Mr Coutts
Feby 1st 1800

9494

Sir!

Desirous that nothing may be ommitted in any Communication I have the Honour to make to Your Majesty I take The Liberty again of inclosing a Letter from The Duke of Orleans which tho of a prior date to The former I received only this day.

I am Sir, with The most Dutiful attachment and Respect Your majesty's Devoted and Faithful Subject and Servant

Bath
1st February 1800

Thomas Coutts

Mr Pitt.
February 4. 1800

9495

Downing Street. Tuesday Feby 4th 1800. ¾ P 4 AM

Mr Pitt humbly begs leave to acquaint your Majesty that the Motion for an Address of Thanks and Approbation on the Subject of the Answer to the Late Overtures was made by Mr Secretary Dundas. It was opposed by Mr Whitbread and Mr Erskine, and supported by Mr Canning and Mr Pitt, the latter of whom was replied to by Mr Fox

after which the House divided and the original Address was carried by 265 to 64. – The general Impression in the House upon the whole Question appeared to be highly favorable and satisfactory.

Maj. Gen. Sir Charles Ross to Maj. Geo. Matthews
Enc. to 9956-68

9496-7

Carlow, 6th February 1800.

Sir

In obedience to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant's commands, I request you will immediately state to me in writing answers to the following questions Viz:

1st. Have the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers Drummers and private Soldiers of the Downshire Militia signed any Petition against a Union, and by whom was such Petition transmitted to them.—

2d. Were the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers Privates and Drummers of the Regiment assembled for the purpose of signing such Petition and where.—

3d. What description of People were allowed to sign the Petition?—

4th.—

4th. Was it explained to the Regiment that no Officer, Non-Commissioned Officer Drummer or private Soldier in the ∝ Regiment was to sign the Petition, who was not a Freeholder in the County of Down. —

5th. To the best of your knowledge did any Officer - Non-Commissioned Officer, Drummer or Soldier, sign the Petition who is not a Freeholder of the Co. Down or who is not of the age of twenty one.

I have &c. &c. —

Charles Ross - M. Genl.

2. Was the name of any Officer, Non Commissioned Officer, Drummer or private Soldier of the Regiment affixed to the Petition who was not present at the time.

Maj. Gen. Sir Charles Ross to Maj. Geo. Matthews
Enc. to 9956-68

9497

2. Was the Petition sent to the out quarters of the Regiment or was there any communication with the Officers or Men of the Regiment detached from the Head quarters on the subject. —

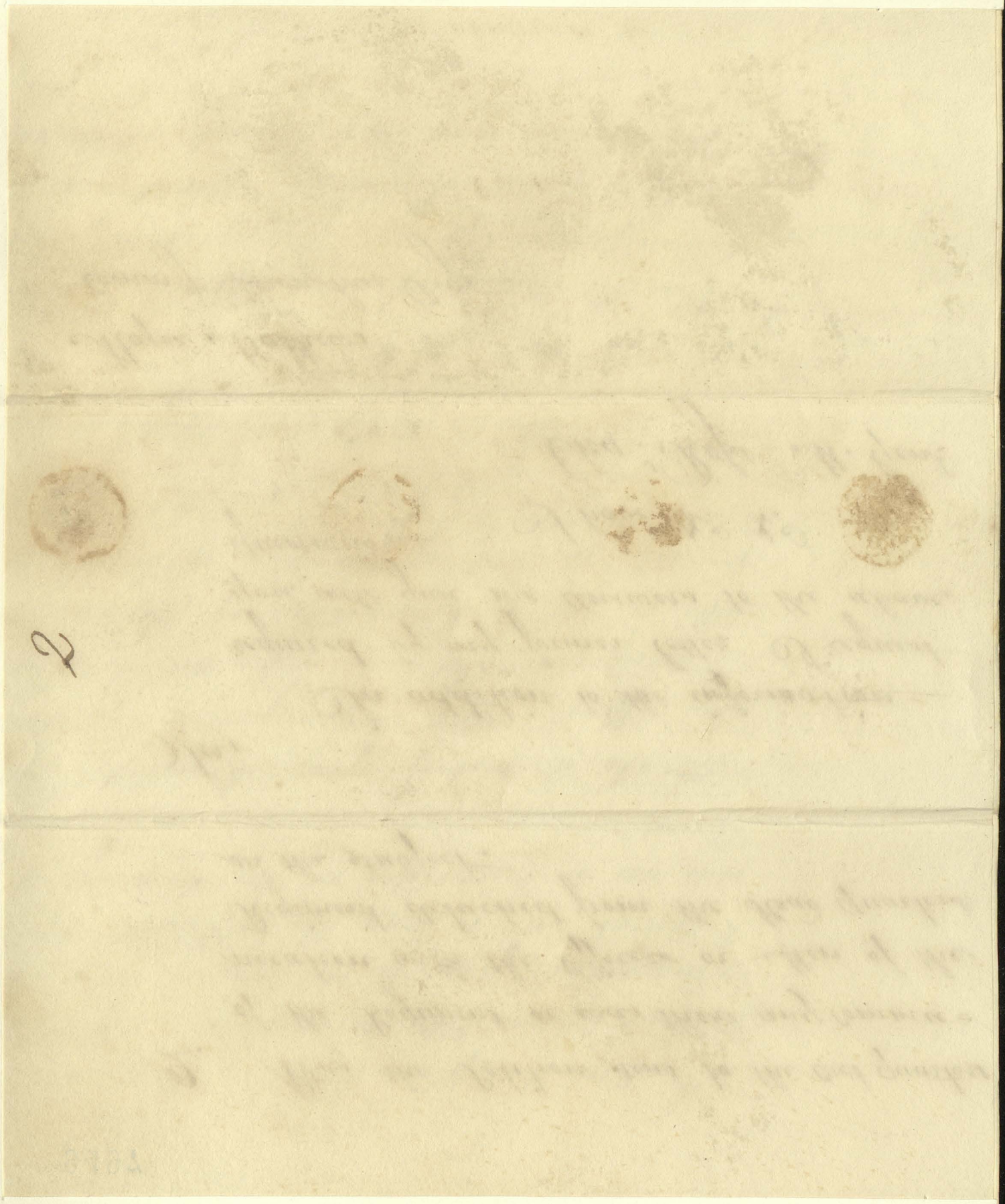
Sir,

In addition to the information required by my former letter I request you will give me answers to the above questions —

I have &c. &c. —

Chas. Ross — M. Genl.

Major Matthews
Comm.g Downshire Regt. —



Maj. Geo. Matthews to Lt. Gen. Sir Charles Rose
Euc. b99 56-8

9498

Carlow, February 6th 1800.

Sir

Having read your Letter of this date (stating several Questions for me to answer) with every attention in my power I cannot find there is any thing of a Military nature in them, but that they all go to acts entirely Civil, and although I am ready and willing to do my Duty as a Soldier, and most implicitly to obey all my Superior Officers Yet I cannot think I am by any means bound to account for my conduct as a private Citizen, to any, but the Civil power of my Country,—

I

I therefore with every degree of respect for you beg leave to decline giving any answer to your Questions. —

I have the honor to be
Sir &c. &c.

Geo: Matthews
Major R. D. Regt. —

Major General
Sir Charles Ross —

Dublin Castle
7th February 1800.

Sir,

In obedience to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenants commands conveyed in your Letter of the 4th Instant I lost no time in proceeding to Carlow in order to investigate the different points alluded to in your directions to me. —

The first object of inquiry was whether the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Private Soldiers of the Downshire Regiment of Militia had signed any Petition against a Union which Major Mathews (the Commanding Officer of the Regiment) without hesitation answered in the affirmative stating at the same time that several Copies of it had been sent to him by Lord Downshire in order that such Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and Privates of the Regiment as were Freeholders or Inhabitants of the County Down might have an opportunity of signing it, which Lord Downshire stated in the

capacity I could address him in was his Military one, and that the object of my enquiry extended not only to him personally but the conduct of the Officers, non commissioned Officers and private Soldiers of the Downshire Regiment of Militia under his command and that the object of the duty on which I was sent was solely the investigation of the subject, and not to make any decision on it either from His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant or myself, and that the answers he originally gave to my enquiries should regulate the report which I would make.—

Having now stated the different occurrences which took place in the course of the investigation it appears to me— That a Petition against a Union was signed by a large proportion of the Officers, non commissioned Officers and Privates of the Downshire Regiment of Militia— that the Petition was transmitted to Major Mathews by Lord Downshire, that the Officers did assemble at Major Mathews's Quarters, and the non-commissioned Officers

Lt. Genl. Sir Charles Ross to Lt. Col. E. B. Littlehales
Enc. to 9956-68

9501

and privates at the Quarters of the Adjutant for the purpose of signing it — That all the individuals of the Regiment at the Head Quarters who choose to sign it, had an opportunity of doing so. —

It likewise appears though I could not ascertain the exact numbers that signed the Petition yet from what Major Matthews stated to be the supposed number of Signatures they equalled if not exceeded the numbers of the Regiment then at Carlow. —

It was impossible for me to ascertain the number of Freeholders in the Regiment, but on examining the description list of Recruits lately joined many of whom the Adjutant told me had signed the Petition I perceived that a Majority of them were under twenty years of age and a great proportion under eighteen. —

I have now represented my opinion

× 9496-7
× 9498

on the different objects of investigation, stated in your Letter to me, Lt Col. Donaldson Capt. Boyd of the Downshire Regiment and Brigade Major Higgins can substantiate the accuracy of the above Statement.—

I have &c &c—

Chas. Rogs M. Genl.

Lt. Gen. Sir Charles Ross to Lt. Col. E. B. Littlehales
Enc. to 9956-68

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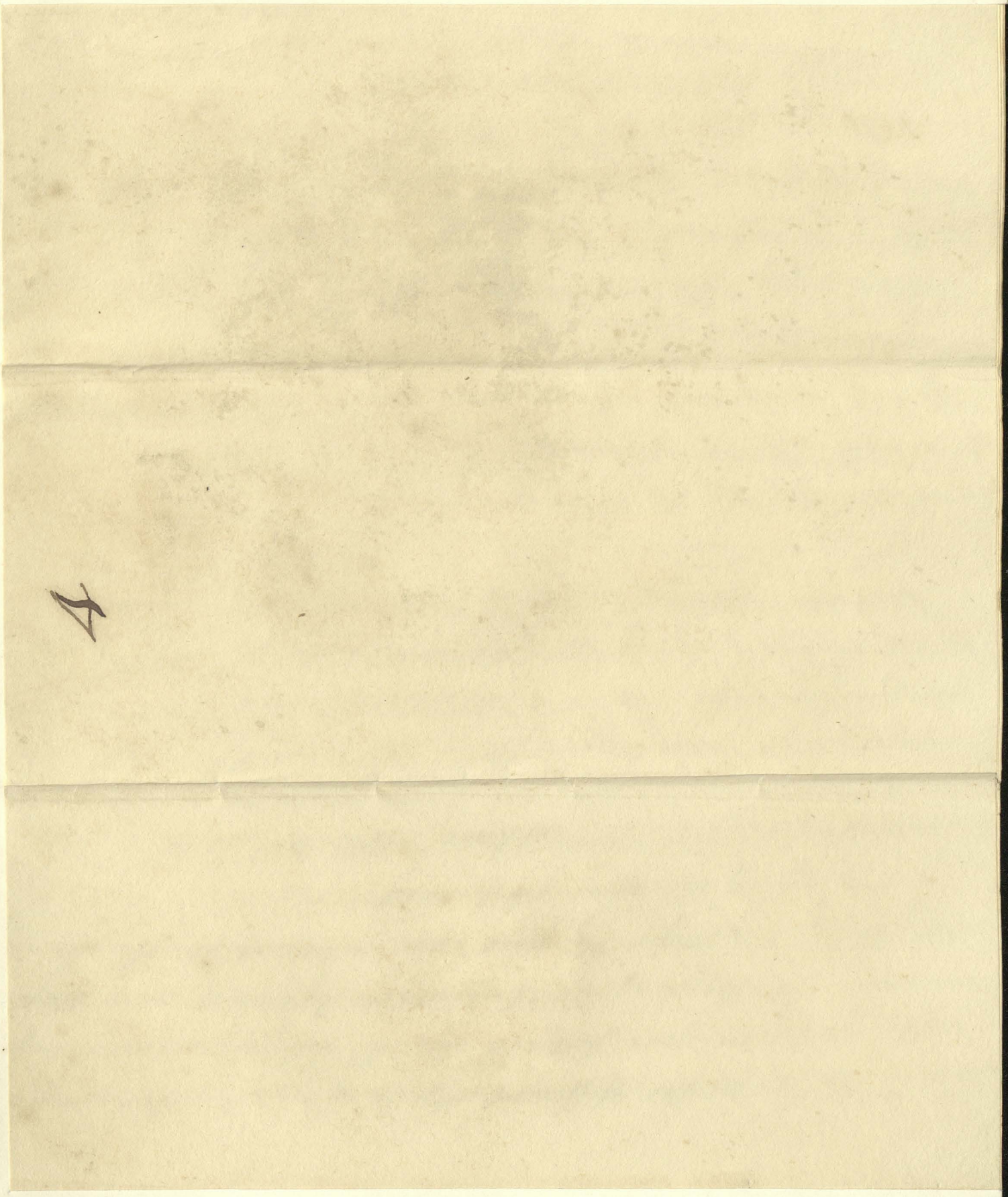

Ld. Castlereagh to Ld. Doneshire
Enc. to 9956-68

9502

Dublin Castle. 7th Febry 1800

My Lord,

In consequence of a report, which has been made to the Lord Lieutenant, by Major General Sir Charles Ross, that a Petition against a Measure now under discussion in Parliament has been transmitted by Your Lordship to the head Quarters of the Regiment under your command, to be signed by the Officers and Soldiers of the said Regiment; I am directed to acquaint your Lordship that His Excellency has thought it his duty to transmit the said Report to be laid before the King, and to suspend Your

Lordship from the command of the Royal Downshire Regiment of Militia, until His Majesty's pleasure shall be known? —

I have the honor to be
My Lord
Your Lordship's most Obt.
humble Servant
Castlereagh.

Colonel The Most Noble
The Marquis of Downshire
Downshire Militia

Ld. Castlereagh to Ld. Donneshire
Enc. to 9956-68

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most Obt.
Servant
agh.

Lt Col. E. B. Littlehales to Ld. Downshire
Enc to 9956-68

9503

Dublin Castle
February 8th 1800

My Lord,

In consequence of the conversation which passed between My Lord Lieutenant and your Lordship yesterday afternoon, I have received His Excellency's commands to transmit to you the papers hereinafter enumerated.

9499-501 No. 1. Copy of a Report from Major General Sir Charles Ross, dated Dublin February 7th 1800.

9496-7 No. 2. Copy of a Letter containing queries from Major General Sir Charles Ross to Major Matthews of the Royal Downshire Regiment of Militia dated Carlow, February 6th 1800.

No. 3.

No. 3. Copy of the Answer of Major Matthews to Major General Sir Charles Ross's letter No. 2.

9498

I have the honor to be
My Lord
Your Lordship's
Most Obedient
humble Servant
E. B. Littlehales

(No. 6)

The Marquis of Downshire.—

Lt. Col. E. B. Littlehales to Ld. Downshire
Enc. to 9956 - 68

9504

Dublin Castle, February 9th 1800
(one o' Clock P. M.)

My Lord,

I have just received the honor of your Lordship's Letter dated this day at eleven o' Clock, and having laid it before My Lord Lieutenant, I am directed, in reply, to acquaint you that His Excellency will upon no consideration withdraw the Report which he has made, through the regular channel, to His Majesty of your Lordship's conduct. —

I have the honor to be with great Respect,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most Obedient and
most humble Servant
E. B. Littlehales

The Marquis of Downshire
K.P. K.P. —

Maj. Geo. Matthews to Hd. Cornwallis
Eng. 69956-68

9505_6

Carlow, February 9th 1800.

My Lord,

Sir Charles Ross came here by your order on the 1st of this Month to examine me respecting the County of Down Petition that was signed by many of the Officers & and Men of this Regiment, had I met him alone I should have been more explicit than I was at that time, But seeing an Officer with him and that Officer appearing to me to be much in his confidence I did not wish to speak before him and was on that account more guarded than I now find I ought to have been as I understand that the whole of this business has been taken up on grounds totally erroneous I think it my duty to give your Excellency a full and true State of the Case – Some days after the County of Down Meeting I received one Copy of the County Petition from Lord Downshire in an envelope with a few words – Saying that if any of the Freeholders of the County who

were

were in the Regiment chose to sign it, he supposed there could not be any objection to their doing so, Now my Lord I have to State to you that if there is any thing wrong in this Business, I am the only Man to blame I thought then and I think now that the more Names I could get to a Petition against the Union the more I would serve my King and Country, Under this Conviction I did use words which were not in Lord Downshires Letter and I did use my best endeavours to get that Petition signed with as many Names as I could, But Lord Downshire had no more to say to the Signatures of those People who are not Freeholders than your Lordship had - I certainly wile not deny my Conduct to your Lordship, if there is any blame it entirely rests on me and on me the punishment, if deserved, must and ought to fall, - although I know Your Excellency's power of disposing of me as you please and that you can order me to death without the form of a tryal, Yet

I have the happiness to know that the Regiment can give proofs of my Loyalty even to the present moment that no man can doubt and no man who knows me could for a moment suppose me guilty of the most trifling act or expression of disaffection — If I have erred in this Business it is the error of Sanguine Loyalty to my King, and I think when your Excellency sums up this account your honor as a Man will call upon you to give me credit for my former Services and judge of me by them and not by an act which I did not know was contrary to Law or that there could be any impropriety in what I did on that occasion, much less that it was possible for any Man to say there was disaffection in it. — I am,

With every degree of Respect
for your Lordship
Your Most Obed.t Serv.t

George Matthews
Major R. D.s Reg.mt

To His Excellency
Marquis Cornwallis
K.P. &c &c
Dublin.

8

Duke of Portland

Feb. 9 1800

The interruption which the communication with Ireland has suffered for some days by the contrariety of the wind induces the Duke of Portland to hope that Your Majesty will not disapprove the liberty he takes of laying before Your Majesty without delay, the Despatches which have been received to day from the Lord Lieutenant containing the result of the Debate which took place upon the Message in which the Lord Lieutenant was directed to send to the Irish Parliament respecting the Union

herein in favor of which the numbers were 158 against 115. & on which occasion though the majority was rather greater as expected, the Duke of Portland hopes from the firmness & ability with which the measure is supported, will be found sufficient to secure its success in the course of the present Session.

The Duke of Portland is extremely sorry to add that he carries that if upon the investigation which it is the Lord Lieutenant's intention to make into the conduct of the Marquess of Downshire it should appear that he has made use of the influence of his military station to prevail upon the Regiment of Militia which he commands to oppose the measure of Union,

Mr

Duke of Portland

Feb. 9 1800

9508

his Removal from the Command of that Regiment as proposed by The Lord Lieutenant will not be deemed by Your Majesty a sufficient mark of Your Majesty's displeasure for so unjustifiable an Act of Conduct, & that Your Majesty will judge it expedient also to remove him from the Privy Council & the Government of the County of Down —

Burlington House

Sunday 9th Feb: 1800

45 p. 4. p. m.

Duke of Portland
Delivered
February 9. 1800

9508a

Cover to following press cutting

9508a

Cover to following press cutting

No 11

property—as a man acquainted with the situation of the country and highly interested in its welfare. He told the Minister that the general opinion of this country was not for a legislative union; the Minister stated that 5-7ths of the country were desirous of it. The measure of calling upon the Gentlemen of landed property to have their sense constitutionally expressed was the only mode that was left to ascertain the fact. He said he knew more of the real opinions of the country than the Minister did, and he adopted that measure to convince him of his error, not by resorting to the opinion of the dregs of the people, as had been alleged, but by calling for the sentiments of the real property of the land upon the subject.

His Lordship said, if he had early in life pledged himself by a *written test* to a certain line of conduct; if he had promised to support measures in order to raise himself up to an enviable situation that he was desirous to fill; if he had pledged himself for his parliamentary conduct; if he had pledged himself to support acts that would render the situation of the Government not only dangerous, but the authority of the King hazardous—then, indeed, might he have been called a factious man. His Lordship then asked whether he solemnly, and in the face of his country, signed a *test* in writing, whereby he engaged with all his ability and influence in *and out of Parliament* to promote the success of "A Bill for amending the Representation of the People—a Pension Bill—a Place Bill—a Responsibility Bill—and a Bill to prevent the renewal of the Police Act;" then, indeed, he admitted he might be called a factious man—but he never did so. He had never, to promote his own purposes, signed any such *test*; and he called upon the Lord Chancellor to bear witness whether he had ever pledged himself to *use his ability and influence out of Parliament*, in order to influence the determination *within* those walls upon the favourite objects of the then opposition; whether he had not exerted in every situation his abilities, such as they were, to support the authority of the Government; to support the constitution of the country; and to support the liberty of the subject. His Lordship said he was hurt that such insidious and abominable reports should go abroad against him, because he had never been guilty of any act that he did not defy his most inveterate enemy to charge him with.

Had the Minister of Great Britain, in the year 1782, proposed an Union, he thought he would then have had his support. He did not then admire the Constitution which the people of Ireland obtained at that period, not having been then able to foresee the advantages that have since occurred from it, but at present he could not feel the propriety of the proposed measure of a Legislative Union; he could not perceive upon what it was formed, nor what advantage it could produce to Ireland, to induce her to resign both her Houses of Parliament.

He said that the existence of this country was preserved by the energy of its parliament, and by that energy he was enabled to stand in his place in [illegible] address their Lordships.—He could not consent to stigmatise this Senate with want of energy, by wishing that the numbers of it might be reduced to 28, in order that they might be swallowed up in the British Senate. He could not consent that this House, who, by the immediate exercise of their functions, had preserved this country to Great Britain, should be reduced to nothing. He could not consent that the King's prerogative in this country should be diminished; he could not feel the justice of depriving his children of their hereditary birth-right; he thought the only advantage of being called "My Lord" was, that it gave him a seat in that House; he thought the only advantage he derived in being called "My Lord" was, that it gave him an opportunity of consulting for the good of the country, for the advantage of the King, and for the welfare of the empire; and he did not know how the British Minister could reconcile to himself [illegible] of the Crown, as to wish to annihilate the House of Lords of Ireland—the King's hereditary Counsellors. He was proud to say, he had acted with Mr. Pitt for seventeen years: as a man and a Minister he admired him; he never differed with him on any subject until the present; he spoke as an Irishman. He said, if he were to speak as an Englishman, his opinion might perhaps be different on the subject; as an Irishman, he would ever support to the utmost of his ability the connection between this country and England; he looked upon them as one: He said that the twelve or fifteen millions expended by Ireland were for the support of the British Empire; and he did say, that she has contributed greatly to the expences of the war. He said, he knew nothing of the terms proposed; he had not seen them; but he would at present withhold his assent to their being brought forward. He was but a poor public speaker, and agitation of mind and indisposition of body did not enable him to present himself before their Lordships as he wished, or enter into the detail he had intended; but if he had not attended, he might be supposed to have submitted to the imputations that had been insidiously thrown out against him; because it would seem as if he had given his assent to the truth of reports that stung him, and made the blood curdle in his veins, when he thought that the wickedness of man could suggest the idea, or suppose him capable of such an act as joining with a faction, or becoming a factious man. To represent him in such colours to his Sovereign, whom as a man he esteemed for every virtue, and as a Sovereign he adored, was an expression that went to destroy the peace of his mind; it was an expression that would never leave his memory, it would remain with him whilst he lived; but no attack of any man should drive him into faction, or to resist the King or the lawful Government. He repeated that he had sacrificed his time—his fortune—and his youth to preserve the King's Government unimpaired, and, if necessary, would lay down his life for his Sovereign, to whom he felt the strongest and the warmest attachment. He said he met rebellion—he had met assassination; he was ready to do so again. He had emptied his purse in the service of his King and of his Country, and had worn out his constitution in the same exertions; his life was devoted to the same purpose; and he was glad of this opportunity thus publicly to declare that nothing has been able, and nothing could make him alter that line of conduct; and since he had the honour of becoming a public man, he gloried in the reflection of having devoted his life to the service of his King and his Country, and in which he should persevere to the end of his days—He apologised to the House for detaining them so long; but they most particularly paid attention to his Lordship whilst on his legs.

BAL DE L'OPERA, PARIS.

(FROM THE MONITEUR OF THE 27th ULT.)

In whatever point of view we examine the pening of the *Bals de l'Opera*, it is a novelty that eserves to fix the attention of men, who love to bserve the revolutions of manners as of ideas; it is onnected with a thousand circumstances, which oncur in making the 18th Brumaire one of the ost important periods of our history. In 1790, Masqued Balls ceased to be given, and those who

MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE.

As this Nobleman has been much misrepresented, it is but justice to him to insert his Speech in the Irish House of Lords on the 10th of February, in answer to the Lord Chancellor.

The Marquis of DOWNSHIRE said he rose under great difficulty of mental and personal indisposition, and hardly knew how to claim their Lordships' attention; but having been so pointedly called upon by the Noble and Learned Lord, he should deem himself wanting in the duty he owed to his charac- r and situation, if he did not take the earliest op- tunity of declaring that he belonged to no faction r party to distress or impede His Majesty's Go- ernment in the necessary business of the country. Ie lamented very much, that the Government of his country had given so much attention to reports, nd that reports, in their judgment, were held suf- cient to condemn the character and peace of mind f any individual. He heard there was a subscrip- ion of the kind the Learned and Noble Lord alluded o, but he considered it as an idle tale, and never could elieve that it existed; that he was sorry the Noble and Learned Lord had adopted so ridiculous n expression as the *Consular Exchequer;* all that e could assert was, that he had never subscribed to any such, nor had he ever been applied to for that purpose, and that he would think himself unde- serving the place which he filled, if he could have devised any plan or mode of subscription for ny improper purpose. He said, he thanked the Noble and Learned Lord for the admirable speech he ad delivered, from which he had derived great in- formation, but through which his state of health would not permit him to follow the Learned Lord; ut that he differed from him in one point, and that as the cause of the late unnatural and abominable Rebellion; that he looked upon it to have been in great measure caused by the contradictory line of onduct that had been pursued by the Government f the country; that at one time he had been alled upon, as a friend to that Government, to sign Grand Jury his determined support of the Pro- estant Ascendancy, which, could he have known foreseen the consequences that ensued, he would oner have suffered the hand that signed it to be t off than put his name to it; not, said he, my ords, but that I am a true and zealous Protestant, d a supporter of our Established Church of Ireland, ecause, so far as that goes, it tolerates and protects e profession of every other Religion, whilst they mean themselves as good subjects; but in a few onths afterwards, he was called upon by the same overnment to vote for the emancipation of the Pa- ets, as it was called, which he could not bring him- lf to do. A policy of this kind must have had a ten- ency to irritate the public mind, and caused those vils which now, to serve the project of the Union, were ascribed to other causes. That he had always protected every description of men, be their religious pinions what they might, whilst they conducted themselves with loyalty to the King, and fidelity to he Constitution. As to the question before their Lordships, he thought that a Legislative Union with Great Britain, he did not think an Union was likely to communi- cate peace and civilisation to this distracted country: on the contrary, he thought it would encrease public discontent, and interrupt returning tranquillity. If, he said, the Government of England had proposed this measure at a time of quietness and of peace, when men's minds were unprejudiced; at a time when men could coolly and dispassionately have considered so great and national a question, he would then perhaps have heard of it with less dissatisfacton; but in the present state of this country it was a measure wholly unnecessary. His Lordship here took a re- view of the progressive advances which this country has made in wealth and commerce since 1782; and stated that at that period our Customs produced only 652,911l.; and that in 1799, they produced 1,173,739l.—That the Excise in 1782, was 231,726l.; and in 1799, 905,386l.—That in 1782, our Imports amounted only to 2,994,205l.; and in 1799, they had risen to the immense sum of 4,396,009l.—That our Exports in 1782, amounted to 3,400,598l.; and that in 1799, they amounted to 4,575,256l.—That in 1782, the num- ber of the channel ships trading with this country amounted to 5984; and that in 1799, they amounted to 6445.—That in 1782, the tonnage of our trade was 423,323, and in 1799, was 592,734. Proofs the most incontrovertible, his Lordship added, of the progressive prosperity and wealth of this country.

This country has been condemned for pressing England, for grants favourable to her interest at a time when England was in distress; but surely England, in pressing this measure on this country at this time, has followed that example which is so strongly reprobated.

He said he had acted with the Noble Lord on the wool-sack for upwards of twenty-six years; and he appealed to him whether his conduct had not been governed solely with a view to the advantage of the country and the protection of the constitution. He had sacrificed his health, his youth, and his for- tune, to support the King and the Government in this country, and he felt himself distressed in a de- gree that exceeded all expression, when after those services, which could not be denied, he should be held out as a factious man; that such an assertion should be made in this House; that he should now be supposed to have ever entertained so wicked a design; that it could be imagined that any such idea had ever entered his head. He had in his ear- ly days endured much calumny for the constitu- tional conduct he had held; for the assistance he had given to the Minister; and was he now to be held out as belonging to a party, or a faction? Was a report to go abroad, circulated by the Noble Lord, and bearing his authority, that he was a factious man? Was it to be believed that he belonged to a consular authority established, as the Noble Lord had as- serted, for the purpose of overawing the parliament; and undermining that Constitution he had so uni- formly supported? Was the letter to which his name is signed to be deemed a letter missive to in- vite an insurrection? In putting his name to that letter, he had acted as an independent gentleman of Ireland—as a gentleman of large and extensive

Ld. Dornshure to Ld. Cornwallis
Enc. to 9956-68

Feb. 13 1800

9509

My Lord

I have to lament that your Excellency did not allow me an opportunity of defending myself upon the investigation of my conduct made by General Sir Charles Ross, under your Excellency's orders, before you transmitted the General's report to His Majesty.—

I have considered the copy of that report which I received by Your Excellency's directions, after you had forwarded it to the King.— Conscious as I am of my own innocence and confident that the accusation against me will appear, upon a full and fair investigation, equally unsupported in point of fact, and unfounded in Law, I feel it a duty I owe to myself to demand from Your Excellency

a public trial of my conduct; in the transact
alluded to, by a Court Martial; and have
only to add my request that Your Excellenc
will Issue your orders for assembling the Cour
Martial as speedily as possible.—

I have the honor to be
Your Excellency's much injur (No. 9)
& humble Serv.t
Donnshire.

13th Feb: 1800

His Excellency The Lord Lieutenant.

Ld. Castlereagh to Ld. Downshire
Euc. E 9956-68

9510

Dublin Castle, February 1800.

My Lord,

I am directed by My Lord Lieutenant to acquaint Your Lordship, that his Excellency has recd. a dispatch from his Grace the Duke of Portland conveying his Majesty's commands to His Excellency to acquaint your Lordship that His Majesty has no further occasion for your Lordship's Services as Governor of the County of Down, that His Majesty has directed your Lordship to be superseded in the command of the Royal Downshire Regiment of Militia, and that His Majesty has signed a warrant directing His Excellency to strike Your Lordship's Name out of the List of the Privy Council. —

I have the honor to be
My Lord
Your Lordship's most Obedt.
humble Servant,
Castlereagh

The Marquis of Downshire

Duke of Portland

Feb. 18 1800

9511

The Duke of Portland humbly conceives that the contents of the Dispatches which he just received from Ireland will appear so interesting & satisfactory to Your Majesty, as to induce Him to defer for an unnecessary moment to lay them before Your Majesty.

Bedington House Tuesday 18th Feb.y 1800 20m p. 9. a m.

Mr Hedges. Recd
Sheffield. Feby 19. 1800

John Yeaw (Asst Clerk Board of Works.)

9512

Sir

The following Statement of facts are intended to promote the interests of Four Orphans, to point out the motives which have induced me to solicit for them, and to confirm an assertion I made the other day that I have no personal views in this affair.

The late Sir Charles Sheffield granted a Lease of the Magdalen Public house (then called the two Chairmen) to my late father Thomas Hedges It was dated 25 April 1760. – Since which it has been occupied by & afforded support to his family. – His eldest daughter Mrs Jackson the last tenant of the family died in indigent circumstances in March 1797 leaving four Boys the eldest Ten and the youngest only Three years of age. –
As their only surviving relative capable of being useful to them I immediately stated their deplorable Case to you as the proper official Person to be applied to for procuring the indulgence I hoped might be granted them of continuing the House for their benefit, and you gave me reason to think his Majesty might be influenced by the distress of the Case to comply with my wishes, and that on your part nothing should be omitted which it became you to do, or say, to promote this desirable object I confess Sir the humanity manifest in your behavior on this melancholy occasion made a deep impression on me, and I was truly grateful to you for such attentions.
You desired me to state the base in writing as a document for you which I am ashamed to acknowledge I have hitherto omitted to do, but I trust it is not now too late to answer the purpose, should it be, I shall doubly regret the tardiness of my motions.
As there was but one mode of benefitting these Children by

means of the House I adopted that only mode and let it for something in advance of Rent &c — I now proceed to state the advantages resulting to the Children from this proceeding —

Mr Wilson the present occupier pays me exactly Fifteen Pounds more than I pay you for the House & Miss Dobson pays me Ten pounds pannum in addition thereto for the Rent of two Rooms at the extremity of the House. —

The Board and Education of the Children costs me £63 — — pannum an expence which has been severely felt by my own family for whose decent & comfortable support in the present times of dearness my income is barely sufficient. I have a wife & five children a family too expensive (in my rank of life) to admit of my incurring so heavy an addition as the four children beforementioned without some alleviation —

I humbly submit these facts to consideration, grateful for the indulgence my family have hitherto experienced & most respectfully submissive to any determination that may be adopted regarding the future —

I am Sir
with much respect
Your obliged & obed Servant
W Hedges
East India House
the 19 Febry 1800

John Venn Esq

Mr Dundas
February 22d 1800

9513

Downing Street 22d Feby 1800.
½ 3 p. m.

Mr Dundas takes the liberty of humbly submitting to your Majesty a minute of a Resolution of your Majestys Confidential Servants, which they have directed him to transmit to your Majesty

Summary of French newspapers
Feb. 23 1800

9514

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White Hall
February 23d 1800.

French Papers have been received to-day to the 19th instant inclusive.

It appears by two Articles dated Vienna the 2d and 3d of February, that dispatches had been received there from Petersburgh on the 31st of January, announcing the determination of the Emperor of Russia to act once

more

more in concert with the Court of Austria; and that in Consequence His Imperial Majesty had sent orders to His Army to direct their march towards the Rhine.

These Journals contain no other Event of importance except the taking of Count de Frotté and his Staff-Offic all of whom have unfortunately fallen into the hands of the Republicans. They were to be tried by a military Commission at Verneuil on the 18th instan

Duke of York to Henry Dundas

9515-6

Copy

Horse Guards 28th Feby 1800

Secret

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Letters of the 23d Instant (one of them marked Secret) conveying to me His Majesty's Commands "that a British "Army amounting, with the disposable "force now in the Mediterranean to "at least 20,000 effective Men should by "every exertion be collected with all possible "Dispatch at Minorca, with a view to its "being employed in that Quarter under "the Command of Lieut: General Sir "Charles Stuart; and further that the "proportion to be sent from this Country "(amounting as you conceive to at least

Rt Honble
Henry Dundas

15,000 Men

"15,000 men) should be forthwith selected
"and should consist of whatever Regiments
"most fit for immediate service".

I shall not delay, in obedience
to His Majesty's Commands making the
necessary arrangements for the effectual
execution of the object in view, and no
exertion shall be wanting on my part
towards fulfilling in the utmost degree
possible the expectations which His
Majesty may have formed of an
efficient, disposable force from the
late augmentation which the Infantry
of the Army has received from the
Militia of Great Britain and Ireland.

Coinciding most fully in the
justness of His Majesty's observations,
in regard to the fallacy in general
of

of Paper Statements, upon which you remark that you can alone form your Judgement; and being most truly desirous to furnish His Majesty's Ministers with every Information in my power, of the actual state of that Force to which His Majesty looks for the successful Execution of any measure which may be now in contemplation, I shall proceed to make such representation, as I think will best tend to give a clear conception of the Condition of the Troops from which the Force required is to be taken.

In the first Instance I shall advert to the Regiments, whose Services being confined to Europe, are those which I naturally conclude His Majesty would

wish

wish to employ in the Mediterranean in preference to such as from being unlimited in their services can alone be expected to answer any sudden call for Reinforcements to His Majesty's possessions out of Europe, or for the execution of any hostile attempt which it may be thought expedient to make on the distant possessions of the Enemy.

The former are as stated in the margin. It is necessary to observe that the major part of these Batts. were those which were entirely composed of Volunteers from the English Militia under the first act, and which from the urgency

		Effective Rank & File
4th Regiment	1st Batt.	806
	2d do	892
	3d do	905
5th do	1st Batt.	640
	2d do	635
9th do	1st Batt.	730
	2d do	733
	3d do	731
15th do Ireland	1st Batt.	834
	2d do	897
16th do Ireland		847

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		Effective Rank & File
17th Regiment	1st Battn	622
	2d do	654
20th do Ireland	1st Battn	742
	2d do	723
31st do		947
35th do	1st Battn	761
	2d do	847
36th do Ireland		1166
40th do	1st Battn	607
	2d do	632
46th do Ireland		1019
52d do	1st Battn	973
	2d do	902
56th Ireland		875
62d do	1st Battn	873
	2d do Ireland	800
63d do		646
82d do Ireland		792

of the Moment were obliged to be hastily brought together, and sent on the Expedition to Holland, incomplete in Cloathing, arms and Appointments, and without having undergone that Preparation which is absolutely necessary for Troops previous to their proceeding on actual Service.

During any Active Campaign particularly during one so arduous as that sustained by the Army in Holland it must be evident that it is impossible to exercise Troops or to ground them

in

the first rudiments of their business; -
since the return of that army from
Holland, the season has been so
adverse to exercise in the field that
little progress has been made in their
advancement in Discipline. - no
exertion however has been wanting
to supply the deficiencies in arms,
Cloathing & Appointments naturally
occasioned by the severity of the service
upon which they were employed.

Upon receiving His Majesty's Commands
to furnish a Reinforcement for Ireland
I thought it my duty as far as circum-
stances would admit to select the
Regiments which were at this time
considered as the most efficient in
point of number exclusive of sick;

although

although in every other respect I was sensible that they were by no means in that state of Discipline in which alone I should have recommended that Troops should be sent upon Service. Several of them had very lately been entirely formed of Recruits from the Militia, others had received a considerable proportion of Men in consequence of the last act for reducing the Militia, in addition to those who volunteered in the first instance.

The Officers originally belonging to the Regiments could have no knowledge whatever of the Men, and those who were necessarily received from the Militia, were without experience; under these material disadvantages,

and

and until time could be allowed for making good the deficiencies in arms and cloathing sustained by some of the Corps which had served in Holland, and for perfecting the whole in the most essential points of discipline, they ought not, / had not the exigency of circumstances required it, / to have been sent out of the Kingdom. Ten Battalions however proceeded consisting in the whole of 8695 effective men.

The foregoing observations equally apply to the Regts of the same description now in England; Their present inefficient state is not in any respect attributable to neglect or want of exertion on the part of those in command of them, but the

manner in which so considerable a force has been collected has utterly precluded the possibility of their being at this time completely disciplined and appointed, in Cloaths, arms and accoutrements.

It will therefore be evident that although the number of men required may be embarked, yet I must feel it a duty to give it as my decided opinion that there are not any of the Corps mentioned, in a state for actual service, and that unless they are allowed uninterruptedly to employ the ensuing Two months in equipment, formation and instruction, little advantage is to be expected from their services against the Enemy.

However

however ably conducted. I shall therefore conclude my remarks on these Corps by expressing an earnest hope that it may suit the arrangements in agitation, not to call upon them until the expiration of the period above mentioned, when confiding in the zeal and ability of the Generals and other officers in Command of them, I think I may safely pronounce that they will be in a state to act as His Majesty may be pleased to direct.

The Regiments in Great Britain whose services are unlimited and whose Numbers can in any degree be considered such	1st Regiment / 2d Battn	124
	2d or Queens	560
	23d	600
	25th	472
	27th	1243

as

29

29th Regiment	566	
49th	470	
55th	460	
60th (6th Battn)	574	
65th (Boys)	600	
69th	560	
79th	376	
85th	1346	
92nd	706	
		624
		560
		600
		472
		1243

as to warrant their being sent upon any service, as stated in the margin. In these numbers also a considerable allowance must be made for sickness, and for Recruits recently joined, particularly in the 23rd, 27th and 85th Regts which have each had a large increase to their strength by volunteers from the Irish Militia, and which in consequence cannot at present be considered in a fit state to be sent upon Foreign Service, although they may become very efficient if a fair proportion of time is allowed to them for that purpose.

Independent of being utterly

29th

deprived

deprived of the means of supplying the Possessions out of Europe by sending upon the service in question these Regiments, there are several Arrangements now in their Infancy to which in consequence an entire stop must be put: - of these the formation of a Corps of Riflemen by Detachments, to be returned to their Corps when properly instructed, and the exercising five Regts altogether as light Corps, are two, which must be dropped.

The Six Battalions expected from Ireland are very efficient in point of number, but in every other respect, from the nation of their late formation, they must be considered altogether unfit for

1st Battn Royals	803
13th Regiment	806
54th do	1221
64th do	913
68th (2 Battns)	2013

any service, and if hurried abroad in their present state, they will be sent without having afforded to them the means of discovering the most trifling degree of confidence.

Having thus made a fair representation of the state of what is considered to be the disposable Force in Infantry of this Kingdom / in which you will however observe I have not made any mention of the Foot Guards, / amounting in the whole to 8100 Rank and File /, I shall proceed to state the means by which I propose to make up the number of Men / 15,000 / required, which as you specify neither artillery, or Cavalry, is, I conclude, intended to be composed altogether of Regiments of Infantry.

These

These Regiments include all in Great Britain, except the 63d, which have been recruited from the English Militia, and whose services are limited.

If however it is thought expedient that this Force should proceed by Detachments, and they can until required for actual service be placed in a settled Garison, where time can be given for Exercise and Instruction, any five or six of the Battalions mentioned, may without material inconvenience to their

Regts		Effective including sick
4th or Kings own		
1st Battn	909	
2d do	891	
3d do	926	2726
9th Regiment		
1st Battn	738	
2d do	733	
3d do	730	2201
17th Regiment		
1st Battn	622	
2d do	654	1276
35th Regiment		
1st Battn	761	
2d do	849	1610
40th Regiment		
1st Battn	685	
2d do	669	1354
52d Regiment		
1st Battn	973	
2d do	982	1955
31st Regiment		947
		12,069

Inoque

9522

Regts	Effective including sick
Brought over	12,069
5 Regiments	
1st Battn	640
2d do	635
	1275
Three Battalions from Ireland to be replaced by 2000 Guards — say	2400
Total	15,744

progress in Discipline

Embark as soon as ar-
-rangements for that
purpose can be made

I trust I shall have
succeeded in laying before
you, for His Majesty's In-
-formation, a compre-
-hensive detail of the Force
of Infantry in Great Britain

which can first be calculated upon
for active operation.

The Regiments which I have not yet
noticed and which may be called upon
at a future period are

	Rank & file	
21st	246	Recruiting in Scotland
71st	219	
72d	173	
32d	96	just returned from the Bahama Islands.

38th

	Rank & File	
38th Regiment —	373	expected from the West Indies.
43d —	251	
28th —	660	do from Gibraltar
24th —	639	do from N. America
26th —	616	

The three last mentioned Corps are completely formed and may on their arrival in England be considered as equal to any service required of them.

I am, Sir,

Yours

(Signed) Frederick.