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My dear Sir,

Serjeants Inn, Temple
29th May 1814 -

A little before 5 o'clock on Friday morning, I sat down in earnest, to arrange, and methodize Mr Byerleys Letters, and soon discovered, that I could do nothing concerning them, so satisfactorily to myself, or that would be so intelligible to others, as to copy them, according to their dates, in a Book, which would give me an opportunity now or hereafter of contrasting one with the other, and of making my observations on the whole; and I proceeded accordingly.

When I had made some little progress, I found myself so much interested in the subject, as to feel considerable anxiety to pursue it, with as little interruption as might be, till I had finished; for which purpose I sat to it for three and twenty hours successively, without the least intermission; and then, after four hours bed, resumed it again at 7 o'clock yesterday morning: and I now send the result of my labours, with the original Letters.

In pages 12-13, I have made Observations on the three Letters Nos 8. 9-10, to which I particularly wish your attention, because, if his Royal Highness approves of my adopting a similar mode of comparison and explanation, with regard to the others, it is what I can, I believe, accomplish without much difficulty. If any thing of this kind is to be attempted, I may be able to do it with more facility now, than at a period, when those leading features, which are at this moment fresh in my mind, have escaped me; and, therefore, perhaps, I may be able to learn to morrow, through you, what are his Royal Highness's ideas as to this. If it should please the Regent to command me to proceed after this manner, I must trouble you for the menacing Letter of Mr Byerley, without which I cannot make the necessary comments upon the whole series.

I am puzzled to find out a reason for Lady Douglas's not having
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sent me Byerleys Letters, in her possession, nor accounted for the omission, - I do not pretend to know the contents of those Letters and Papers of his, which she has in her custody; - nevertheless, I forebode that they may be of some importance in themselves, and am quite certain they must, in all events, be of consequence to enable me to give a correct and faithful portrait of this disinterested Proteus.

After writing thus far, and, indeed, within the last half hour, I received a parcel from Lady Douglas, containing the printed Letter of Aristides (alias Byerley) to the Prince of Wales, but not a single Letter, or scrap of MS of his, nor, even, one line to account for the omission. This has increased my surprize.

Presuming that most of Byerley's Letters to you were answered by you, I hope copies of those Answers are preserved.

I am anxious for Tuesday, expecting something interesting in the Scourge which comes out that morning

The approbation of past, being the best incentive to future labours, I have, within the last few weeks, occasionally devoted an hour to the consideration of the Laws and Customs of the Mannors, and matters pertaining to the Duchy of Cornwall, and by this means have possessed myself of more information than I had before, on these subjects. And I find so much of information, as well as to satisfy curiosity, in my researches hitherto, that I mean to pursue them at leisure hours; and, if the result of my investigation of mine should be sufficiently satisfactory to my own mind to warrant me to take the liberty of laying it before you, I hope to have permission to do so, promising that I will not approach you, unless I think the information is of some little importance - At present I shall not trouble you further than merely to observe, that I have already proceeded so far as to find, that the possessions of the Duchy in the County of Cornwall consist of about 44 Mannors &c &c, of which I know

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the Manors and the parishes. That these Manors &c abound with Copper and Tin Ore and that in many of them there is Silver, Lead, Cobalt, Bismuth, Manganese, and Antimony. Besides these there is Lime Stone and Slate in abundance

In the Manor of Tewington in the parish of Sault Hasell, which has been lately sold to a Mr Rashleigh for the purpose of raising money to redeem Landtax, there is the rich copper mine called Crinnis, producing 7 or 800 Tons of Copper Ore per month, besides other Mines. This Mine of Crinnis, at the present time, produces to its Lessee, a Mr Rowe, a clear annual profit of upwards of 60,000 £. — His Royal Highness The Prince Regent, to whom the Inheritance of the Minerals is reserved and belongs, has, of course, his share or dish of the Ore.

I am and always have been pleased with researchers of this nature, 1st because the means of obtaining information are not accessible to the generality of readers. 2nd because 19 out of 20 professional Men think nothing worth bestowing any time upon, ~~or~~ except where the time so bestowed is rewarded by pecuniary remuneration, and therefore not one in twenty (I might say, not one in a hundred) has even the slightest knowledge of the laws and customs of the Stanaries, or of the valuable products of the Spot governed by them. And 3rd because, supplying this (generally speaking) Desideratum, must be a pleasing reflection and distinction to a contemplative mind; Therefore I intend to pursue the subject occasionally for its own sake, and, if, in the course of my pursuit, any thing occurs to me, by the adoption of which, or otherwise, I can imagine the interest of His Royal Highness can in any sort be promoted, it will be no inconsiderable addition to that personal satisfaction which the acquisition of any species of useful knowledge, or matter of science, never fails to confer

Dear Sir

Your most faithful and obliged Servant,
Sam Whitcombe

The Honble Col McCracken

Richard T. Whitcombe
29. May 1871