

Wentworth. Papers.  
B.1. C.4

Correspondence

Sir

11 Feb. 1819

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By the hands of M. Watson, I this morning received your letter, which I now sit down to answer.

So far have I ever been from observing that you are not sincerely attached to the cause of radical parliamentary reform, that, whenever your conduct has in my company been blamed, I have uniformly declared, that I never perceived that you had swerved from the principles of that reform.

That I have with others, sometimes thought your mode of advocating it, in reality injurious, is certainly true; but it has not been my custom, but the contrary, to condemn by the lump, because of disapproving of particular acts; nor to remain silent when others have done so; for, desperate indeed, would be the cause of Reform, were we to lay it down as a rule, not to co-operate with any but immaculate beings.

You expressly ask — 'at what period you have failed to support my fair claim to the suffrages of the Electors of Westminster?' — Having no right to expect from you such support, I certainly could not presume to find fault, with you for not giving it: and you had as much right as I had to put forward claims of your own; as you did on occasion of the general Election.

I recollect, that a short time previous to announcing yourself a candidate, you called on me, when I was silent on the expectation, that I should be put in nomination; because I thought it was your intention, to ask if I knew of any such ~~distinct~~ determination.

Having resolved not to become a candidate, but to leave it wholly to my fellow citizens to call on me, or otherwise, as they should think fit; and inclining to an opinion that you had thoughts of offering yourself, I felt it as a point of delicacy not spontaneously to mention to you my own expectation, lest I should appear to have a selfish hope of your being upon forbearing to offer yourself; an act which would not have become me.

Indeed, I naturally concluded, that, had it been your wish to have supported, on that occasion, any supposed claims of mine, you would have done as others did; that is, put to me the question, whether it would be agreeable to me to be put in nomination; or, which were much the same, whether I were, or were not, willing to serve, if elected.

No such point of delicacy as presented my speaking on that topic, stood in the way of any gentleman who desired that information, which I was ready to have given, had it been asked for.

Having no right to say anything as your object in offering yourself as a candidate, I leave that subject in the hands of yourself, to whom it alone belongs.

Your letter having allusion to some one who is supposed to have a power of perverting my judgment, and warning me against such influence, I should have otherwise seen no occasion to have said anything on such a matter.

If I be not mistaken with respect to the person alluded to, I can, with truth and certainty assert, that that person never did influence my judgment, so as to cause the slightest change in respect of any measure of mine; and I can with equal truth add that, in my whole life, I never had intercourse with a person who appeared less desirous of attempting to influence either my opinions or my conduct:

nor have I known many, who have manifested towards me an equal degree of personal regard, or more zeal in promoting, according to the best of his ability, that great public object for which I have laboured.

It was with much concern I observed what occurred between that person and yourself at the last Election; but, to say the honest truth, I thought you the first to go out of the line of public discussion on the matter then before

the Electors. Whether, or not, I was right in that opinion, I am not now desirous of arguing.

With regard to your publishing the letter written to you, respecting the unhappy men at Derby, I recollect my name having been printed in large capitals, as having concurred in an opinion which you strongly reprobated, and apparently with a view of rendering me an object of censure with the friends of liberty.

I therefore take the present opportunity of remarking, that the mere hasty language of a private letter <sup>to yourself</sup> from a third person, was not a very good ground for imputing that I was deserving of blame, on a point of public duty or of humanity.

I also embrace this opportunity of informing you that I was by no means indifferent or negligent, in respect of the fate of the unhappy persons; as may be learned by inquiring of Mr. Joseph Sturt of Derby; to whom I communicated a line of legal argument, by which, in my judgment, the Council of the Prisoners, might have made the best of their case, provided those counsel had had the courage to have used my argument, and the Jury had been sufficiently enlightened and honest, to have disdained making themselves instruments of mischief in the hands of wicked men.

So far as you are disposed to do me the same justice in respect to my motives and my actions, as I have been disposed to do, and have done, in respect of yours, I shall be in your debt, and, in my humble opinion the more cautious we shall be, not to go out of our straight road, without a strong necessity, the better.

For any defects in this letter, in the writing of which numerous interruptions have occurred; which also must apologize for your not sooner receiving it — I shall trust to your candour. I remain very truly your well wisher,  
H. H. Hunt Esq. John Cartwright Esq.

Cartwright

Copy of Mr. Hunt's Letter to the Manchester Magistrates

New Bailey Prison Wednesday Noon

18

August 18. 1819

Gentlemen) As I was informed by the Magistrates before whom I was taken Yesterday that a Coroner's Inquest would sit tomorrow (Thursday) on those persons who lost their lives on Monday last in consequence of the dreadful of the Military upon an unarmed & peaceable Multitude & as I was present & saw the Commencement of this illegal & unconstitutional Act of Violence & can identify some of those who first committed a breach of the Peace - I demand as an Act of Common Justice that I may be permitted to be present at such inquest in order that the Coroner if he thinks proper may interrogate me before the Jury, also I beg to suggest the propriety of the Gentleman who is the Reporter of the Times London News Paper being also present at the said Inquest as he was an Eye Witness of the whole & being altogether unconnected with those who called the Meeting or meant to take any part in the proceedings of the Day will be a peculiarly important because a disinterested Evidence - And as I have seen quite enough already to convince me that the real Murderers are endeavoring to wipe the bloody stain from their remorseless guilty souls by casting imputations and Suspicion upon others that they knew had no hand directly or indirectly in the foul & cowardly deed - I am bold to say that such inquest will be esteemed in the Eye of God and Man worse than suspicious, unless all the parties who are imprisoned or said to be instrumental to the Act, be permitted to be present and interrogated before the Jury by the Coroner - You will recollect Gentlemen that you have no common Case in hand And that the Eyes of the whole Country will shortly be fixed with a scrutinizing Penetration upon every Step you take in in this bloody affair

I am Gent.<sup>l</sup> Your Prisoner W. Hunt

To J. Norris Esq  
The Rev. W. A. Hay Chairman  
or any of the Magistrates  
of Manchester

Gentleman

19  
New Bailey Prison Thursday  
1 O'clock

Having just learned by my  
Servant that Mr. Wm West a respectable Tradesman  
of London & a particular private Friend of mine  
has arrived here in hopes of being permitted  
to see me, I have to request that you will give him  
an order to do so, in the presence of the Governor  
& as his business with me is more of a private  
nature nothing improper can take place in the presence of your officers  
than a public nature, I trust that this request  
will not be refused I am Gentlemen

at present Your Prisoner

To the Honble Magistrates  
of Manchester

A. AUNT.

To the Sitting  
Magistrates of  
Manchester  
August 26<sup>th</sup> 1819  
To admit Mr. West.

Memo -

Off<sup>r</sup> to prove the malice of - Trafford & the Yeomanry  
- to prove the infamous & violent prejudice of same.  
~~Some~~ Magistrates as caused the Yeomanry to take the  
People - Will be the Grand Jury to find a Bill at  
Lancaster - & the Yeomanry will be the Jury if  
there be any Trial there - They have Witnesses here  
that will swear any thing -

Gornice said that I insulted the Magistrates &  
threatened Nadin - never said an offensive Word  
to the Mag<sup>ts</sup> or ever seen Nadin since I came here

In the King's Bench

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The King v. Rodare. Indt

I do hereby withdraw the notice given to  
you this day as in consequence of the bond  
Christ Justice having <sup>to take this case in</sup> ~~replied~~ <sup>it is time and</sup> to swear the  
jury to ~~summon~~ to try ~~the~~ <sup>same</sup> I shall  
appear again to a further notice given  
this denial of justice.

dated this 16 day of Henry Hunt  
October 1819.

To the above nam'd Defendants

New Bailey Wednesday Nov<sup>r</sup>

Gentlemen

I have to request that  
you will permit my servant Henry  
Andrews to see me (in the presence  
of some officer of the Prison if you wish it)  
at convenient periods of the Day,  
that he may procure for me clean  
Linnen & other necessaries during my  
stay here

I am Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

W<sup>m</sup> Hunt. —

To the Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Magistrates  
New Bailey

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