

Windsor Castle April 9. 1833

My dear Lord Fitzroy,

I have submitted your
 Letter of yesterday to the King, who was surprised
 but at the same time glad to hear that
 Mr. Milnes had stated that the Question of
 Military Punishment did not press for
 immediate decision, as His Majesty had
 understood that the Government wished
 to be provided with a Statement of the
 Opinion of the Military authorities, with
 which they might be prepared to meet
 the House of Commons when it was re-
 assembled. The Government are desirous
 to resist such Proposal as that
 made by Mr. Thorne, and Lord Palmerston
 opposed it strongly, but doubting whether, in
 the present State of feeling in the House
 of Commons, their resistance will be

successful

General G. Stewart
 Lord Fitzroy Somerset. N. C. B.

successful, without something to show that
every care has been taken to reduce the
practice of corporal punishment within
the narrowest limits which the paramount
consideration of discipline of the Army
will admit. They have suggested what
they conceived to be the best means of
ensuring this result apprehensive as they
are that from the want of some further
regulation, which might be adopted
with safety, and hardly ought to be called
a concession, a Vote may be carried against
all their efforts to resist it."

What I have transcribed I take to signify
the object of the Government and His
Majesty, who is not less superior the Subject,
both to the Military Authorities for a
reasonable understanding of the Question of
the difficulty under which the Government
is placed, and for zealous and cordial
cooperation

cooperation in effecting the desired result.
 Sir Majesty has entered eagerly into the
 Question of Merit, and has stated personally
 on this one, his Sentiments at great length -
 He concludes that before Lord Hill went into
 the Country, he had given his considerations
 to the Subject, and brought his view upon
 it on record, and, as you mention that Sir
 John Macdonald, previous to the separation
 of the Board, took the Opinion of the
 Officers composing it, upon Corporal
 Punishments, Sir Majesty concludes that these
 also, as well as Sir Jasper Nicolls and Sir George
 Murray's Opinions have been brought by him
 on record, and, if this has been done, Sir
 Majesty will be glad to see both these Documents.

The King orders me to add that there
 are no Officers to whose Opinions he considers
 that greater deference is due on this Subject
 than to those who have had great
 experience in the Command of Men, and
 have

have successfully established & maintained
the Discipline of their Regiment, and that
he justly appreciates the merit of Lt Colonel
Conradine and Capt and. The consequent
value of their Opinions, but that he doubts
whether it would not be received with
Suspicion by the House of Commons, as it is
their object to lower while it is ours to
maintain the authority of the Commanding
Officer, and these prejudiced Civilians
or Radical Officers, such as Major Bramble
Major Juncourt and Colonel Tomens, may
object to Commanding Officers as being
Judges in their own Cause. -

Ever Yours

g r s

(Signed) N. Taylor