

Duke of Wellington to Sir H. Taylor

36109-10 *Shalwell* *Shalwell* *Shalwell* *Shalwell*
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My dear General
When I wrote you yesterday
I was in hopes that we had
got rid of the question of
General Pennington's plea.
But I learn from a communica-
tion from Lord Wellington this
morning that Sir James Scarlett
has given notice of a Motion
upon the subject. Lord Grey
has accordingly denied Lord

John D. ...

will be considered of some
 consequence upon the subject in
 order to satisfy public opinion;
 and his answer has shown
 that he will be with my opinion.

The Military Men are put
 in a very curious position on
 this question. We say that it is
 our opinion that Military
 Discipline cannot be maintain-
 ed unless the Power of inflicting
 Corporal Punishment is maintained

particularly in West-India Regiments.
 We think that if the Discipline
 of the Army is deteriorated
 the same consequence cannot be
 given to the performance of its
 duty; that is unless if any
 such consequence can be placed
 in its stead. And we are
 told in answer make some
 consequence of public opinion.
 We have been in fact by our
 anterior conduct of public
 opinion for years. I don't know

in the Court of the
 of the the
 deteriorated
 because cannot be
 of the
 need of any
 can be placed
 And we are
 we make some
 that opinion.
 in fact by our
 say that
 that. I don't know

36111-2
 punishment the Govt ought
 to decide the question and
 ought rather the Law.
 But if we are right the Govt
 ought declare its' conviction
 upon the subject. It ought to
 endeavour to enlighten the
 public Mind upon it; and
 it would very soon be found
 that but a small proportion
 of the Public required the
 change and that the Law
 might and ought the maintained.

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What else can be done.

But might it not be advisable
for those who possess the public
Confidence to endeavour to
enlighten the public Opinion
upon this subject?

Are we right or are we wrong
upon this subject?

If we are wrong; if the Discipline
of the Army is unimportant; or
it is possible to maintain it
sufficiently for all the purposes
of Gov^t - without resorting to this
this

36111-2

Punishment the Govt ought
 to decide the question and
 ought rather the Law.
 But if we are right the Govt
 ought declare its conviction
 upon the subject. It ought to
 endeavour to enlighten the
 public Mind upon it; and
 it would very soon be found
 that but a small proportion
 of the People require the
 change and that the Law
 might and ought the same.

What else can be done.
But might it not be advised
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confidence to endeavour to
enlighten the public opinion
upon this subject?
Are we right or are we wrong
upon this subject?
If we are wrong; if the discipline
of the Army is unimportant; or
it is possible to maintain it
sufficiently for all the purposes
of Govt - without resorting to
this

As for my part I am ready
to declare my opinion
wherever it may be called
for even in the H. of Commons
itself, or before any committee
or Commission of the consequence
of this alteration.
I have never seen any Man
yet who could suggest a
mode of securing the
currents ^{subscribing} of the
of the British Army
to West^a & subordination
and discipline

and
both
power
the
for its
offence
and
power
There
of course
I shall

As for my part I am ready
 to declare my opinion
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 or Commission of the Council
 of this alteration.

I have never seen any Man
 yet who could suggest a
 mode of securing the
 present ^{subordination} ~~subordination~~ of the
^{of the British Army} ~~of the British Army~~
 to Obedience & subordination
 and Discipline

36112
 and to the enforcement of
 both by light Punishments
 punishments excepting the
 power in the Army Office of
 the Regt. who is responsible
 for its good order to try an
 Offender by Regt. and Regiment
 and to inflict Corporal
 Punishment.

There is the whole Question.
 Of course you will see what
 I shall write upon the subject.

I have in the row only
in consequence of the change
from what appeared the
probable yesterday
see the present paper
most sincerely & obsequiously

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