior Officer, had at no time been
referred to or consulted, and had been
left in Ignorance of the Report and the
Evidence on which it is framed, or
rather of the Evidence which had been
set aside, until called upon to lay it
on the Table of the House of Lords.

If His Majesty could
have

} Lord Glenelg

} Lord Glenelg
Himself
mentioned
this circumstance
to Sir Herbert
Taylor

have conceived the possibility of such a Case He would have considered it due to Himself and to the Individual concerned to have required that the Report should be sanctioned by a Minute of Cabinet before He gave a Consent, qualified as it was, to its being laid on the Table of the House of Commons, but the King repeats what He has before said to Viscount Melbourne, He had felt unwilling, with respect to this Measure and to others, however ill they might accord with His own Sentiments, to increase the Difficulties of the Government, by carrying His Objections to the length of forbidding the Introduction of them to Parliament. -

His Majesty has however,
at all times, given Credit to Viscount
Melbourne

Melbourn for an earnest Desire to uphold the Authority, the just and Constitutional Authority and Prerogative of the Crown, and His Majesty, in these Times of Popular and inordinate Clamour for Reform and Changes, when Encroachments upon both are attempted almost daily, directly and indirectly, has relied with Confidence upon the Firmness of Viscount Melbourn's Character and the Determination so long manifested by him to support the Crown in the Endeavour to resist the Pressure from without, and to maintain those Rights and that Power of which the King and the Ministers are alike the Constitutional Guardians, which in fact they hold and administer in Trust.

The King is induced to make
these

these Remarks and this Appeal to Viscount Melbourne because He is satisfied, on reconsideration of the Report in Question in all its Bearings, that a Measure more objectionable, more fraught with Mischief, more calculated to prove destructive of the Prerogative of the Crown and injurious to the Character and the Efficiency of the Army, has never been proposed, and because His Majesty is convinced that, if it had been duly considered by Viscount Melbourne, and offered to the Deliberation of the Cabinet, it never would have been submitted to His Majesty and urged for His hasty Adoption.

The King has already pointed out the enormous Power which it would vest in the Secretary at War and has shewn
that

that the Commander in Chief, although still entrusted with the Recommendation for the Disposal of Military Promotion and Appointments, would be a mere Instrument in the Hands of this newly created Power which, if it should be established, H. M. adverting to many Features of the Transaction would not scruple to characterize as self constituted — To describe the Commander in Chief as "Independent" under such Rule is a Farce; how can he be expected to maintain his Ground against a Minister supported by the House of Commons and the Cabinet? and this Remark applies equally to the Master General of the Ordnance, hitherto an important Feature in the Military Affairs of the Country, a great Officer of State, and, in general, a Cabinet Minister, which the Secretary at War had not been until lately, when he became so for the Convenience of Political Arrangements, not
on

on account of the Character or the Attributes of his
 Office. — The King does not hesitate to say that
 He considers that, if what is recommended in
 the Report should be adopted it would have the
 effect of taking the Military Power of the State
 totally out of the Hands of the Sovereign and
 would place it in the Hands of a Cabinet
 Minister, being a Member of the House of
 Commons. The Secretary at War will be
 responsible, not to the King, but to the House
of Commons, to which the effective Command
 of the Army would be transferred, and with
 it one of the most essential & valuable Prero-
 gatives of the Crown. —

Such is the King's View of this Question
 and He earnestly entreats Viscount Melbourne
 to reconsider it & to use his Endeavours to stay
 the Progress of this Obnoxious, this mischievous
 Proposal, one which is, in His Majesty's
 Opinion, pregnant with Ruin to the best
 Interests of the Army & calculated to alter & to
 destroy its Character and its Feeling. —
 nor

nor can His Majesty close this Appeal
without referring Viscount Melbourne to the
Opinion which was strongly & voluntarily
expressed to him by the Earl of Minto, not
long since at Brighton, that the First Lord
of the Admiralty should always be a
Member of the House of Lords, he being
convinced that nothing could tend more
to the serious Injury of the Naval Service
of this Country than to bring it under the
Controul of the House of Commons or to
subject it in a greater Degree to the Interference
which is already attempted by that Branch
of the Legislature in the Administration
of the Executive Departments of the State.

Signed

W. Mearns

Discipline & general Arrangements, was more under the immediate
Controul of the Sovereign than the Navy, of which the Patronage
&c. &c. was vested in a Board. — (Sir H. Taylor)

This was very
forcibly stated
by Lord Minto
to the King and
His Majesty
repeatedly
remarked to
Sir Robert
Taylor that
the Principle
applied yet
more strongly
to the Army
than to the Navy
was much as
the Army, with respect
to its Patronage

Windsor Castle, March 31. 1839

Mr King to Lord Melbourne

Further considerations
upon the mischief likely
to result from the
adoption of the Report
upon the Consolidation
of the Civil Departments
of the Army.

Lord Melbourne to Sir Herbert Taylor. —

C 37

(27)

Copy

South Street

April. 10. 1834.

My dear Sir Herbert.

I have already explained to you that by some strange accident or inadvertence I was led to overlook His Majesty's letter of the 31st Ult^o and not to give to it that earnest and immediate attention which it imperiously required.

I have since perused and considered it with great care and I beg leave to state for His Majesty's information what occurs to me in the present circumstances and actual position of the Question. A very general feeling and opinion existed that reformation was expedient if not necessary in the executive offices of the Army, and this prevalent sentiment led to the Constitution of the original

General

Herbert Taylor JCB.

Commission

Commission under the Government of
Lord Grey and to its renewal under the
present Administration. The Commission
being appointed, the laying the Reports
which it might make, before Parliament
became a matter of ^{absolute} necessity. Asked
whether the Commission had made any
Report it must have been replied that
it had - Such report if demanded
could hardly have been refused; - if
moved for, its production could not
have been resisted without a condemnation
by the Ministers of their own Commission
and an acknowledgement that they
were afraid of its recommendations -
on the other hand the giving it confers
upon it no authority which it did not
possess before, whilst the withholding
it would have made it an object of lively

curiosity and deep interest.

His Majesty however may rest assured
that no measure founded upon this Report
will be introduced into Parliament except
after it has been fully considered and
determined upon by the whole Cabinet, and
it is most probable that there will be no
idea of taking any practical step in the
present Session of Parliament, but in order
to guard against precipitation it
appears to me to be more prudent to delay
rather than hasten the period of bringing
this matter under deliberation and it is
favorable to this course that the Army
Estimates have been voted without any
Question having been as yet asked in
the House of Commons upon the subject.

Believe me

(Signed) Melbourne

South Street. April 10, 1837.

Sir Melbourne to Sir H Taylor

His Lordship's mistake
by accident to notice the
Propriety's letter of the 31st
will be upon the consideration
of the Civil Department's
of the Army.

No measure granted
upon the Report will be
introduced into Parliament
except by the consent of
the State Cabinet.

Copy.Draft.

(28)

Memorandum for communication
to the Duke of Wellington
Earl Grey Viscount Melbourne
and Sir Robert Peel.

Prepared in consequence
of the Reports prevailing
that Lord Melbourne
was on the point of
resigning.

The retirement of
Viscount Melbourne from
the office of First Lord
of the Treasury has again
produced a crisis in the
situation and in the affairs
of the Country which impose
upon the King the duty
of considering seriously
by what arrangements the
interests of the State and
the advantage of these Realms
may be best consulted
and upheld, and by what
Measures

Measures so important
an Object may be
promoted.

It would seem,
almost unnecessary to observe
that the Resignation of the
Individual who had been
placed at the Head of
an Administration has
ever been considered to
carry with it, or to entail,
the Dissolution of that
Administration and His
Majesty conceives that
He is justified in so
viewing it upon this
occasion, and in therefore
holding himself at full
liberty to exercise His

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Prerogative in the formation
of another Administration.

Sensible as The King
is of the existence of
circumstances and of
contingencies which may
be placed beyond the
reach of His discretion
and His control, it is His
anxious desire, in the
discharge of the sacred
duty committed to Him,
to divest Himself of
all Prejudice and Partiality
and to be guided exclusively
by the sincere wish to
effect that arrangement
which shall tend to the
Peace and the Prosperity
of

of the Country, by securing
to it the advantage of a
strong, efficient, and
consistent Government,
such as shall obtain
for it the confidence of
His People, and the respect
of Foreign States.

In order to attain
this desirable end, The
King deems it very
essential that endeavors
should be used to prevail
upon the most respectable
Members of the Two Great
and Influential Parties
in the Country to lay
aside the feelings which
have

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have so long produced a
spirit of Political hostility
between them and differences
upon Questions of National
Interest, not less prejudicial
to the State than they have
often proved destructive
of the harmony and the
comfort of Society, and
to unite in the service
of the State those of both
Parties whose general
character, abilities, experience
and Patriotism would
offer to the Country
the happy prospect of a
Government founded
upon a secure and
permanent

permanent Basis and
well calculated to carry
on Public Affairs with
credit and efficiency.

It is well known that
this has long been the object
of The King's solicitude
and the subject of His
frequent Representations
to the Individuals of either
Party who have been
alternately brought into
Confidential Communication
with Him and, altho His
endeavors to effect this
object have as yet failed,
His Majesty would fain
hope that many of those
who

who have differed with
him as to the expediency
of the attempt, or as to its
practicability, may have
since become reconciled
to the contemplation of it,
and convinced that the
Interests of the Country
call imperiously for the
Removal of the objections
which had been entertained
to a Union of Parties
combining the services
of those who may be
inclined to act together
for the Public benefit,
rather than to persist in
the assertion of extreme
opinions

opinions and Principles
which must render hopeless
all approximation and all
accord for the welfare of
the State.

To those who may
be inclined to assist him
at this critical period,
to those whom may be willing
to lay aside prejudice
and to sacrifice jarring
Interests and Party feeling
to the good of their Country,
The King now appeals
and He trusts that the
appeal will not be made
in vain.

Common sense would
indeed suggest the necessity
of

of abandoning all such
feeling and of adopting
the course suggested
by His Majesty, if
experience should have
had the effect of convincing
those to whom His Majesty
addresses himself, that
neither of the Parties in
question is sufficiently
powerful or independent
to be able to constitute an
Administration capable
of conducting the affairs
of the Country with due
weight, or that prospect
of permanency which the
Interests of the State demand

In making this
remark

80200
remains the King excludes
from his contemplation
the precarious and
disreputable support
to be sought by either
of the two leading Parties
in the Ranks of those
whose Principles and
Designs, as they have
been manifested and
declared, and whose
Characters and Proceedings
must be repugnant to
the Patriotic feelings
and the honorable Sentiments
of every Member of either
who is attached to the
Constitution of this Country,

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and solicitous for its
continued Peace and
Prosperity, under the
Shield of Institutions
which have so long proved
its boast and its safeguard,
above all for the
maintenance of the Church
Establishment.

Having thus briefly
explained His general
views Letting must
proceed to state that,
in order to afford to
himself the best prospect
of success, he has determined
to make a simultaneous
communication to those
who

who have been successively
at the Head of the
Administration of the
Country since his Accession
to the Throne, namely, to
the Duke of Wellington,
to the Earl Grey, to the
Viscount Melbourne and
to Sir Robert Peel and,
altho from the circumstances
which have taken place,
the prominent situations
they have respectively
filled and the unwillingness
to take office which has
on former occasions been
expressed, His Majesty
cannot expect to receive
the

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The benefit of the services
of all these distinguished
Statesmen in an Administration
to be formed upon the
Principle in question,
He is sensible of the
importance of obtaining
their cooperation and
the exercise of their
powerful Influence,
towards the Union of those
whom it is desirable to
bring to act together and
towards the Removal of
obstacles and difficulties
which may arise in the
progress of the work.

He King considers the

Course

course which He has
thus taken to be the most
consistent with the spirit
of impartiality in which
it has been adopted and
He trusts that it will be
so viewed by all the other
Members of the successive
Administrations.

To the services or
the support of these
His Majesty attaches the
greatest value, altho
He abstains from naming
any of them, or any other
than those who have been
at the Head of the
Government, lest the

introduction of some names, and the order in which placed, or the accidental omission of others should suggest the idea of preference, or the suspicion of intended exclusion, which would be incompatible with the great and leading Principle of the arrangement which the King has as heart and ear bearing to those who

This Draft was called for in
 when the belief of the intended
 signation of the present Ministers
 as produced by the language of
 and Mr Russell in the House of Commons
 His Majesty then read it over again
 and approved of some slight verbal
 alterations.

may, in compliance with
 His Majesty's earnest
 request, undertake the
 Task.

Alterations, observing that it
was applicable to any
Contingency.

2

Dr. A. P. P. P.

in consequence of

Summers of August

1036. - 1037

Substantiated by His

Majesty to apply to

any such Contingency

Sir Herbert Taylor to the Queen. —

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(29)

Before He proceeds to the Continent
 Sir Herbert Taylor considers it His duty, humbly
 and respectfully to submit to Your Majesty
 that, in a conversation which He had with Baron
 Stockmar, at St. James's, some weeks ago, the
 latter advocated particularly to the Report of the
 Military Commission and to the prejudice
 which might result therefrom to the Power and
 Prerogative of the Crown, as the arrangement which
 is therein proposed would have the effect of
 transferring the command of the Army to the
 House of Commons, and Sir Herbert Taylor
 having told him, that the late King had taken
 that view of the subject and that much correspondence
 had passed upon it, Baron Stockmar said
 it would be very desirable that Your Majesty
 should be put in possession of that correspondence
 and that He would take an early opportunity
 of naming it

Sir Herbert Taylor therefore lost

no

no time in preparing Copies of it, which might
be submitted to Your Majesty if called for, and
He has now left them with Sir Henry Wheatley
that He may, whenever He shall have the honor of
waiting upon Your Majesty, place these Documents
in Your hands. They are those He named
to Your Majesty when He had the honor of waiting
upon Your Majesty on the 5th July and which
are noticed in His Memorandum of the 6th July
last and He ventures particularly to solicit Your
attention to His late Majesty's letter of 31st March
to Lord Melbourne, which expresses pointedly
His Majesty's sentiments on this important subject.

Sir Herbert Taylor believes that the correspondence
and the Documents which Your Majesty had previously
received from him contain all the information
with respect to past Transactions which Your Majesty
is likely to require, but He cannot quit the Country
without humbly venturing to submit for Your

Majesty's gracious consideration some remarks
connected with the Duchies of Lancaster & Cornwall,
which are, as yet, Royal Appendages and free
from Interference and Control which the House
of Commons seems to extend to all that belongs
to the Crown

Air Herbert Taylor has understood that
some idea had been entertained of changing the
Constitution of these Duchies by transferring the
management of them from those who now administer
them, to the Office of Woods and the Treasury.
He may have been misinformed, but, should there
be any ground for the Information, He
humbly submits that this could not be done
without abridging the Power, the Influence and
the Patronage of the Sovereign, nor without
introducing into the holding of those Duchies,
as has been done in almost every thing, the
interference of the House of Commons.

At

At present the Duchy of Lancaster is administered by a Chancellor who is responsible immediately to the Sovereign for his Proceedings and for the management of the Crown Property therein, and the Surplus Revenue arising out of it is paid to the Privy Purse without reference to the Treasury. The Church, and other Patronage is indeed in the hands of the Chancellor, and in this respect the Sovereign is not more benefitted by this Tenure than by any other, which is called Crown Property and Patronage.

The Duchy of Cornwall is held in Trust by the Sovereign when there is no Prince of Wales or during his Minority, and when, as during the Two last Reigns, and as at present, there is no Prince of Wales, the Revenue, and the Patronage are under the immediate Control of the Sovereign, the Affairs of the Duchy being administered by a Board of Commissioners, at which the Lord Warden presides, when present.

The Revenue is considerable and is
increasing

increasing and the Patronage consists of the Situations
 of Lord Warden
 Surveyor General
 Receiver General
 Auditor
 Attorney General and other minor Situations
 offices &c, of a number of Livings, which, tho' not
 any of them are of large Income, are nevertheless
 desirable objects of disposal, when they become
 vacant.

It may be a question whether the Duchy
 of Cornwall could be transferred to the Crown
 and to the management of the office of Woods,
 without a breach of Law and of Trust, but it
 must be manifest that, from the moment the Two
 Duchies are so transferred they will be placed
 under the control of the Treasury and, eventually,
 subjected to the interference of the House of Commons.

This has been shewn heretofore with respect
 to Crown Property of almost every description,
 to the Civil List, the Pension List, the Household
 Departments

Departments and the Parks, and to every thing in
short, to which the Prerogative and the influence
of the Crown formerly extended, and the Concessions
from time to time made have served only to
increase the appetite for such encroachments.

It may serve the purpose of the Government
to gain Popularity by not resisting such interferences
by Committees of the House of Commons and by
acting on Their Reports and Suggestions, but, as
before said, it abridges the Power & Prerogative
of the Sovereign.

It was upon this view of the subject
that Sir Herbert Taylor took the liberty of recom-
mending to Your Majesty to retain the Farms
in Woodstock Park and some Park in Your
own hands and to cause those in charge of them
to account, as in the late Kings Reign, to the
Privy Council.

The arrangement which Your Majesty

has been pleased to sanction may be perfectly satisfactory and may relieve your Majesty from a comparatively trifling annual Expense, but it has the effect of removing those objects from your immediate control, and by placing them, in the management of Public Accountants, must eventually subject them, also, to the vexatious interference of the House of Commons.

In proof of the effect of such a system Sir Herbert Taylor begs to state that the Rangership of the Home Park had been invariably bestowed by the Sovereign on some Personal old Servant, or Friend, and that, on the late King's accession (it being then held by the late Sir Samuel Stulce a very old Man) His Majesty promised to give it, when it should become vacant, to Lord Adolphus Fitz Clarence. Upon the death of Sir Samuel Stulce in 1836 His Majesty

Majesty ordered the Warrant to be made out
and was then, and not before, informed that the
situation had been abolished in 1833. by
Minute of Treasury, in consequence of the
recommendation of a Committee of the House of
Commons. The King naturally felt much
annoyed by this communication, as His sanction
had not been obtained for the act, but He
admitted that it was not advisable to re-agitate
the Question in the House of Commons and Lord
Adolphus was indemnified for the loss of the
intended situation by a charge on the Lord Steward
Department.

Again, the value of the Church Patronage
belonging to the Duchy of Cornwall and the
importance of retaining it, with the Duchy,
under the immediate control of the Sovereign
or of the Prince of Wales, may be seen by the
fact that, during the whole period of the late
Kings Reign, His Majesty's repeated
applications

applications to successive Lord Chancellors for Church Preferment, for deserving Individuals for whom he felt much interested, were not successful in more than Three, or at most Four Instances, and that his applications to the First Lords of the Treasury during the same seven Years produced only Three Nominations, one of which was made over to the Bishop of London with a view to a local arrangement and Exchange which his Lordship represented to be desirable, the consequence of which was that the Bishop disposed of the Preferment and never placed any other at His Majesty's Disposal.

Sir Herbert Taylor conceives that he has discharged a duty imposed upon him by his knowledge of the part ⁱⁿ thus humbly and respectfully suggesting to Your Majesty the necessity of caution in sanctioning arrangements which tend to the eventual transfer

transfer of your Authority and Influence to
the House of Commons and He takes the liberty
of adding, as on the former occasion, that He
submits this communication without any
desire that your Majesty should on His
account restrict Yourself in the use which
you may think fit to make of it.

H. Taylor

St. Katharine's

Regent's Park. August 25. 1737