

11 letters on various topics, including nomination of surgeons for the Crimea, 1855, Andrew Smith's tasks as Director General, Army Medical Services, 1856, Army Medical arrangements in China, 1857, projected re-organisation of the Army Medical Services and the scarcity of army doctors in India, 1858, and impressions of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, 1864

Publication/Creation

1855-1864

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/m4r52jcq>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

PB3/1-11

To Dr. Hall from various

1849-64

17 Charles Street

St James's Square

28 Feb. 1849

My Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 8 Nov. and have agreeably to your request paid to the Secretary of the Army Medical Society the Fine & subscription upon your becoming a married member amounting to £108. 15s. I have had a letter from Mr. Popplewell stating that he hopes to pay the £200 to your credit in about two months from this time.

I remain

My Dear Sir

yours very truly

Charles A. McQueen

John Hall Esq. M.D.
By J. W. G. G. G.

SHIPS
LETTERS
FEB 28
1849

London 28 Feb 5 / 1849
By the British Stationer that
I had paid my passage
Fares to the West Indies
amounting to £8-10-

Red-25th March 1849-

Dear Sir
By Joseph Yates
Cape of Good Hope

PAID
Post-Mark
25 MAR 1849

PB3/2

I have not decided } leave
that Lager is to accompany
them. Alexander must
be of a very different kind.

I am disposed to think that
the same transaction will take
in hours very faithfully
approximating.

A. M. Feb. 4 1855

My dear Hall

I have only time to
acknowledge your letter &
give you the most impor-
tant news going.

The tidings of the
prospects of Peace were
reached you long ago &
it is confidently entertained

But it will soon be a final
accomplish

I have just heard that
the new man will in 4 appear
in three days - and I am advised
by one who has just re-
turned from the War Office
that your J. P. is to be
£ 3. 3. & your H. P. 2/3
of this I believe there is

no doubt likewise of your
being honored, if not es-
timated as such, with the H. P. Co.
no number to have earned
it & I have been since
pleased in congratulating
you on the appearance of
name in the Gazette.

I hear that Linton & Alexander
are to be promoted immediately
but

near him to calamity and
not have happened. I
generally see a good way
before me + Chilton + Mr.
esteemed friend Dr Smith
of the probability occurrence
of nearly every failure.
Before a shot was fired
I warned him repeatedly
to be on his guard, but to
no purpose. I am not
gifted with an prophetic
powers but I knew the
men & the circumstances
they have sent out some
hundred medical men
but have 90,000 for
me. Be it so. That five
years experience in the
of no side. It strikes me
horribly that the Government
of Moscow & Paris think
differently & if I were some
what younger I know how
I should act. I have been
before the left & thought
him altogether unfit to
be served; and so of the

PR3/3
2 p. 1
Meissen House
Upper Clapton
2 April
[1855]

My dear Matt
I take the earliest opportunity
of thanking you for
your kindness to young
Marsden, with whose
father I dined yesterday
at his charming resid-
ence in Lomb Wood
not far from London,
and where some day
I hope to see you & hear
your story of Alma &
Tutcher man.
I have done every thing
in my power. No joy
you at Ball's place but
Government has hitherto
declined employing me
in any capacity. My

former students and your
parts are all across you,
Mergies, to Macgregor,
Alexander and a host
of others: they have been
sent you Sutherland
Savin & Glover, also
my students, in short
I feel bewildered and
profoundly melancholy
when I reflect that I
who taught these persons
I so many others that
he doomed to wander
about London doing
nothing unemployed,
unnoticed, whilst men
whom I know, untried
men obtain appointments
of the highest responsibility
— men of whose education
& powers of observation
do not like to speak.

Your appointment as
seeing such persons sent
out must have been
great. Of all the indications
ever exhibited on my part
of sending out to Board
of Health men & their
followers to break the
Medical Staff of Army,
its Engineers & Staff
officers now to set
their camp in order
was unquestionably the
greatest.
I wish his nephew
the unfortunate Report
great I need not write
you: he truly press
describes it fully. I
am sorry for Mergies
whose commission I
got for him for Sir
Macgregor as a special
favor, I sometimes fancy
that if I had been

Kenners & told our friend
 so. Galtvis advice heavily
 -died to Duke of Newborth
 & did great mischief. You
 can scarcely imagine how
 strong the current of public
 opinion runs against the
 Department: I was so
 vexed at it that I wrote
 several leaders in a
 Morning Paper wherein
 I tried to put things right
 & turn the current, but
 at last they would not
 listen to a word more
 in favor of D.S. I did
 you some justice in my
 last leader
 Who is to write the Medical
 History of the Army of the
 East? Who is to do justice
 with great efforts you
 have made? My claim
 to be sent to the East is

now before Lord Sumner
but I am not confident
as to the result. Can you
devise means to back up
the application from the
Prison? My should you
not have with you some
skilful Anatomist &
Pathologist besides
gentle into the causes
of death? And who
could better claim such
an appointment than
one who has educated
probably a third of all
the surgeons now serving
in the Army Navy &
E. I. Company's Service.
With you enough my
dear friend on these topics
forty years have an elipse
since we first met. forty
more will not alter not
affect an esteem & regard
for my oldest friend.
Ed. M. D.

a Foreign Land & must what
you to ask for me in the matter
as the widows fund.

The Widows Office demand
some tidings into Bedare
2 from that home he send
through the active centers
of Lady Alice Blackwood
he was seen here 36 hours
later. Every kindness &
attention has been shown
to my wounded husband
& myself.

Dear Sir - for the sake of
Common humanity let
my husband that my poor
husband's death may

W. Thompson
about the death
of his husband
at Natal
my answer

The Home

General Hospital

Aug 12

Sir

You will have heard
ere now that my dear
husband Dr. Thompson
died here last Sunday
morning - of the fever
which he took at

Delagoa on the 11th
The day he last had the

pleasure of seeing you -

Truly his Profession
has lost no ordinary

Man -

Colleague - in him while
the Lord & the ready will
long long have blessed
his early death. To the
his loss is an overwhelming
stroke. I can scarcely
dare think of it, although
I have the fullest conso-
-lation in knowing how
true the Lord had blessed
I prepared him for his
change - so as he said
to him to die was plain.

I have to acknowledge
you to the Lord

which he never said he
was too ill. His illness
& sudden change & death
seems a mystery. I should
feel deeply indebted to you
dear Sir if you could
obtain from Dr. Costello
the Harbour Doctor - &
from Dr. Beth - & I think
of the 4th Dragoon - their
opinion on his case -
& kindly forward the same
to me - I should esteem
it a very great kindness.
His relations will expect
it - & I am above - me

he the means of opening the
 hospital doors - to cases
 of some degree urgency - they
 believe that his time
 was come - but that I
 know the federal change
 which he refused of
 admission into Leutaris
 Hospital worked on
 that fine mind and
 constitution

Love Dear Sir

Yours in deep affection

Wm. M. Harris Thompson

about her
 husband's
 death

1 Sept 1856

My dear Madam -

It was with much regret I learnt the death of Mr Thompson, and I sympathise most sincerely with you in your sorrow - The loss of one so near and dear as a husband is a sore affliction at any time and under any circumstances, but when it pleases the Lord, in his infinite wisdom, to lay his chastening hand ^{on us,} as he has done on you my dear Madam, in the land of the living the dispensation is doubly felt - but it is our duty to bow with submission, & hope and trust he that tempers the wind to the shorn lamb will give you consolation in your bereavement -

I enclose a note from Dr Costello by which you will observe that a great number of the crew of the Imperial Transport Steamer suffered from fever after her arrival from Alexandria and I have no doubt your husband imbibed the seeds of this fatal disease on board the same vessel, which must doubtless have been approached by her remaining so long on board that vessel -

The only explanation I can give of your husband not having been admitted into the hospital at Sculari must have arisen from there being no room in the Officers Quarters, and there being more than accommodation at Sculari, for I can assure you Madam the doors of our hospitals are now closed against those that require aid & I am sure you of this need only mention that in the great hospital at Bonabona out of 250 beds - 180 are occupied by Syria patients, & only 80 by soldiers
I am &c M

29 May 1856

Mr Lead

with a copy of his notes
on the American War

acknowledged 31 May 56

JH

John Hall K.C.B.

Clyton Villas
Meida Hill W.
London.

1 K
GLASGOW
MY 29
58





PB3/5

My Dear Sir,

I have posted along
with this, the first copy of my
book I could procure bound.

I hope that you will have
some pleasure in perusing
it. It has given me a
very great deal of pleasure,
believe me, to dedicate it

to you.

I have not received the
Medical part of the Government
Report as yet, but I have
added in the Appendix a
Copied Resume of the Surgical
part which Dr. Smith was

good enough to send me

I remain

Very truly yours

John Macleod

20 St. Vincent St.

Glasgow

May 29/58

Sir John Hall

Commandeur de l'Ordre du Bain, inspecteur
général des ~~Hôpitaux~~ hôpitaux anglais en Orient

au et hôtel de Rivoli



Je prie Sir John Hall de
 vouloir bien accepter le petit ouvrage
 ci joint.

C'est un gage de sympathie,
 de confraternité et de haute con-
 sideration;

C'est aussi un de'monstration de
 l'hospitalité française.

Fauconneau Dupre
 Rue. 33.9 - quai
 de maurel

Paris 22 août 1856.

manner in which he has been treated
by the Officers of our Department.
What do you think of the Palliast.
writing of Dr. Parsonson, to say that he
had been unable to prosecute his labours
in consequence of his Services being required
in the Mad. Hospital in Canada. Had Dr.
Smith, that his employment was voluntary
& temporary, or frequently sent to home
him - I believe, but his Services were
obtained at his own request, not because
they were required - except that
in certain duties that have been adopted
is a certain number of promotions for
special merit, in the rate of each
rank, and I suppose you will be
called upon to recommend them.

Hoping you are enjoying good
health, and wishing you the success
of the season. Believe me
Dear Sir, I am
Yours truly
J. Marsh
P.S. I will write again - soon

37 Colbeck Street
Cavendish Square
Decr 15th 1856

My dear Dr. Hall.

Knowing your
anxiety, and that of all in the Crimea
to know what is going on here.
I have no time in giving you all the
the Department news and information
I have been able to pick up since my
arrival, which was so much delayed
by the difficulties. I experienced in getting
along - that I only arrived on the 1st of
the month, after 3 months. I wish
when I could - and converso possible.
I have had two very long interviews
with Dr. Smith, who (in the most
kind and unreserved manner for
him) entered into all the alleged

presence of the Department - and
in return ^{for} the whole truth - about
matters within my knowledge - and said
it was my intention to report the progress
and - ^{of} ^{the} ^{House} - ⁱⁿ ^{order}
to take up our course - He said he did not
object to my doing so - but that I should
find there was no necessity - as he has
just laid before Lord Stanmore the
most comprehensive scheme of reform
for the amelioration of the condition of
the Department - a scheme that for
includes the most genuine helpers of
those who have seen it - I cannot
give you many particulars - but it
embraces all parts - includes increase
of pay - early retirement - (20 - & 25%)
pensionable widows' work - ^{with} ^{the}
House - all in fact that we could
desire - the whole has been adopted
without change - is said to have

passed the Treasury - and is only waiting
the Royal sanction - the credit of all
this is undoubtedly due to Mr. Smith -
who has written himself - with a degree
of earnestness that cannot fail to
secure the gratitude of the Department
when they are made acquainted with
it - I will tell you more when I return -
Mr. Smith knows nothing about the
local Inspectors and is much annoyed
with Mr. Guthrie - but would not
allow any notice to be taken of his
remarks - He tells me he is still agi-
tating the subject of ^{the} ^{Inspection} ^{of} ^{the}
Department - and those officers - who I
suppose - ^{are} ^{still} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{Department} - ^{and} ^{therefore} ^{are} ^{still} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{Department} - ^{and} ^{therefore} ^{are} ^{still} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{Department} -
and that he will succeed - his eyes have been
quite opened about - Mr. Guthrie -
but he is still much annoyed at the

level of the sea - with fine springs
of pure water - near to the summit:
the thermometer often down to 64°
and throughout the year blankets
are required all night - in bed. August
Sept. and October the only disagreeable
months, from the rains and high winds:
a considerable forest of fine jungle
trees surround the hill - but well thinned.
The supplies of the Island are most
abundant: and at least in cost,
one hundred per cent cheaper
than here. - Fine ships to send the
men to England or the Cape, and
Pleang is not required - or allow
a good spot to be picked out on the
Northern shores of China - for the
climate of this Island of Hong Kong
is too treacherous to be trusted. ex-
cept with good stone houses. - The
supplies of mutton, vegetables, etc. are
very limited here, & prices exorbitant.
Mutton and that indifferent 2/6 - a lb.
the Cornuipariat had nearly
entered into a Contract with the
Chinese around Shanghai - to supply
sheep at about 5° a lb.: when Sir
John Bowring stepped in, - stating
that complications might arise
through this - & so we have ~~had~~

(3pp.)

P 23/8

Hong Kong.

5th September. 1857.

My dear Sir John,

Owing to Indian affairs
all warlike doings have been suspended
here - and postponed sine die. some few
sanguine people expect Lord Elgin to re-
turn with ten thousand Sepoy troops
from Bombay or Madras - two months
hence - to settle the Canton pigeon, as
the Chinese call any undertaking,
whether small or great. all however look
anxiously for news from England, know-
ing that correct news can come from that
Quarter alone. - General Straubenzie,
without orders, went direct to Calcutta,
and possibly may receive a Command
there: the Staff here appear all very
anxious to be off to India too: and
Sir Robert Garrett rather envious of
Straubenzie's good luck: the S. S. D. evidently
the attraction: more loaves & fishes going
in India than in China, tho' I fear, at this
season they would wish themselves
back at Hong Kong, with all its mono-
tony, prickly heat, boils, and "Fes."
standing all night only at 86°.
our troops in India must suffer very

much in marching at present.

Dr. Gordon has two brothers in Bengal. one a Captain in the 74th Native. was killed at Delhi. the other is all right. That sad fellow. Stuart Moore. ap^t. Sm^t. Carabincers. I see has been killed. as also ap^t. Sm^t. Deupster. (was in the 46th Regt.) a very tall youth. nephew of the Deputy in Dublin. his brother Staff Surgeon L. G. is stationed here.

Dr. Gordon is quite well and been very active since his arrival here. making arrangements for the expected sick and seeing the stores, Purveyors and medical properly arranged. every thing easily completable. The Home Authorities I believe have put a stop to any Convalescent Establishment being organized at Penang. on Sir Benson Maxwell's representation - and I fear have fallen into a mistake. for unless they supply a few regular steamers to take off the Convalescents direct to England or the Cape. they have left the Army without any place where to send the prunings from the local Hospitals - keep them here and they die - Sir Benson appears to have become alarmed by what he saw at Sentari. the

the difficulty of getting very sick men or wounded (recent) up from the Wharf to the Hospital - had he reflected a moment. it must have occurred to him that Penang is ten days sail from Hong Kong. and that only Chronic Cases of disease (in the purest sense of the word) would be sent: that in fact Penang was intended merely as a reserve establishment - something to fall back on in case of need: if what use could a place at such a distance be to the Army, except in enabling the local Hospitals of that Army to have their wards thinned & ready to receive acute cases and recent wounds from the front. The site selected at Penang was magnificent. the ascent being the only draw back - about four miles by a fine wide, and not over steep road. I rode easily up to the top on one of the small ponies of the Island. no case of sickness or wounds, but what could with the greatest ease be carried up by Chinese or Malay Coolies. on the Bengal Dhoolie Bearers - which Dr. Gordon has not constructed here. The hill at Penang is 2,500 feet above the

"Times" Correspondent, is tremendously
run after - by the Military - here. I fancy
they see - Balou - for them in his pen &
ink holders - I am told he is a sensible
kind of man - and shows anxiety to get
at the truth - I am told he is a pet amongst
our Naval people - from the High Admiral
downwards - I have not seen him
about the Hospital as yet. - It is
rumoured here that "Russell" has gone
to India.

All the Staff people - Garrett, Foley,
Pakenham, Wetherall, etc. have suffered
greatly from Boils - and are all strongly
impressed with the idea that this Hong
Kong is not so bad as it is called - but
not the best place in the world - &
would like themselves out of it - Col
Pakenham however, with all this has
lately given forth the following - as
his own!!

Q. What fear, should one with Boils
here, have in common with Africa's Lion?

A. Fear of Gordon Coming!!!
Genl Garrett, to let you into the secret,
had a very large boil on his seat of
honor - having asked Dr. Gordon's
advice - he properly laid it well open -
this so funked him - & others, that
they kept their sufferings with

P.2 P33/8
to play the Pipe for our mutton.

23^d September, 1857.

Since writing the above many
changes have taken place, and
I must retrace many things in
this letter. Lord Elgin has come
back and without troops expects
however two Sepoy Regiments two
months hence. General Vane
Straubenzee came with him, greatly
against his will - Sir Colin Campbell
when asked if he could employ
him, only shrugged his shoulders, and
said he had no instructions relating
to the subject. Major Lewis, who
was at Head Quarters in the Crimea
arrived with him. They bring little
news from India - besides that
matters are as bad as can be, and
little expected to be done till the
arrival of more troops. General
Garrett - went off Saturday last
per the "Lancefield", one of Lardner's
Steamers, for Calcutta - having
been ordered to proceed there -
the order coming from England -
his son Major Garrett shiffe - with Major
Dallas accompany him. Genl Garrett
suffered considerably on the way out.

and when here. I believe from Dysentery, an exceedingly common complaint amongst the European ladies here. The Colony has this summer lost two ladies from it. Sir Robert appeared very fond of his son's wife and I imagine reformed him much. She was ~~the~~ a Miss King, daughter of a General King, Inspecting Field Officer at Dublin. Sir Robert frequently mentioned your name and inquired about you.

The apt Surgeon (Dempster) I mention as having been killed, is still alive & all right. His Regiment the 24th however has been severely handled by the mutineers and disease. The last correction I have to make is, that the Home Authorities have sanctioned the establishment of a Sanatorium at Penang or elsewhere - should ~~she~~ such be required. The chances at present are certainly very much in favor of its not being required.

D. Deas, the Naval D^r Inspector has arrived - he has a large Staff of Medical Officers, and quite able to take care of all the Marines. Some all wonder what will become of the Military Medical Staff - the Authorities

here wish to get rid of us - on account of the expense. we had hoped to be sent on to India - but the Staff for there - we observe, starts from England.

The Navy have established a close Blockade of Canton - and many of the Gun boats are falling in with rich prizes. one Captain I hear, will net £2,000 by one lot.

D. Anderson is quite well. and highly elated at getting the "Legion". Many have taken him to be the Anderson, who was up the river at the attack at "Fatchau", the Naval people however have now a Class of Medical Officers, they call "Staff Surgeons", and the Surgeon of the Flag Ship, happens to be called "G. Anderson" hence the mistake. D. Smith, I believe has also fallen into the same mistake.

If the Navy will assume our names - they must be content to give us the glory.

At Home they ^{have made a} mistake of another kind; no less than reporting our M.D. D. Gordon as dead. D. Gordon, Secy of Peace, at Hong Kong; we presume - the mistake has arisen by some one confounding the death of Captain Gordon - his brother - for that of D. Gordon - however he is quite well, and had a good laugh at the quiet way they had scored his name out of the Army List. Mr. Cook the

Boils & Ulcers - for fear of the Lancet.
the Col. after several days of severe
labour - delivered himself of the
above. -

The following may get into the
"Times" Correspondents letter - so I may
tell the facts - these things are so magni-
fied. Staff Surgeon Bradford - pres-
cribed some Gregory's powder for the
Child of a Captain Romer 59th Regt, the
Magnesia - which the Dispenser used -
was mixed some how or other with Lime -
the Child suffered it appears ~~to~~ a little
from taking this - but so little - that
Mr Bradford never mentioned the subject
to Dr. Gordon - he unfortunately however
told the mother of the mistake - and as
you may guess was soon over the
length & breadth of the Station - "that a
child of Mr Romer had been nearly
poisoned with Lime - sent by mistake
from the General Hospital." Ten days
after Dr. Gordon was informed - & had the
subject investigated & the Medicine destroyed.
the child remains none the worse.

Desiring to be kindly remembered to Lady
Hall & the young ladies -

Believe me, Sir, I am.

Yours very faithfully.

Thos. Ligertwood.

Hong Kong 5 Sept 1858
S Lightwood

you were out of Town at the time,
and I could not say all I wished
on paper 2^{ndly} I had had a strong
idea you would try to dissuade
me, from your having done so
about China, and having once
asked your advice, I should have
felt bound to abide by it. I was
fully aware Smith would not
let me go if I hinted about being
made a Superintendent Surgeon,
and I wanted to see Service, and
at the same time hinted to my
own objections to be placed in
my proper position which I consider
my duty in the Service. I tell
me to, and I feel confident
I shall succeed if His Royal
Highness will only condescend to
read my letter, as his practical
knowledge of the Service is so great
and his papers great command
service, that I feel certain he
will not hear me degraded in
rank which would be the
case were I to take charge of a
battery which is all I could have
and receive the great sum of 15
Pounds a month, while a man
to me in rank here (Macpherson) is doing
the duty of Superintendent Surgeon & receives 1800.

April 12th 1858.

Wilson's Hotel Calcutta.

PB 2/9

My dear Sir John

Your third letter of the
12th of February only reached me
yesterday, and the paper kindly
sent by you only came to hand
to day so you see I have accounted
for not having acknowledged them
except by my last dated the 9th
and as Sam appears to advise you
of this annual I send you a few
lines via Bombay and Madras,
but I must tell you I directed
my letter to you at Bombay Service
is also the Standard Englishman
as there was in the latter rather
a long but good article of what
had taken place during the last
fortnight. I had no idea you had
changed your residence. I have
not had time to read your pamphlet
but I skinned over a few pages
of your first one, and do think you
have given a fair to the Sanitary
Commissioner in many of the paragraphs.

In my next business I hope not only
to give you my opinion (which
you may not coincide with much)
but also that of others who I intend
shall peruse your writings - I was
very glad to find the account of
the Carrington affair & that you
had not been made public, as
I sent copies to my old friends
Sir W. Codrington and Sir Harry
Smiles, and they might have given
me credit for my misprint which
is what I wish to avoid. In a
mail or two after you receive this
will be published an account
of the whole affair by Ady & (I hope
this to yourself) not to become out
and I should like you to get a
copy it will interest you, it is the
truth, and well I have no doubt
Sir Mordaunt right with the public
if they care about reading it,
but as the 9 days wonder will
have passed they may not take
that trouble. My position now is
not such a bad one, but I must
seem inclined to degrade me if
he can and has written a letter

to Sirton saying I am only a
Junior Surgeon by Brande, a copy
was sent to me, and on it I joined
issue with the Director General
having written a statement of my
position sent to His Royal
Highness the Commander in Chief
The Dukes and the proper
authorities, I also sent a copy to
Macarthur and desired him
to lay it before the Chief of the Staff
both of whom were satisfied with
my statement and say I make in
error, so much so that they will
not make any allusion in my
present position (Superintendent
Surgeon of the R. A. India) until
an answer has been received
from the Duke. I thought it only
right to send the Chief of the Staff
a copy, as I had on my first
annual total been promoted with
a full Officer, and the same
equivalent rank in every respect
as a 1st Class Staff Surgeon, and
I could not for the world have
had less - think I must not devalue
them. You ask why I did not consult
you, the reason was I am somewhat shy

is already granted for the
Capture of that place, which
makes the 2nd allowance for
that place, the 1st being for
the relief of Suvarman - we
poor devils who were at
Caompo and had more
fighting in four or five
days than they had all the
year, are not to get the money
because 1500 men could not
hold 25,000 altho we could
keep the watermint and
the bridge across the Ganges,
in spite of the fire opposed to us,
Pray excuse the last scrawl
then near 5 PM, I have just
returned from Durbin
and have scarcely a moment
to spare, I will soon have
write to you again but I wish
to acknowledge the receipt of your
letter. With kindest regards to your
wife & children Believe me
Sincerely as ever
R. C. Elliot

Porrate 2 13th April PBA/9
again, did Bent & Templeton who
were promoted after me but on
the Staff as 1st Clap Staff Surgeons
came here, they would, as a
matter of course become Superintending
Surgeons and become my Superiors
(after all my Service when
compared with theirs) while I
according to Dr. Smith's opinion
would have only have got my
promotion by Despatch - the thing
seems too absurd, for if the Director
General is right all my Service
goes for scarcely anything, at
least I am not to reap much
benefit from it, while others from
my own Regt - with one quarter the
Service, reap more at once
because they were promoted
on the Staff while I am made
a Senior Surgeon, the of course
only alludes to India's
that some have been able from
whether I am correct or not,
I am afraid you will be tired
of all this detail, but as you
have always acted so kindly and
patiently towards me, I thought
I felt I should be doing something
for you all - only keep it to yourself.

You say you know India better than Dr Smith, that I will know, and not only India; but practically ~~the same way~~ other stations, and every part of our service much better also, my opinion is and has been in some times that he knows nothing practically of the service, but I know equally well his Royal Highness was not only considered a first rate Cavalry officer but knew equally well practically any other arm of the service and it is upon this knowledge of his and his strong Commission that I place my hopes of attaining my position.

I saw some of the recommendations to day of the Medical Commission. In the whole I think the service will be bettered, but what will they do with us, unfortunate Serjeant 1st Class Staff Surgeon, as I and others have not served 20 years, & we do not get promoted

We must become Regimental Surgeons, not having served sufficiently long to become ~~Staff~~ Surgeon Majors, and the men who we are promoted over in hard service will all become Surgeon Majors at once, consequently become again our superior officers, having served us the number you three years or more, had to have to go down a peg, I hope something will turn up to give me my promotion either on the Staff or the Artillery - I am very sorry indeed to find that Mr Lady Hall and your eldest daughter had been, I sincerely trust long in this year ~~must~~ have got quite well again. There is little or no news here, except the Despatch from Sir Colin after the battle of Suddivan which is being published in sheets - Six months better

chance, or else I must be degraded
in rank and position, this will
be hard to bear, after the manner
I have served, and the number
of times I have been mentioned
in despatches for services before
the enemy - I am tolerably happy,
and contented in spite of the pining
that I am undergoing, my hopes being
the end of the season will be in a
fit state to be made into hats de paille,
I have a copious supply of perfectly
heat, and not a bad allowance
of small hocks over every part of
my person, but still I go on never
minding, and bear it all with
the same equanimity, as I did the
cold and heat in the Crimea;
my only anxiety now is the hope
that A. R. Highmore will see my
position - that will be settled in
a month or two, I think I shall beat
the Director General, I have sent
home a plain unvarnished tale to
show the Com^o the my General,
I am supported in my views here
by the Chief of the Staff, and as A. R.
Highmore is a practical man, I think
he will give to my favor, against
the theoretical views of G. S. Manning
Thanks for the trouble you took in
speaking to G. Smith about my pay,
I feel that he will never do anything
for me, but that by my conduct
and character & services, because
I may be able to do something
for myself, for the hard fighting I have
done, the odds are great against me.

Wilson's Hotel (5 PB) P.B. 10
Private & Confidential

My dear Sir John -

It seems fated that your
letters are not such yet, at the time
that others do, for I saw this afternoon
only just received your letter dated
the 10th March which was posted the
11th March in London, and arrived
in India about the 12th of April, it
has gone to Durrum, Durrum, Durrum,
& Durrum, so that the sooner will
be allowed to accept the best manner
of my letters see, I must say I was
very glad when I observed your writing
as I was certain I had been done
again by the Imperial Post Office
which is without any doubt the best
managed Dep^t - I saw I saw in my life
your previous letter had gone to Durrum
Durrum before I received it. My letter
from Florencemont who is in Paris to me,
was picked up in the gutter, and I only
received it a fortnight after, and then
only by being accidentally in the Post
Office and inquiring if they were any
letters for me, by the mail that had just
arrived, he said the Post Master there
is one for you that came by the last
mail, but the Post lost a bundle
either in the gutter so I thought it to be
able to furnish the Post, so that to make
this poor deal more particular, my
letter must be kept back, as a punishment
for my own daring to write to one of your
It would not have been any much hardship
for the P. Master to have sent me word that
the letter was in the Office, & get me to allow him
to have the envelope, to press the letter.

I am going to make a regular official
complaint on the subject, but do
not expect to get any satisfaction from
the authorities. I will give you
a very amusing anecdote of the same
dept. I hope I have not told you
of it before, if so a thousand apologies,
altho' it will almost bear repeating.
Sard Jassany on his arriving at
Allahabad as all good Europeans
should do, wrote to his wife and
succeeded in sending Jassany to
Hansa Calcutta, it reached the
Post Office, when some playful Clerk
who knew much better where Lady
Jassany was, than the G. G., scratched
out Calcutta and added Allahabad
the letter was marked "urgent" so Jass
said - Cannot you picture my wife's
look of astonishment on seeing her
own letter returned - Did not the P. G.
authorities catch it that is all, or no not
in the least, I guess however they will
not return the G. G. letters in a hurry
again - Was it not a good joke?
I am quite delighted with your reply
to the little man, it was the truth, the
whole truth, and nothing but the
truth all you write, I wish you had
sent out his Pamphlet for an
edification here, as in all wishing
to see it, I can fancy that "muffy" would
come out like a corky pear, but
unfortunately as you say the Army
Medical Dept. has eaten so much
of its own members, that I believe the
public think we are not capable

or fit for anything. It would seem
from what I can glean from the
blue book on the Medical Military
Commission, that we have little or
nothing to thank Alexander for, this
seems to be the general opinion
here, and as to your rank we are it
would seem to be done many years,
which means that those above
20 years are to be put upon half
pay and we who have not served
that long will become Regimental
Surgeons, if any else of the case is correct,
it seems very hard upon me & others,
for in my own case, every Regimental
Surgeon of 20 years, becomes at once
a Major. Major cantering with a
field officer, while I, I presume must
continue to serve to that point
altho' I have been in that rank on
the 21st of May three years, what is the
consequence - all the men in my own
Regt. and some few in the line that
I have over, all again become my
superior officers, not from anything
they have done or done since,
or for having distinguished themselves
in any way, then we would not
mind, but from the mere accidental
successes of their having entered
the service before me. My only hope
and chance is that having served so
long in my present rank, and as
Balcham will have to retire before
age 65, I may be selected for his
rank, a broken egg to lean upon you
will say, and so I think, but it is my

14th Sunday
I have been sent to Gunn's Barracks
this morning we have 34 in Hospital
and 1 same D. N. D. attending acts of
207 - most of the cases are those of
Wild Fever C. C. and have been
sent to me on his description amenable
to treatment - I was greatly shocked
on my return on going to visit
William to see Capt. Duggley of the
R. A. who commands a battery here
to find he was dead, he had been
tortured with symptoms of Fever,
spontaneous rib and shoulder pains,
that is, these lasted three or four
days, severely subdued, he then
had severe pains in the left
shoulder & both buttocks, which
which gradually increased until
they became perfectly agonizing
when the patient moved, on Sunday
morning Bubb who is attached to the
Company, applied leeches which
bled freely, and yesterday he had
not a particle of pain in the shoulder,
he delicately uses speculum and his
buttocks he continued as painful as
not more so than before, there was
a slight improvement in the
the part, no happy feet, we had there
been the slightest indication of the fever.

2nd. Private P. B. 3/10
In my last letter I was so hurried I really
had not time to answer your letter
properly but will endeavor to do so now.
You may well say we are an unlucky
Dep't and it depends on my opinion
on a want of unanimity and good
feeling on the part of the members
of our Service, who seem always
ready to cry "Shocking fish," the
consequence is, we are not respected
as a body by the other members of
the Service - There are always jealous
and heartings going on between
individual members, and a
want of cordiality and good feeling,
and a want of respect due to many
we such a loss as is not seen in
any other branch of the Service,
I was not aware they had given you
your full pay retirement, I need not
say how truly glad I was to hear
of it, and delighted and to find
you obtained it by your own
efforts, and did not act up
to Dr. S. suggestions to wait until
the report of the Commission had
been promulgated, the fact is he
is the least practical man I ever
saw, and he knows less of human
nature than a child, your common
sense told you that if you wished to
get anything, you must strike hard
while your Service was fresh in
recollection of the author, & the deed.

proved your true human nature, all
and esteem of actors, and your
deferred your applications until you
so many other subjects would have
engaged the attention of those in
power, that your claims would not
have been fully looked into, and
I do believe, you would have
been unsuccessful had you delayed
your application until now.
I do not agree with you, that the pay of
the Director General will not be
increased, if Alexander gets the bulk,
I believe he will have 2000 a
year at least if one may judge from
the Blue book, time will show who
of us will be correct. I put the
patronage of the Dep^t will be in the
hands of the War office, the Stations
alone of the Staff Medical men, remain
with the Head of the Dep^t. You will
see to have Military Governors to run
Hospitals, so that all administrative
duties I presume are to be taken
from us, and that we are solely to
attend to our professional duties,
the same as in the Army, no matter
how high a man's rank may be,
this may answer, but it will take
some time, before we settle down
to our new positions - I think the
Medical officers on the whole are
satisfied with their pay and here,
I believe of course to the 2nd Clap Staff

(as Surgeon of Reg^t to have good pay while
in charge) In if in charge of an Hospital
they receive 400 Pounds per annum
Staff pay, 300 if not in charge, and
I believe the other 200, this fee not
apply to the R.A., as for example
only receives the Head money of the
Company he belongs to, but had
two Companies or batteries, & as in
charge, he would receive 300 per
annum; if Smith quarrel against me
that will be my position also, as
I cannot have charge of two as they
are seldom together, and as for
Head money I shall not receive
any as each Troop, Company & battery
is its own issue. Surgeon who draws
the Head money, and Army properly
so in my opinion, so that if my
application fails I shall be paid
off comparatively speaking than any
Assistant Surgeon, as my pay will only
be 415 Pounds a month all told,
small enough you will allow when
you consider how to pursue being
in here, and that a Peeper may go
farther than to shew us England,
consequently I shall be much wiser
off by far than I would be at home.
Smith who is in London's office receives
300 R. a month & I suppose the same
having charge of the Officers Hospital
in No 1 Little Russell Street, he is
having papers like papers and
asking for more, but I shall
write that he will succeed, altho
he certainly ought to succeed.

The letter from Smith's office, was read
up country went on the deck but the
processes over, & has near done
any duty since, he came out in
charge of deck to a person cleared
about 0100 & I have no doubt
would like to go home again on the
same terms, then there is a man
late of eyes was a 2nd C.S. of your
division he was killed for from
Varna, and now he has been 3 months
here home he is going having
been wounded he leaves in the
"Jason", the Ladies here reminds
me of what took place after the
fall of Sebastopol, to my army
arriving, Colonel Inglis left
to day for Belghem, he has been
wounded - Colonel Mills 23 & Sparks,
30 have moved from Suedman
deck - Anderson R.R.A. he left on
this day 30th, he was wounded
from the Crimea Varna to Suetani.
There are lots of others of inferior
rank as you may imagine, so
that Raunds has having been
the order of the day, of 9th January
passed from the 9th January to
within a day or two of the end
of the month - There is a report here
to day which I do not believe that some
of the Ladies the whom I know very well
had fallen into the hands of the enemy, had
such as they were from Bonaville -

3 22/0 ^{3 22/0} Raunds - Impulsions
of matter, was, of this sort, I think
Raunds, for Raunds - Dr. Raunds (we
of the clearest fellow here 2nd C.S. Staff
Surgeon who he had called in - he
is in charge of the 2nd Lt. (Lt. John
Dapin) and myself, I am not sure
most probably, he recommended
the edge of the block should be
applied unaccompanied by a copy of
probate of silver if there was any
of it, meaning, this is did not
happeningly during the afternoon,
the Caustic was applied, and
when I saw him on the morning of the
3rd altho very weak & low, he did
not consider how on the whole side
from what Raunds has told me,
he got gradually worse during the
night, and, towards morning suddenly
much worse and died at 1/4 to 1/2
Shannon some indication of Phlegmonous
Myxipops, he had been well supplied
with Salty, Wine, Bread &c &c.
It is a very melancholy affair, as
he had such a considerable fortune,
you must remember, from all in
the Crimea, a few handsome young
men 2nd Lt. of Phillips' Troop
of R.A. Artillery, they were quartered on
the open plain some way in front of
Balaklava on their first arrival &

men & up in that corner just outside
Balaklava on the right hand side
as we went out - We have the
old story over again as in the
Corner, hardly off for Doctors, no
clap of muskets yet and up as they
do - The 7th Regt^{ment} came from the
Cape with the Surgeon only, and
playful respect - Granting as he had
already sent his papers on, one
other sick - The 6th last one ^{Wagon}
at Pummeejung he had been ill
In some days, the Regt^{ment} got the mule
suddenly, he came off off by a Man
train for Pummeejung and his name
after her arrival there I am informed
I believe no less than four doctors
in going home in the "Lion"
Saw them after 19th at Banatpore
in France & with hail of a large
size - I will of the same Regt^{ment}
has been ill with some kind is
not doing better - I saw a letter from
Colonel Maberly R.R. who has been
with Grant's Column from Lucknow
& has returned there, with 250
sick, he was to have a board
there the following day, they left
Lucknow without a sick man

and in a fortnight return with 250
sick, and Maddleton's so done up
it has to be replaced by Gibbon's.
All ranks are stopt between Pummee
and Benares - Official notification
states there is no communication
between Meerut & Benares, and
none between Pummeejung & Benares
since last night, however I am
gladly these & accounts, about
the roads in these parts, if you
people at home think the Ministry
is settled because Lucknow has
fallen, you are all very much out
of your reckoning, and I am of
opinion we are a deal less safe
now if now at this season of the
year than we were in December
last, even we must have mid
night a very bad summer, and lots
of Doctors, also they have applied
I mean sent for 15-2nd Clap, & 1-
15 Assen. regiments, & it is a nice trap
in the evening, indeed I think if
we is clear when this marches you
to send out double the number
to the three Presidencies, the of
course is private between you & I,
I do not want to be mixed up with
any other arrangements. We have
here sick 3400 Gibbon's & 1000

only facts, their habit to do so. I agree
with you so far that Sir Colin should
be left untroubled as to who should
be with him, and yet, if there be
he or any other man, however great
his position may be, I should use
the power he possesses to dismiss the
name of a man who never had
a slur on his character as an
officer the whole time he has
been on the Service, and I do
maintain that sending a party away
from the Camp while the
Service is going on, and never
recalling him to the front at the
any one of the great Officers of the
Army are sent for, is casting a
stigma on the professional character
of an Officer who did not deserve
to be treated so harshly, had he
guilty of cowardice, or proved
incompetent, no one could have
said a word, but for a man
possessing the power, to use it
so unmercifully does not say much
for his head or heart, I am of
course alluding to my General (Duff) but
yet would rather have his
feelings with the conscientious
knowledge that he had never done
anything to deserve such treatment.
as he has received for the fact,
few months, by being kept here while
every one else advanced in the Service

to the many 1/6. P23/0 ^{private & confidential}
You will see how all get on with
the Company's people, as far as I am
concerned very well, I have always
found them most civil and obliging,
nothing can exceed it, but I am
a man of the world, do not wish
to make myself a quarter fellow than
I really am, the consequence is
because the greatest courtesy, and
willingness, to carry out any views from
any Officer of the C. S. Macgregor,
who is here, a despicable hard working
fellow (and the best man in my opinion
from another officer for all have been
provided for in this land of Rupees) &
a gentleman any man, will tell you
the same as I do, that he has had
no difficulty with the Company's people,
far from it they have always been
willing to meet me half way, and stretch
the right hand of fellowship, of course they
must feel we are interlopers, and
that we are carrying off the prizes of the
Country, and that we are daily
getting a more permanent footing in
the Country what I want you to understand
is, that we are warring a race across
in equal terms with those men, and per-
haps in the secondary position our people
were in formerly in the Country.
I'm glad you like me, (for he is
a general favorite with many of the
C. S. as well as Sir Colin) has been
absent, and is succeeded by I'm
Linton who actually sees all the

has far from being popular from
one or two of his acts, at least he
has the credit of them, he
cannot alter now with a good
guise if he likes and I suppose
he does not. No so, as he knows
he is disliked by all the European
population in India. I never
heard that he had got onto
that water with the Calcutta Medical
Board, he was a devil to meet,
and I have got to thank him
for all the bother I have had,
for it was from what he first wrote
home that Dr Smith formed his
opinion about my position,
and at the time he wrote home,
he was ^{then} to me and said he
had my position all right. I may
have some day or other an
opportunity of going home & seeing
my mind on the head, and
depend upon it, I shall tell him
what I think. I did not embark
as a Battalion Surgeon, I was a
Senior Surgeon ranking as a
Field officer and came out
with my General and his
Staff, and as such ought to
have been recognized as a
Superintending Surgeon.

that was the reason Mansfield & I plan
took of my position and had me
gazetted accordingly and to draw
pay &c from the day of my
leaving as a Superintending Surgeon,
we wanted Mansfield, or Mansfield
make any charge at the I sent
them a copy of Smith's letter,
both agreed with my being of the
subject after ~~xxxx~~ they had
read my letter to R. Highmore &
Macanthur to send me and I was
quite right in appealing against
the D. of the case they
considered it a fake with my rank,
that I should be appointed to a
battalion, and do the same duty
I had performed 10 years since
when I first joined the service,
which would only give me 415/-
a month, while a more senior
one was receiving 1000/- I suppose
I had had money that would only
be for a company or battery of 700
men, why the assist. Surgeons attached
to the R. H. A. would be better off
than I should be as there may
put me in nearly 550/- per
annum; our friend Taylor
at Madras (who ever will be sorry
to hear is very severely ill) who has
a long letter to me in his last letter he

the efficient Officer - you once thought him; -
he was passed over on promotion by mere
boys; - at least he remonstrated - and got
no satisfaction. - He displayed a great deal
of friendly feeling for me, and sympathized in
some way - and sympathized with him; -
ultimately his health became inferior - and
he sought an appointment on a local Staff -
but failed; - he disclosed some his wishes, and
I will freely say - that I obtained for
him the appointment of Captain to the
Albert Smith - in the Eastern Province of
the Cape - with a salary of £300 a year -
and per quarters and other advantages; -
since my arrival here I find that he has
been placed at his Request on half pay at
11/3 per diem.

I also met your friend Lawson - now the
P.M.O. at the Cape; I find him an excellent
Officer - and he is a great friend of mine; -
I enclose a letter from him to you; - I had
a long chat about him and on his farm
in the G. plom.

You know that Dr. Beaton is now the P.M.O.
of India - and his promotion is an important
General. - at Southampton I saw Arthur
Anderson - now P.M.O. at Stellenbosch - and
an old friend - Arthur Smith.

Miss Shaw should be Superintendent General
of nurses at Stellenbosch; - and she is so much
of her former self - that Dr. Anderson had
to remind her of her position and functions -
and some think he says nothing of her.
Stellenbosch is a magnificent building - but is
nothing in appearance but what it
should be; indeed - it looks decayed in
every part of it; the Clothing Department
is responsible for nothing but permissions.
Dr. Short is still at New Zealand - but
is anything but a favorite either with
British or military.

Miss Nightingale is nowhere now; - I
never hear of her.

Your old Office Assistant - Egbertwood -
is married to a Widow with several
children - but having some £500 a year.
Tom Mattheus is also married.

I am looking pretty well after my 70 years
of age; - while there I managed to
make some very profitable investments -
and can now live independently of my
official position. but - as I can make a
good use of both sources of income - I shall
retain them; - my next station is Dublin,
whither I shall proceed in about a week
or ten days; - I shall be delighted to hear
from you; - if you address to me -