

Lord Althorp to H.M.

36088-9

Downing Street April 5  
1833

Viscount Althorp presents his humble  
Duty to Your Majesty & has the honour  
to acknowledge Your Majesty's gracious letter  
of yesterday's date. Viscount Althorp  
will not fail to obey Your Majesty's  
Commands & will lay Your Majesty's letter  
before his Colleagues. He has already shown  
it to Earl Grey, to the Lord Chancellor &  
to the Duke of Richmond.

When Viscount Althorp stated to Your  
Majesty that he thought it would be  
expedient to adopt certain regulations  
with respect to Corporal Punishment  
in the Army he did not mean that  
he thought this would be expedient

with a view to the benefit of the Militia  
service or on any general considerations  
of Justice or humanity, but merely because  
he foresaw that unless some such measure  
was adopted a vote in the House of Commons  
would very probably be come to which would  
produce consequences at least very inconvenient  
if not very mischievous. Whether I did  
mean by making this suggestion to advise  
Your Majesty to give way at all to  
Popular clamour. On the contrary Viscount  
Athol's concern entirely with Your Majesty  
that it is necessary to preserve this power  
to Courts Martial & he believed that  
he never had voted when in opposition  
for any proposition for altering the  
Mutiny Bill with this view, although

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Mr. Home<sup>36089</sup> to Viscount Althorp's great surprise read his name as one of a list of a Minority on this question on one of the many Divisions which had taken place upon it. All that Viscount Althorp would humbly suggest is that the Commander in Chief should issue some instruction which while it made no alteration in the present practice should show an attention to the wish so strongly expressed by the House of Commons. He believes that the taking such a course would render it quite easy to resist any Motion similar to that made by Mr. Home, while he is convinced that unless some such course is adopted the present Session of Parliament will not close

without some vote passing the House  
of Commons which may be most prejudicial  
to the Discipline of the Army.

Viscount Althorp knows enough of  
the Naval Service to be quite sure that  
even if there were any doubts as to the  
Necessity of preserving the power of  
Corporal Punishments in the Army which  
he does not think there are it must be  
admitted to be absolutely necessary in  
the Navy.

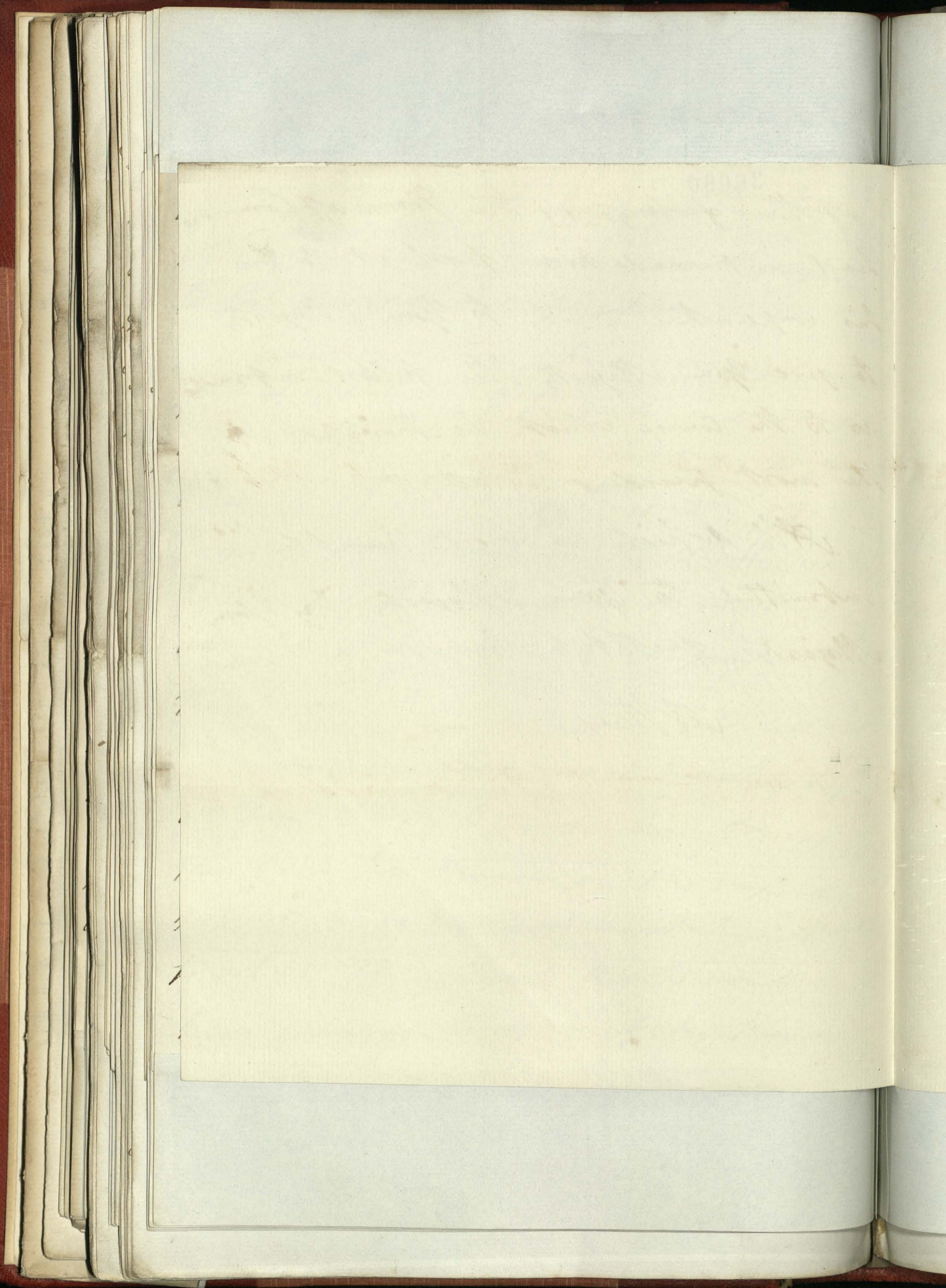
Viscount Althorp most humbly begs  
of Your Majesty to pardon him for expressing  
thus freely his Opinions on this important  
Subject & he begs leave most humbly  
to assure Your Majesty that he would not  
have presumed to do so if his Knowledge

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of the feelings of the House of Commons  
had not made him feel it to be  
his imperative Duty to Your Majesty  
to give Your Majesty the fullest information  
as to the course which he thought it  
the most prudent to adopt.

All which is most humbly  
submitted to Your Majesty by Your  
Majesty's faithful subject & servant

A. Thompson



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Wm. G. M. M. M.  
St. John's  
March 5. 1833  
Miss Mary M. M. M.

M. M.