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Sir H. Taylor to Lord Grey

Copy Private

Windsor Castle April 7. 1833

My dear Lord,

Notwithstanding the long Letter I wrote last night, I am under the necessity of troubling G. L. with another on this interminable Question of Military Punishment, the Story to whom I have read & who approved that Letter, having ordered me to add that he is decidedly of Opinion that the Objection of the Soldier or Seaman & the Consequent dissatisfaction are produced by trifling expedients, adopted with a view to avoid Corporal Punishment, rather than by the Infliction of Corporal Punishment which they consider the natural Consequence of certain Crimes and Offences to which it is so applicable

That, among the Complaints made during the Mutiny in the Navy, the practice of Corporal Punishment was not produced as One, and that the Mutinous themselves adopted it & enforced it Severely. That it is well known that Soldiers, when permitted to try and punish their Comrades for pilfering lay the Strap on very Severely. — All this would prove that the Brigadier's argument is does not apply in the Service.

I may add that, in general a Soldier, when pleading his Service & his Claim to Consideration for them, will be found to lay great Stress upon not having ever been brought to a Court Martial

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but seldom upon not having been punished Corporally, unless the Case could shew that he has not been tried, which would shew anyone that he attributes the Idea of disgrace to the Cognizance of the Crime and Offence rather than to the Punishment to which he has thereby rendered himself liable.

The King has ordered me also to send Y. L. a Letter which I received from the D. of W. this Morning. — That of the 5th acknowledges my reply to his & says that he would not have written so urgently on the 3d, if he had not been apprehensive that Sir Robert meant again to take the Sense of the House on the 3d Reading of the Mutiny Bill.

Yours & sincerely
H. Taylor

The Earl Grey &c &c

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To Lord Grey

April 7. 1833

Military Commissioners