

Punah

Whitehall
October 6. 1820.

My dear Bardenji,

I have just heard that a noted Radical of the name of Johnson of Preston is gone or is about to go to Ireland on a mission of mischief.

I am assured that he has lately been at Carlisle to make a sort of rude organization of the Manufacturers in that neighbourhood, and advising them to procure arms - From Carlisle it is said he went to Glasgow, meditating a passage from the latter place to Ireland.

Your saving of 12,000 & the high civil
rest

i. Hope exclusive of the saving already effected
of about that amount by the Re-employment by
his Lord Lieutenant of a portion of his salary
and the reduction of the office held by Lord
Colchester.

Let me entreat you to look most carefully
through the office connected with the Irish Court.
Protect the interests of those now holding ^{such} ~~offices~~
~~the~~ offices - but let us have the credit of
abolishing on the termination of those interests, such
offices as are not necessary for the deputies and
State of the

Court - and are now virtually held as sinecures.
We cannot argue that the office now held
by Colonel Clements - held by him as well as a
sinecure is necessary for State purposes.

Look at all such offices as that of State
Physician State Surgeon &c. The persons
holding these offices were not in any sense
practically employed. There were better
Physicians & better Surgeons to be had in
Dublin - and the letters were sent for.

The host of Trumpeters - Hangers on the
Dulcimer and so

forth. I fear the Practice of former Lords
Lieutenant has not been to make their appointments
with reference ^{uniformly} ~~to the~~ the Musical attainments
of the Candidates.

Now I strongly advise the Maintenance of all
offices that are necessary for the people and
descent Splendor of the Court. But the voluntary
abandonment of those offices which have been
held as sinecures - and which are not bona fide
necessary.

Have you anything to communicate to me
on the subject of

How great such questions - which will occupy
so much of our time in the approaching Session?
Education - Estimates Poor Law Report.

Yours most faithfully
James

Robert Peel

Mr. Keble

Mr. Henry Hardinge

Esq. - Dublin Castle.

his Robert Reed (4

Oct. 6.

Richard Johnson

going to England. -

State of the month of

England

From
Sir Robert Peel

(5)

Oct 6. / 20

Informing Sir R that
a noted Radical by name
Johnson intends coming
over to Ireland from
the North of England.

Civil List Reductions—
And Irish Business
that will come before this
Parliament.

Phoenix Park

12th October 1830

My dear Sir Robert

Sir John Byng will report by this days post to the Horse Guards an occurrence at Newry, calculated at this moment to excite uneasiness, as being the first indication of a Catholic party spirit, existing in a Regiment of the Line, & shewing itself by a refusal to obey orders given on the Parade.

The 87th or Connaught Rangers are composed of young men from Limerick & Clare, five-sixths being Catholics - When at the Isle of Wight & subsequently at Manchester the Band being also Catholics, the Men marched to the Roman Catholic chapel with the music playing - They did so on their landing in Ireland, but when they were ordered to the North, the commanding officer Major Streetfield gave an order that the music should not play to any Detachment going to Church whether Protestant or Catholic, the

Men in one or two instances having shown a disposition to insult Protestants as Orangemen. The inclosed report from Lord Caledon of their conduct at Armagh where 4 Companies of the 87th Regiment are stationed may now be attributed to the same party feeling which has more openly displayed itself at Newry -

On Sunday Morning when the Catholic Detachment of the 6 Companies were assembled to march to Chapel, the Men repeatedly refused to face, a few voices in the rear calling out for Music - The Captain sent for the Commanding Officer Lt Col. Blair whose order they likewise disobeyed - He formed them into square addressed them, as you will read in the Military Report, & having placed the Drum in the front for a Drum Head Court Martial firmly informed them that he would instantly try & punish the first man who refused to obey his orders, & having reformed line the Detachment without hesitation faced and marched off -

There were in the Barrack Yard & on the Walls a larger proportion than usual of Towns-people, looking on, evidently waiting to see

the result ^{of the attempt} of which they had been previously apprized -

The most important point has been accomplished, that of putting down the Mutiny. - The next point is to provide against its recurrence, & to prevent the disgrace, scandal & embarrassment which are likely to ensue to His Majesty's Service, by retaining a Regiment in Ireland upon whose fidelity strong suspicion may justly be entertained, whenever it may be necessary to employ that Regiment in maintaining the Public Peace of the Country, which, if it be disturbed, will display itself in a national & Catholic form of a repeal of the Union, opposed by the Protestants, who foresee that the Repeal means Separation, followed by Revolution, & a forfeiture of Protestant Interests -

To have a Regiment on whose loyalty implicit confidence cannot be placed, under all the varied and trying exigencies of disturbed times, is worse than having no 87th Regiment here, because one or two tried Regiments must be employed in watching its conduct. - Besides the example might be contagious, or the defection, at a crisis, fatal, and the hope of treasonable assistance in a Catholic armed force, would give confidence to the People, the only ingredient wanting to

make a large Mass rush into Insurrection.

Colonel D'Aquila the Adjutant General, has been sent to Colonel Blair, & will return this day, but too late for the Post. - on his report we shall be better able to judge, whether it will be more advisable to keep the 6 Companies at Newry this week, marching them to Chapel next Sunday without Music, proving to the Inhabitants that no fear is entertained of the loyalty of the Regiment, or at once to remove them nearer to Dublin, preparatory to embarkation.

My own opinion is that the Regiment ought not to remain in Ireland - after what has happened they are worse than useless, - but I am of opinion that they will not mutiny, but march quietly to Chapel next Sunday, because there is no matured plan for action, nor do I think there were last Sunday any instigators, other than the lower orders, to whom the Soldiers had probably expressed their discontent, arising out of the prohibition to march to Church with Music, because it may reasonably be assumed, that more able & wary leaders would have repressed this feeling, till it could have been brought more mischievously into action.

5th of Cork -
 Orders have
 been ^{sent} this night
 to suspend the
 sailing of 2

Transports which
 were to get under
 weigh tomorrow -
 the other Transports
 had not arrived -

The Vigil will not
 sail till after
 next Monday -
 by which time
 an answer can

be obtained from
 Mr. Hile, & I
 must embark
 the 87th at Newry
 or 4 m. lower

down, in Steamers
 sending them off
 to Barbadoes
 in the Transports
 upon Monday at
 Cork. W.H.

If this Regiment cannot be trusted in the
 manufacturing Districts in the North-West of England,
 I would suggest the expediency of suspending the
 embarkation of the Regiment going to the West Indies,
 embarking the 87th in Steamers for Cork, & shipping
 them under Convoy for the West Indies without
 landing, under the orders of the Admiral of
 that Station.

The Artillery officer at the Pigeon House,
 observed on Sunday a much larger number of
 people than usual on the wharf - chiefly men,
 & about 20,000 in number. - The day was fine,
 & when the evenings grow short, it is a place
 of much resort for the lower orders - The
 Depot has about 30,000 stand of Arms, & a
 Field Officer of Artillery is permanently in charge
 of the Garrison of 70 men - It is not to be
 attacked when the draw-bridge is up, and at
 high water, but it is possible to scale it at low
 water from the beach -

Three weeks ago the new Recruiting Barrack
 at Beggars Bush, within 250 yards of the Draw-
 bridge leading to the Pigeon House, was ordered to
 be completed to receive 4 Companies, two of which
 would re-inforce the Pigeon House on the slightest
 alarm. - The remaining two could easily defend
 themselves in the small Barrack which has been

constructed for the purpose of a defence by Musquetry, making the approach of the Draw-bridge -- As however I conceive any rising here, will be simultaneous with an explosion in the manufacturing Districts, or with the protection openly given by France to Belgium, I shall propose to Sir John Byng at once to occupy the Pigeon House with a complete Garrison, strengthening the sea Wall liable to Escalade by an Iron freize or other effectual means against a sudden rush.

Six Companies will occupy the Barracks adjoining the Castle in a few days, & Colonel Maberly will be placed in Command.

In the event of any serious tumult, I propose to submit to the Lord Lieutenant to arm the Students of Trinity College, forming them into a Corps of 500 occupying the Bank & their own College -- 1000 Stand of Arms & Accoutrements in the Castle afford the means -- in short we must revive the system of the Volunteer Corps, as cautiously as possible, as we shall ^{only} have 1200 Men available after garrisoning the points absolutely required to be held in case of any desperate explosion, which, although I do not expect it to occur immediately, may after the experience of the past happen at any moment.

At an hour's notice we can horse 20 pieces of field Artillery.

The Arms & Stores at Limerick are packed up & will I hope be embarked the latter end of this week.

I have written this day to Lord Beresford to remove another Ordnance Store at Cork in an exposed situation to Haulbowline Island where they will be equally at hand for all Military purposes, & quite safe.

The small depôts of Arms at Enniskillen, Carrickfergus & Charlemont, are I conceive absolutely necessary to arm the Protestants in whom their Landlords place confidence -- At any other point I consider the depôts of Arms & Ammunition in safety.

If the ordinary means at the disposal of the Government are inadequate to the exigency, the Lord Lieutenant with I am sure from his resolute character not hesitate to resort to such means as will best enable us to meet the necessity.

By a return of Gun-powder brought into this country, I find the quantity in the course of this year is considerably less than in any former year, & is mostly in the Government Stores.

Whilst I think it right to recapitulate these points for the information of His Majesty's Government, I beg I may not be understood as entertaining an alarm of an immediate crisis.

What we have to fear is Imitation, & an explosion resulting from large public Meetings,

after the rabble have been excited by popular declaimers -

We shall probably have a trial of the public mind in this city about the 18th or 20th.

Mr O'Connell has given notice of two meetings, one on the 19th for the formation of a society to be called, "The Irish Society for legal & Legislative Relief." The other for the repeal of the Union, the day for which will be fixed when he arrives in Dublin on the 16th.

The object of the Society is not for the consideration of some single specific measure terminating with the meeting of the day, such as that lately held in Dublin for an address to the French People or for Parliamentary Reform, or for the Repeal of the Union, but the proposition is to organize a permanent Club, holding frequent adjourned meetings, embracing not a single object but an extensive series of Measures more especially those belonging to the Legislature, by incorporating members, receiving subscriptions & in particular those funds which were provided by the Society of "The friends of Ireland of all Religious Denominations." which was suppressed last April by the Lord Lieutenant, under the Act of 1829.

It is unnecessary for me to point out the mischievous consequences likely to result in this country, and at this moment, if such a systematic attempt to establish seditious Clubs be permitted to make any progress - The avowed purpose is not concealed - it is not the discussion of any political principle but a plan on an enlarged scale to subvert the Government as established by Law, & to organize associations for dissolving the connection with England by intimidation -

The Lord Lieutenant is decidedly of opinion that the Meeting ought to be prevented by Proclamation, as it was in April last, & he is accordingly prepared to do so on the 19th -

The Government may rely that this measure will be discreetly carried into effect, & if we are driven to the alternative of employing force, recourse shall be had in the first instance solely to the Civil Power. I do not apprehend - O'Connell being on the spot - that the Prohibition to hold the meeting will lead to any disturbance of the public Peace - On the other hand we shall be prepared with with temperance & firmness to take those measures which will shew that we are determined to do our duty according to the Powers with which the Lord Lieutenant is invested by Law, His Excellency being persuaded that irresolution or appearance of weakness is

more dangerous than a steady exercise of lawful authority -

Notwithstanding the confidence which the Mob success at Paris & Brussels have inspired, & the smallness of our Military Means, I am satisfied we should put down any attempt at resistance here, carefully abstaining from any interference or coercion until resort became more than justifiable by the Mob becoming the attacking party, & compelling us to resort to force from necessity & Duty -

In this possible state of things the Lord Lieutenant with every repugnance to use force, & with every precaution to avoid the predicament of being the aggressive party, is of opinion that in exercising a power given by Law, the danger of collision is infinitely less by a fearless line of conduct than it would be by conception evidently resulting from a sense of weakness, & which would with a Dublin Mob inevitably lead to disasters. The appeal therefore will only be made, when it cannot be avoided without disgrace or injury to His Majesty's Service.

The other proposed Meeting for a specific object, "The Repeal of the Union," affords the Government the opportunity by not interfering with it of proving that there is no disposition to controul the usual

Constitutional means by which Public Feeling may be expressed in a popular manner - The Lord Lieutenant has therefore no intention of taking any notice of it, unless subsequent events in the interval should render the Meeting decidedly dangerous to the public Peace - The Lord Mayor will not sanction the Meeting, & as fair discussion will not be allowed, the only mode, as in Mr Hunt's Meetings, is to treat it as a packed assemblage of the Mob.

The Requisition for Signatures has been going the round of the City for the last fortnight - Some Protestants of respectability have signed it from the fear of their trade being injured - others have persisted in refusing, but I am confident the attempt however alluring to young enthusiasts and to needy adventurers will not receive that description of support which the Catholic Association received, because it will not be applauded by a large body of Men of property & talent in & out of Parliament. The successful example of Belgium has of course excited a restless expectation throughout the lower classes, that they can by similar means overpower the Military & dissolve the Union. A majority of the upper Classes of Catholics are averse to losing the connection with England - the Protestants consider the repeal as tantamount to a forfeiture of Property - The Priests I conceive to be very favourable to the repeal in the hope of

crushing the Irish Established Church - Others however consider them as adverse owing to their alarm for the Catholic Religion in France -

The effects of the Subletting Act in favouring the ejection of tenants now that the 40th Freeholders are no longer of use is for the moment doing much mischief by exasperating the unfortunate men ejected, & throwing them in want & despair upon the country - These tenants become Ribbon Men entering into secret associations to attack the new tenants & as ^{at} the affair of Muff in August are the cause of much of the outrage which can be traced to those districts where ejections on a large scale have been resorted to.

This cause of disturbance is however counteracted by the perceptible improvement in the Agriculture of the country, & the increased circulation of money by the sale of produce in England. Nevertheless the condition of the Mass of the People is so deplorable, that having little to lose they are recklessly ready to rush into any attempt for a change, & are only withheld by a want of arms & of leaders. It is reported that the peasantry are more generally provided with arms than could be expected, but having made vigilant enquiry, I do not find this is the case. Many of the Noblemen & Gentlemen suspect what is called a turn-out, Men's minds are of

course justly influenced by what is passing on the Continent, whilst the People from the same cause are sanguine that a beneficial change is about to take place. In my opinion they are in too helpless a state to set about it with effect, unless they have leaders who have hitherto evaded suspicion. I believe O'Connell is too wary & too timid to risk himself in any illegal enterprise. He is also much restrained by his expectations from Count O'Connell who has emigrated with the Bourbons, & who has through his pecuniary interest a good deal of influence over the Member for Waterford. My impression is that we shall have no crisis here for some time to come, unless it first breaks out in England or that Belgium is protected by France, in either of which cases a convulsion may be attempted here to occupy our hands at home.

There is one source of mischief in this Country which must be stopped, & that immediately. Under circumstances of less national excitement the inconveniences of interference might reasonably be balanced against the advantages - but such is the appetite for sedition with the large mass of Irish Readers, that every topic which can inflame the passions of the multitude assists the sale of a paper & any moderate writer calmly attempting to lead public opinion in the right path, is not

only not relished, but the paper is denounced and the sale forbidden. The consequence of this state of things is that no paper left to its own resources, dares to vindicate the measures of the Government.

There is not at this moment one paper which advocates our side - Exaggeration & Falshood are boldly put forth in popular forms calculated to mislead - the uncontradicted lie daily circulated ends by having the effect of truth, & the well-disposed are seduced as well as the wit-minded to have a contempt for the laws, & a hatred for their rulers.

Mr Shiel has on several occasions assured me from his practical knowledge of the effects of popular appeals on the Irish Temper, that the Press must not be suffered to continue in its present dangerous state. A few months ago I should probably not have coincided with him on this point, but my view of its importance is changed - I shall therefore act but refrain from asking any instructions.

On the subject of Mr Shiel I shall write to you tomorrow, having now occupied so much of your time that I will not press this or any other subject upon your attention. In the absence of the Lord Lieutenant I hope I have expressed his sentiments - he is making a very useful

tour in the South, where his reception has been very flattering - and as he is kept by me informed of passing events, I apprehend he will consider it as I do more politic to complete his tour than by returning unexpectedly give rise to unfounded rumours.

Jan

1800

H Hardinge

I have left Lord Caledon's letter at the office - it is not important - I will send it tomorrow - O'Connell's letter is inclosed.

To the Abstract of

12. Oct/30.

Being account of the
conduct of the 2^d Regt.

- Revenue & Stores

to each regt.

Abstract of - 2

- Abstract of the Regt. -

Phanis Park

13th October 1830

My dear Sir Robert

I saw Sir John Byng yesterday afternoon, who brought for my perusal Lt Col. Blair's report of Monday, in which he says the Men feel ashamed of their misconduct, excusing it by the irritation excited by the Townspeople taunting them in the Streets, with the disgrace of being deprived of their Music in going to worship, & at the same time expressing apprehension that there are bad characters in the Regiment, & Instigators in the Town by whose artful insinuations the Men were seduced from their duty —

The Connaught Rangers being the only Regiment in the Service, which publicly gratified a religious Catholic feeling, by the band assisting in the performance of Divine Service, has become & in my opinion is likely to remain a popular Regiment distinguished for being Catholic — The crime of Mutiny founded on

attachment to religious observances, will be elevated into virtue by the arts of priestcraft, & will inspire feelings & interests separate from Protestants & Englishmen - They will probably be hurrahed through the Towns by the mob, & finding they are honoured for a crime, & suspected by their Officers, will be apt to take a bias on the popular side by considering themselves essentially an Irish Catholic Regiment. It ought also to be remembered, that this Catholic tendency, & dislike to Protestants, did not merely display itself in refusing to march without Music on the 10th, but that some of the Men of the 4 Companies of the same Regiment at Armagh, had on the 4th October, shewn the same party feeling by a serious riot in attempting to make Protestants repeat offensive expressions, & beating them if they refused, in which outrages they were assisted & cheered by the Mob. (A letter from the Sovereign of Armagh is annexed.)

It is possible the reaction may exhibit itself in a determination to prove

their loyalty by anxiously obeying any orders to suppress disturbance - but we have not heard of their disclosing the names of any of the Townspeople who instigated them to disobedience on the 10th. It is also true that any severe punishment for insubordination so easily suppressed, may by magnifying their error create alarms & have a very impolitic effect. - but the mutiny is known, & is already noticed in the Irish papers. A severe example energetically carried into effect will be in my view of the discipline of the Army, at any moment, but particularly at this, more than counterbalance the objections I have adverted to -

My opinion therefore remains the same as that which I expressed in my letter of yesterday, that this Regiment is worse than useless in Ireland, & if the communication with London were not so speedy, I should instantly advise the Lieutenant General to embark the Regiment for Cork, preparatory to sending them to the West Indies. I have however requested Sir John Byng, when I saw him after writing to you yesterday

to send orders to Cork by yesterday's post, to suspend the sailing of the 36th Regiment for Barbadoes which were to embark this morning on board of two Transports which had arrived, the other Transports being daily expected. This he has most readily done, & it is very satisfactory to me to have to act with a General Officer who so cordially cooperates in any proposition suggested to him. There were also some interior arrangements in the 36th Regiment which made this delay desirous, & on which the order has been founded, the intention of embarking the 87th being unknown except to Sir John Byng & myself. They will not embark until the Lieutenant General hears from Lord Hill, to whom he will write by this day's post after he has seen Colonel D'Aguilar on his return from Newry.

If the Government concur in the propriety of sending the 87th to Barbadoes instead of the 36th the arrangement will be very simple - Steam Vessels can take in the troops 4 or 5 miles below Newry, bring them off Dublin (if necessary, escorted by the Yacht to Cork) at once putting the service
Companies

Companies on board the Transports outside the Harbour, - landing the 4 Depot Companies at Milford Haven, & marching them to the Barracks at Brecon or elsewhere -

I have thought it right unreservedly to express my sentiments on this military subject connected as it is with the policy of our measures here, the remedy proposed being as just as it is expedient, & in my view necessary.

With regard to the state of the Country, the daily report of outrages in the interior indicate a continuation of the Rockite principle of driving peaceable tenants & owners of land from their farms, the attacks not being confined to Protestants. A Catholic of good property in the neighbourhood of Kings-court a Mr Farrell has determined to dispose of his property from the depredations made upon him - but when we know that a Protestant gentleman a Sir Robert Hudson ejected in the depth of winter 400 Catholics from his Estate in that neighbourhood, who retired into the Mountains, having no means of lawful subsistence from the difficulty of obtaining work, whilst the farms were chiefly let to Protestants, can we be surprized at the burnings of Houses and maiming of Cattle in that neighbourhood?

On Lord Wm Beresford's estate (a Minor) in Wicklow, arrangements are making to eject about 500 Catholics under the Subletting Act. — I conveyed to Mr Archdeacon Singleton whilst at Carraghmore a representation on the inevitable consequences of such an exercise of authority however legal on the part of the Primate —

The Archdeacon has successfully mediated for the present, — but admitting the improvement to the Estate, & the liberality & kindness with which the measure will be carried into execution in the Spring, can it be matter of wonder, that young men, whose Fathers for two or three generations have lived on the Estate, & who have punctually paid their rents, should become Ribbon-men & Outlaws?

Whilst the popular discontent has such natural causes for indulging in vengeance and outrage, I do not suspect any cessation of midnight hostilities — The Police are vigilant in detecting & in arresting the offenders, & the law is felt by the punishment of the guilty parties probably three times out of five. — If external causes on the Continent & O'Connell's inflammatory

addresses here did not excite the public mind, I am persuaded the Country would rapidly improve in Civilization & Prosperity. The effect of such a speech as that of O'Connell from Killarney, can be easily appreciated by those who know the Irish Character.

The Knight of Kerry & the Solicitor-General called upon me yesterday to say that the Repeal of the Union is becoming a serious & alarming question —

The remedy by quiet means is in my view not to meet it by arraying Protestant against Catholic, & returning to party animosities, which if possible must never be revived — but to reply to O'Connell's declamation by popular writers in the Public Papers, & to oppose him by those Catholics who were his most able lieutenants in the Catholic Association —

This leads me to inform you of what has passed between me & Mr Sheil — The silk gown has covered his former deformities, and as he subsequently complained, I did not take the same notice of him as my Predecessor did, I invited him to the Secretary's Lodge — He has informed me, that in consequence of the impartiality with which the Government is administered as publicly

avowed & evinced by the dismissal of Lord O'Neill
& Mr Otway Cave, he is disposed to support the
Government by opposing O'Connell on the repeal
of the Union; that it required boldness to com-
-promise himself against the popular party, but
that he thought many Catholics would follow
his example - that Doctor Doyle hated O'Connell
& he believed would be equally disposed to resist
the repeal of the Union - but then he required
to know would the Government support him?

I asked him in what way the Government
could support him - He said, I am called upon
in the expected event of Sir Marcus Boveridge's
death (having had two apoplectic attacks) to
stand for Meath - If in my ambition to get
into Parliament I accept the offer, I must
contrary to my feelings & notions of what is
useful to the best interests of Ireland, relapse
into that degree of violence without which a
popular candidate at the present moment
cannot succeed - If I could be assisted in
getting into Parliament paying for my own seat
I could I think usefully assist the Government -
The only two points on which I should require free
action, would be moderate Parliamentary Reform,

and the Vestry Bill as connected with the Irish Church, being so compromised on these subjects, that I should from a sense of honor & propriety adhere to my former opinions.

In due time, according to the extent of my services, I should hope for preferment at the Irish Bar. In fortune I am very independent & in Politics I wish to take that line which will eventually be most useful to Ireland, being persuaded that I can be serviceable, whilst on the other hand, if I am left to the resources of a Demagogue, I must do mischief against my will in getting into the House of Commons.

My answer was cautious, applauding his sentiments, encouraging his hopes of advancement at the Bar, but laying much stress upon the difficulty of obtaining even at his own expence a seat in Parliament.

He insinuated he could manage Mr Wye, who was his school-fellow - very clever, vain & poor, and that other Catholic members would be glad to have his example to support the Government & oppose the Repeal of the Union -

In the present state of Ireland, there can be no doubt, that it is very desirable to commit him - I beg to have the Instructions of Government on this subject, if possible before I leave Ireland,

that is whether directly or indirectly he can be assisted in getting into Parliament. My opinion is decidedly in favour of using him against O'Connell - The lawyers in Dublin from the absence of the Aristocracy have an unnatural ascendancy & power over public affairs - The question of the Repeal of the Union, by mere brute force & mob numbers will under present circumstances require to be met by Irish partizans of all parties - & I cannot but consider this opening as affording a practical proof of the benefits of Emancipation, by dividing the Catholic Leaders & enlisting those who have hitherto been opposed to the Government, & of acquiring useful aid at a moment of need - Mr Sheil's conduct in South was temperate & highly approved by the Protestant party, & as his adhesion would show itself in opposition to O'Connell, I do not think it would give offence to any other individual.

If the Government, & you as the leader of the House of Commons, dislike being parties to any arrangement by which Mr Sheil can be brought into Parliament, on account of any presumed offence which such a course might

give to the Protestant party, but have no objection to measures which I think practicable, & leave me to my own discretion in this as a personal affair, I feel persuaded that at this conjunction ^{sure} the measure would be a useful one without compromising the Duke of Wellington's Government, or you as leader of the House of Commons -

A Mr Murphy, a clever Lawyer, & formerly a Catholic Demagogue is against the Repeal of the Union; so is another of the name of Brady, likewise Mr Wolfe an assistant Barrister; Mr Sheil thinks these men would under his banners be of essential use in opposing O'Connell -

I was sorry to find Lord Cloncahy, the Archbishop of Tuam, & Archdeacon French, very violent on the Catholic Relief Bill, & more obstinately bigotted to Orangeism & soured against the Government than I could have expected -

It will probably be satisfactory to you to receive daily reports from me for the future of passing events.

A. H.

2015 . 2.

To Mr Robert Hall

18 Oct. /30.

Quart of Edward Mearns

? Report on the 87. -

Opinion as to the

Specimens of Sunday

from to the Services.

Mr. Hall -

State of the Country.

Carte oct 19/20

My dear Sir Robert

I send you the enclosed letter which I have this instant rec^d from Sir J. Byng - He is persuaded the Regt. may be depended upon under the circumstances in which it may be possible they might be called upon to act.

I have already given my ~~opinion~~ ^{opinions} & I have nothing to add to them after perusing Colonel D'Aguiar's Report. It is very far from my intention to discuss a question of Military Discipline or Policy with the St. Gen^l. Com^d of the Forces and as the best understanding

Submits between Sir John Byng and myself. I am
satisfied that by having afforded the Govt. the opportunity
either of embarking the Capt. for the West
Indies or of allowing them to remain here that
his impressions & opinions will be rec^d with the
weight they deserve, whilst on any part I shall
really be rejoiced if the Govt. shall decide, that an
old distinguished Capt. can with propriety be
retained in England.

On the other hand in the Exercise of
my public duty, I adhere entirely to the sentiments
I have taken in my letter to you of yesterday &
this days date.

Attest
Sir Robert Pollett

W. Handley

Ms. A. 3.

Mr. W. W. W. W. W.

Dr. Robert W. L.

13 Boston

St. Andrew.

Count of Boston

W. W. W. W. W.

Dr. W. W. W.

Copy/

Newry 10th October 1830

Sir,

I have the honor to state that as Captain in order to March the Chapel Party to Divine Service this Morning, I was on Parade for that purpose, and directed the Adjutant to wheel the Companies into Line, and prove them before marching off - On his giving the word "Right Form four deep" - March - nearly one Half of each Company disobeyed the Order - which I conceived arose from the Sergeants not having properly told off their Divisions, and directed them to be again told off which was done, - but on the Adjutant

Lieut. Colonel Blair's
Commanding Royal Irish Dragoon

reporting

repeating his order a still
greater proportion of each
Company did not face
- On which I took Command
and directed them to "front"
and gave the word "Right
form four deep", - when they
in a similar manner did
not face at the word
"March" - I then went over
to No 2 Company and asked
were they not told off -
- the Sergeant replied he
had done so twice - while
I was before this Company,
a Cry came from the left
to the right of the Line
- Music - Music - I
instantly called out

"Silence"

"Silence" and was obeyed -
- I asked Sergeant Potter
who was near the Centre,
what Men called Music
- He said, Sir, some Files
of this Company about the
Centre - I then went
(having ascertained that
each Company was properly
told off) to the front and
in a loud and distinct
tone, gave the word "Right
Form four deep - March"
which only the Non Com-
missioned Officers and a
few Men obeyed -

I then directed the
Sergeant to wait upon you,
and request you to come
on,

on Parade, and ordered the
Men to stand at Ease. —

There were a Number
(about 40) of the Townspeople
looking on at the Commence-
ment, who as if they were
aware of what was about
to take place, went to the
Gate and Walls which they
Crowded round. —

I have the honor to be
— — — Sir

Your most Obedt^{ly}
Humble servant

(Signed) J. Bowes
Capt. 87th R. I. Fusils

Copy

Newry October 11th 1830

Sir,

In continuation of
the subject of my letter of
Yesterday I beg to report,
that the Officers Commanding
Companies are of opinion
that the great portion of
their Men feel at present
much ashamed of their
conduct Yesterday, and it
is also their impression
that many were suddenly
impelled to act as they
have done, and as if uncon-
scious of the enormity of
their misdemeanours; I

Thy Deputy Adj. General earnestly

earnestly hope that all reaction is over, tho' it is to be much apprehended that evil spirits will still endeavour to keep up or renew the excitement.

I have not yet been able to fix on any of the original instigators. —

I am more convinced that external influence has been busy — Yesterday an orderly was addressed in the streets by some Townsman who asked him if the Serjeant Major had not been instrumental to the Catholics going to Chapel without Music in adding that he had

better

better not appear in the Town at Night. —

Some Men have told their Officers this Morning that they are taunted in the Streets as the Catholic Soldiers, who had their Chapel Music taken from them; which they say was the cause of their great Annoyance.

I marched the Regiment out this Morning and all apparently goes on without a Symptom of Annoyance or Excitement and as if nothing had occurred

received yesterday. -

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedt

Attendant

Signed

Thos Hunter Blair

Lt. Col. Comd 87th

Royal Irish Fus^{es}

Copy

Newry 10 October 1830

Sir,

It is my most painful duty to report the following circumstance for the information of the Lieutenant General Commanding -

I preface it by stating that when the Regiment returned to England in June 1827 it was sent to Albany Barracks, Isle of Wight - Divine Service was performed to the Protestants in the Barracks - The Catholics went to Chapel at Newport with the Catholic Drummers and Pipes playing - When the Regiment removed to Chester in 1828, the Church being a few paces

Deputy Assistant General

Dublin

from

from the Barracks, the same
Rule was observed, and last
Year at Manchester it was
kept up, the handful of
Protestants with the Officers
going to Church without
Music which could not be
had without keeping Catholics
from Divine Service. —

On the arrival of the
Regiment here, Major Streetfield
considering that in conse-
quence of the strong party
feeling prevailing in this
part of the Country, it would
be most advisable that
neither Catholic or Protestants
should go to Church with

Music

Music, gave an order accord-
ingly — On my rejoining I
was informed of the circum-
stance and the Rule con-
tinued, neither myself or
any Officer being aware
that it had created any
annoyance — The enclosed
Letter from Captain Bowes
will explain what occurred
this Morning before I went
on Parade. —

On arriving in front
of the Parade I gave the
word "Right four four deep"
"March", the Non Com-
missioned Officers and a few
only of the Men obeyed —
I sent for all the Officers and

The

The large Drum - ordered a Square to be formed which was immediately done - I enquired if any Man had a Complaint - one Man stepped out and in a tone perfectly respectful replied that the Men wanted Music to Chapel - I said that the request should have been made elsewhere, that it was now too late to grant it, that I should flog by Drum Head Court Martial the first Man from the Right who might refuse to Face - I reformed Line, gave the word and the whole marched to and from Chapel with perfect regularity under the Captain for Duty. -

Not

Not being able as yet to fix on any Conspicuous Individual I have judged it most expedient under the excitement that may remain not to confine any Man until I receive orders or can attach special blame. -

So far as the Officers can ascertain there is no proof of the Connivance of the Non Commissioned Officers tho' it is difficult to believe that all were ignorant.

I am induced to believe that the Men, who with very few exceptions are of a perfectly obedient disposition have been

instigated

instigated by a few Bad
Characters we possess, or by
external influence, judging
from the Unusual Number
of People (about 40) upon
our Parade. -

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedient
Humble Servant

(Signed) Tho Hunter Blair
Lt. Col. Commanding
Royal Irish Dragoon

201a

87. *Requiem* -
Spicing to music
& choiced without
music. 1024. 1895

N.B. p 2 - Music

Could not be had without

keeping the Catholics

from going to Church

Confidential

(Copy)

Dublin - Tuesday Evening
12th October 1830

Sir,

Having in obedience
to your Commands proceeded
to Newry from whence I am
this moment returned, I
beg leave to report the re-
sult for your information.

I reached that place
at half past Eight o'clock
this morning, and drove
immediately to the Barracks
of the 8th Regiment, which
I was glad to observe ex-
hibited every external
appearance of order and
tranquillity - My first

General

The Right Hon^{ble}

Sir John Byng

Care

care was to see Colonel Blair
and to ascertain from him
the state of the Regiment,
and above all to satisfy
myself that no new act
of Insubordination had
taken place that might
render an instantaneous
example necessary - He
assured me the Men had
been orderly and quiet to
a degree since the late
Unfortunate transaction
that they had come for-
ward and expressed great
contrition to their Officers
for what had happened
and that the Young Recruits

1 of

of which there were a great many
appeared quite ignorant
of the extent and Nature
of the offence of which they
had been guilty - All this
was confirmed to me by
the Officers with whom I
then conferred long upon
the whole subject - I gave
them a brief outline of my
intentions and told them
my great anxiety was to
avoid all personal collision
with the Soldier if possible,
but that as I came prepared
to do my duty, it was
necessary they should be
also prepared to support

me

me - I added, however flattering
appearances might be that
I could not depend upon
them, and that it was my
full intention to drag
the first Man who exhibited
the slightest symptom of
Insubordination, out of
the Ranks with my own
Hand, and try him by
a Drum Head Court
Martial - With this un-
derstanding we separated
- after having ordered
the Parade at the Usual
Hour and No Man whatever
to be absent - I next

Saw

saw the Non Commissioned
Officers who one and all
declared their Ignorance
of what had been in agita-
tion - Several of them
however admitted that they
had often heard the Men
casually regretting the loss
of their Musick and saying
that the Orange Men taunted
them for the want of it.

I observed that even
this ought to have been
instantly reported, and
pointed out to them the
necessity of the most un-
reserved Communication

with

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appearances might be that
I could not depend upon
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I observed that even
this ought to have been
instantly reported, and
pointed out to them the
necessity of the most un-
reserved Communication

with

with their Officers on every
occasion —

At Half past Ten
O'Clock I proceeded to the
Parade which was formed
with the strictest Order,
and having ordered the
Men into Square addressed
them to the following
effect — After expressing
my deep regret at seeing
the 37th Reg. under circum-
stances so derogatory to
their former high Character.
I told them — I was there —
The Deputy Adjutant General
of the Army — by desire of
Sir John Byng to enquire
into

into the Cause of their late
disgraceful Conduct — that
I was prepared to listen
to any and every Man
of the Regiment who had
any real or even imaginary
ground of Complaint, pro-
vided it was urged in a
Soldierlike and respectful
Manner — and I put it to
them (seeing that all
remained profoundly silent)
whether there was any thing
(independent of their alleged
grievance) relating to the
Exercise of their Religion
— their Pay — their Duty —
or their treatment from
their Officers or Non Com-
missioned

Commissioned

missioned Officers that could furnish the smallest ground of Complaint - I repeated this three times - said I was in no sort of Hurry to receive their answer, but pressed and invited every Man to come forward, and observed after such invitation, that it would be arguing a total want of Confidence in me as well as in The Lieutenant General who sent me, if any Man was withheld by a false shame from doing himself justice - Not a Man came forward - I then
said,

said I was bound from their Silence to believe that their alleged grievance - namely "that of the Band not being allowed to play when they went to Chapel" was the sole and only cause of Complaint - They gave a distinct but perfectly respectful assent to this - I told them that nothing could justify their Misconduct on so frivolous a pretext, that this being a mere external Form no way connected with the full and free Exercise of their Religion rendered
this

their behaviour infinitely
more culpable. —

I then explained
to them the ground on which
Major Streatfield had
thought necessary to withdraw
this indulgence. when they
came to that part of the
Country — pressed upon them
the recollection of the Party
spirit which operated to
make every display of this
kind to be avoided and
made them fully comprehend
that the object of the Com-
manding Officer was devoted
solely and entirely to the
Preservation of the Public Peace

— That

— That impressed with this
Conviction I was authorised
to say, Sir John Byng
entirely approved of Major
Streatfield's proceeding,
as well as of Colonel Blair's
firmness in insisting
upon peremptory and
implicit obedience to
that Order — That it
was true it would have
been open to them at
the time to represent and
Petition in a respectful
manner for its repeal —
when circumstances ad-
mitted — but that period
was gone by, and the
circumstance of their
having

Having dared to be guilty
even of a momentary dis-
obedience rendered it
impossible for Sir John
Byng to take that question
now into consideration
- I desired to be perfectly
understood by them - That
I came there not to ne-
gociate with them in
any way - Not to com-
promise Discipline - but
to maintain it - and that
I conceived I did this
best by telling them at
once that The Lieutenant
General would never allow
another Sound of Music
to

to be heard when the 8th Regt
marched to Chapel until
they had satisfied him by
the most exemplary com-
mitment of the sense they
entertained of their mis-
conduct - I added again
that they must understand
me thoroughly - I came
there prepared to enforce
Obedience in my own Person
- to punish in the most
summary manner any man
who should presume to
intimate disapproval
even by a look or Gesture,
and if this failed of the
desired

desired effect, to march
every Regiment in the Dis-
trict upon Newry and make
an Example of them that
would never be forgotten
- The Men were visibly
shook - I took this occasion
to refer in direct terms
to the Emancipation Act
- I reminded them that
this was the Boon of a
Patriotic Sovereign and a
benificent Legislature, Con-
ferred not merely upon
the Catholic, but upon Ca-
tholic and Protestant alike,
for it made us all equal,

and

and left us without a dis-
tinction - that it gave us
one King to serve - One
Country to defend and
One God to worship - that
they must and ought to
know that their Officers
had but one feeling and
one Interest with them -
and that we were all
equally prepared to main-
tain their Religious pri-
vileges as sacredly as
our own - The Effect of
this was instantaneous
for many of the Men shed
Tears - I immediately
took advantage of it

and

and expressed the great satisfaction I felt at the visible effect produced upon their Minds and Countenances by this address - and added that there was happily a Door still open to them - that I was sent by Sir John Byng not to disgrace the Irish Fusiliers but to save them - With this view, I would give them an occasion of redeeming their own Character by allowing them an opportunity on the ensuing Sunday of shewing their respect for Authority

and

and Obedience to orders -
That their Conduct on that day and till that day, would be the best proof of their Contrition, but in order that I might not quit the Barrack Yard in doubt of any kind, but that I might know distinctly what and whom I had to depend upon, I required from ^{them} before I parted, a signal by which they should convey to me without speaking, the expression not merely of their Penitence and Regret
for

for the past, but of their devoted determination to obey their Officers in all future time with the most implicit Fidelity - I then ordered the Colours to advance, and taking my stand between them I said - When I have done speaking - let every good Soldier and true hearted Irishman who is prepared to defend these Colours - to lay down his Life for His King, and to give implicit obedience to His Officers - Present

His

His Arms without Word of Command, in token of Contrition for the past, and of loyalty and obedience for the future. -

I stopped - and in an Instant every Man in the Regiment presented Arms, with the Smartest and most gratifying Alacrity - Not one Defaulter - while at the same Moment and of their own accord, the Band struck up God Save the King - I then took off my Hat, and said - "Soldiers - I go back to Sir John Byng

to

"to tell him that the dog"
"is still the dog." —

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedt
Humble servant

(Signed)

George D'Aguias
D. A. G.

Whitehall Oct. 14. 1820

Perse

My dear Hardinge

I have just got your letter on the
 very important subject of the Conduct of the 87th Regiment
 at Secory - and on other matters connected with the
 Peace of Ireland. I have ordered a Cabinet for
 today - and if I have time may write again ⁱⁿ the
 course of the day on some of the Topics mentioned in
 your letter. Since I received it I have had
 Lord Fitzroy Somerset with me with a letter and
 the welcome from Byng - which give a more
 favourable account of the present feeling of the 87th Regiment
 than I expected

Dear.

It is right that you should know without delay that we are taking precautions and adopting measures similar in character to those which you are wisely taking in Ireland. It is of much more importance to be prepared, than to avoid exciting apprehensions in consequence of our precautions. Let us take them as quietly as we can. with as little ostentation. with as little risk of causing alarm as possible - but let us take them.

The success of the Mob and either the unwillingness or inability of the Soldiers to cope with them in Paris and Brussels, is

producing its natural effect in the manufacturing districts here - calling into action the almost forgotten Radicals of 1817 and 1819 - and provoking a discussion upon the probable results of insurrectionary movements in this Country. You

both have seen the late proceedings at Birmingham, the Convivial Rebellion headed by W. Attwood.

We have had accounts of a bad feeling in the North of England - particularly in the neighbourhood of Manchester - of schemes for scaling the walls of the Castle, overpowering the Garrison and seizing the arms -

of the Project of occupying the Town cutting off
Communication with the Castle - and starving the Garrison
into Submission and delivering of the arms.

We have deemed the attempt at the execution of
some such projects - as neither an honorable nor
an improbable event - and have therefore determined
to reinforce the Garrisoned places at those places
where the forts which are Depots of arms - and are most
likely to be the objects of attack - and have ordered
a supply of salt provisions to be sent to each place
sufficient to sustain the Garrison for a fortnight - for a
sufficient time to sustain relief.

We have ordered them secretly to be sent in in
some instances under the name of ordnance stores - in all
cases in the manner least likely to attract notice.

I think it highly probable that we shall have
ere long to organize a Volunteer force for the protection
of life property & liberty -

It is of the utmost importance that the first attempt
whether it be in Ireland or in this Country - that may
be made on the part of the mob - the first attempt
of course I mean by violence to effect their objects
should be signally put down - and it is of course
therefore a very great object to be enabled to
ascertain if possible - the ~~possible~~ probable points

When the first attempt may be made - and to
be prepared.

The Pigeon House was always in the eyes of
Irish Rebels - a great object to gain. Since the
Establishment of Howth & Kingstown Harbours it is a
less object than it used to be - but I recollect when
I was in Ireland - that independently of its being
as it then was - the channel of communication with
England - we regarded the Pigeon House - as
the Place to which in the event of popular tumult in
Dublin - the Archives of Government and the family
of the Lord Lieutenant might have to be removed.

I think you are perfectly right in taking
every precaution - secret if possible - notorious
if it cannot be otherwise - to ensure the safety
of the Pigeon House. Is not the Magazine
in the Park an important point also? and
easily made capable of defence?

Ever most faithfully yours

Robert Peel

The Duke of Devon

his being Reading

Dublin Castle

To O. West

Oct 14/20

Delivered to the office
of the 8th Dept.

.1. (66)
From Sir Robert Peel

Oct 14/30

Recd. Sir Wm. of 12 Oct.
giving an acct. of 87. ^{to} Res.

Recommendations being
prepared agst. any rising
of the People:— Bad
Spirit shewing itself in
the North of England.—

Whitehall

Oct. 14. 1830

My dear Hardinge

I had an opportunity of reading your letter of the 12th October at a meeting of the Cabinet this day.

We concur in the opinion expressed in that letter that it would be politic to prohibit by Proclamation or order the meeting of a Society proposing to be formed for the various objects mentioned in the letter of W. O. Connell which

you inclose - and

intending to meet from time to time for the promotion
of those objects. There can be no question as to
the intentions of Mr O'Connell in the formation of this
Society - or as to its pernicious effects with reference
to the public peace in Ireland.

It is thought also that it would be right to
make a clear distinction between such a Society
and a meeting called for the purpose of discussing
the Repeal of the Union - or any specific matter.

But it does not appear from your Letter that
any public notice

of the meeting of the first named Society has
yet been given, and I do not perceive in the
Irish Papers received this day & which I have been
able to peruse any advertisement on the subject of
such a meeting.

If there has been none, is the printed Letter of
Mr O'Connell to Mr. Edward Dwyer ~~afford~~ ^{sufficient} evidence
of the intention to hold a meeting - to warrant the
issue of a Proclamation or order by the Lord Lieutenant
Mr O'Connell says to Mr. Dwyer "Have your
arrangements made to hold a general meeting

of the members of the new Society on the 18.th or 19.th
of October - Has Mr. Dwyer made these arrangements
and have you proof of his having made them?

If you have, if there has been some public
notice convening the first meeting of the Society -
or other notorious evidence of the intention to meet,
we think that it would be better to issue
the Proclamation for the prohibition of the meeting
some time before the actual day of meeting -

You observe that the Lord Lieutenant is prepared
to prevent the Meeting by Proclamation, and
will do so accordingly on the 19.th Cornwall

speaks of the 18th or 19th of October as the day of
meeting. Now we agree that the authority given
by the Law ought in this instance to be called into
action whenever there is sufficient evidence of the
intention to meet - we agree that the Proclamation
once issued must be enforced, temperately but
decidedly - we think however that if you have
the means of giving previous warning - it would
be right to give it - we think that such previous
warning would diminish the chance of collision -
and place the parties who should venture to
disobey it more

to the wrong. In short - that if the meeting
is actually to take place on the 19th - a Proclamation
or order to prohibit it had better be issued on
some day previous to the 19th - than on the 19th.

Reasons, which do not occur to us, may make
the other course more advisable - and we have
full confidence that the comparative advantages
of each course will be maturely weighed by the
Lord Lieutenant, yourself, and the Law officers
of the Crown.

I hope that you are enabled to refer to the

Considerance which took place previously to the
issue of the Proclamation in April last.

The terms of that Proclamation have been well considered
and probably would be the best Precedent that
could be followed. On these matters however you
will of course advise with the Attorney and Solicitor
General for Ireland.

I think the Lord Lieutenant was quite right
in not abandoning his Tour, on account of the
conduct of the 87th - but I presume he will be

in Dublin

When the order for the prohibition of the
New Society shall issue. In the event of
any disobedience of that order - and the necessity
of employing force for its execution the Lord
Lieutenant's presence might be indispensable.

Believe me

My dear Hardinge

Yours faithfully

Robert Peel

The Right Honble

Genl. Sir Harry Hardinge

—————