

Duke of Wellington to Sir R Taylor

36084-5

St James Place April 5  
1833

My dear General When I sent you my  
 Letter on Wednesday last I had reason  
 to believe from the Report of what Mr  
 Bessel had said in the H. of Commons, that  
 he intended again to take the sense of  
 the House upon the subject upon the third  
 Reading. I afterwards heard that late  
 at night he had said that he was satisfied  
 with the suspension made; and that he would  
 not make another attempt to bring the Bill.  
 I then regretted that I had thanked you.  
 But upon the whole I hope that the notice

copy

taken of the subject will do good.

I wrote you as a Person well informed on  
the subject; feeling an interest in it; and  
and enjoying the confidence of those upon  
whom in fact the decision depends.

Unfortunately in these days Members of  
Parl<sup>t</sup>. look only at their Popularity. Do  
forget that all government is a Restraint;  
and that the Protection even of life and  
Property requires restraint upon Personal  
Liberty which are more or less unparliamentary.  
The Moment that Government and those  
entrusted with the Power of the Law  
enter for this Race of Popularity there is  
not a Law or an Institution which can stand.

Duke of Wellington to Sir A Taylor

36085

The whole must fall. Each must depend upon the degree of violence with which the Press and the popular Leaders of the Day can attack it; and the Menes of those whose Duty it is to defend and protect the Powers of the Crown and the Institutions of the Country, to meet the difficulties and disadvantages attending an unpopular Cry against them.

I think we are in a very false Position; in which we cannot long remain. I am in hopes that the Meeting will having passed the House of Commons the danger is over for this year as far as regards the Discipline of the Army. But we must look to the future.

things of England have required without  
the assistance of Regular Armies. But they  
supported neither domestic nor foreign ~~Wars~~  
Revolutions; and the Country was more civil  
governed than it could be at present; and  
these latter Powers within it which do  
not last at present.

If we are to have an Army it must be the  
best that can be got up; and before those  
entrusted with the Job allow themselves  
to give way upon this point of Discipline  
they ought to ascertain beyond the possibility  
of doubt whether Discipline can be  
maintained; and by what means.

I quite am in your opinion respecting