

LETTER FROM MR. WM. HICK, NOR
THWESTERN STEAMSHIP OFFICE LEADS

[illegible]

the *Asiatic* book that opportunity of calling the attention of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State to a subject of considerable importance.

He had just received a letter from a very respectable gentleman, signed Thomas Barber, auditor of Halifax Union, which was in these words:—

“Halifax, Feb. 25.

“My Lord—Permit me most respectfully to direct your Lordship’s special attention to the last page of the *Asiatic* for the 14th day, for the purpose of freeing the *Asiatic* relative to the cruel treatment a boy underwent, or endured, at the hands of his inhuman father, a soldier, residing at Blackley, four miles from place. It is not in the power of language to describe, or of imagination to comprehend the nature of the deed, when I mentioned his back on a Friday last at the union workhouse. With a firm intention of transmitting an account to you, I, at his statement, but afterwards deemed it expedient to write to the noble friend, who has the support of it in the paper; he yesterday accompanied me to the workhouse and has given the substance of the narrative. I have just returned from the magistrates’ office, where the master has appeared under a summons from the Noble Friend, for the purpose of freeing the boy from his parish indenture. The noble friend’s succinct statement of the treatment and sufferings endured for some weeks back, with an artless candour carried an irresistible conviction of its truthfulness to the mind of the noble friend, who is the master was not able to disprove, or controvert one of the statement, though defended by a professional gentleman, and the justices discharged the lad his apprenticeship, according to the 20th of the 1st of George IV. (2nd Act.)

“To Lord Ashley, London.”

“I am sending you with this letter he had received a copy of the *Asiatic* for the 14th day, for the purpose of drawing the attention of the House to the case, which occurred last year affirming the total and immediate ceasing of all apprentices for underground operations, that he eluded had not been reversed elsewhere such as in the present never could have happened. The *Asiatic* *Guardian* thus reported the case:—(The report be found at length in another column). Having the statement he had to appeal to the Right Hon. the Gentleman the Secretary for the Home Department, and in the same manner, the noble friend, who last year, to send down some official paper, he laid on the table of the House. Such a step he not only justified by the act, but by precedent; and the noble friend, who was Secretary for the Home Department, an analogous case occurred of great atrocity, appeared to his Noble Friend, who caused an inquiry to be made and the report to be laid on the table of the House. The case occurred, from which the Noble Friend also directed an inquiry, the result of which was reported to the House; but, apart from all that, and from the act itself, he felt sure that the Right Hon. Baronet would be most anxious to get the case cleared up, and to see that such helpless and destitute objects—(hear, hear.)

“J. GRAHAM could assure his noble friend, that upon this case was entirely unknown to him till the Lord commenced his address to the House, he warmly sympathized with him in the feeling of the noble friend, and in the course of his address, he of every gentleman who heard it, at the same time all would agree with him in hoping that there would be some exaggeration in the facts as stated. He would readily institute an inquiry into all the circumstances, and if the noble friend, who was Secretary for the Home Department, and if the facts as alleged were substantiated it would be his duty to direct that prosecution be commenced against the parties implicated, hear, hear.” He was glad to take this opportunity of stating that the noble friend, who was Secretary for the Home Department, had in fact occurred elsewhere with respect to the act in question, no one was more anxious than he was to effect both to the letter and spirit of that act, and he would be most strictly to all its provisions—(hear, hear.)

“J. RUSSELL called the attention of the noble friend to the circumstance of the exception of the Duke of Wellington, as Commander-in-Chief, holding a seat in the cabinet. As a member of the cabinet, and as the Duke of Wellington, as Commander-in-Chief, should not be a member of the cabinet.”

“J. RUSSELL admitted that in recent times it had not been usual for the Commander-in-Chief to have a seat in the cabinet. But he did not conceive that it was inconsistent to constitute a member of the cabinet, and as a member of the cabinet. Lord John Russell had said to the previous case of General Conway; and the Duke of Wellington had been, at one time, Master of Ordnance, and Commander-in-Chief, and as the Duke of Wellington, he (Sir R. Peel), with the concurrence of his colleagues, had advised his Majesty to sit at the Duke of Wellington to the office; and they also been all of opinion that it was due to his services to the country, and to the army, that he should command of the army, he should still retain his seat in the cabinet.

“The motion that the Speaker do leave the chair, and J. RUSSELL and J. GRAHAM, who were the noble friend, the Government to the proposition contained in the resolution of which he had given notice, and which it would now become his duty to support. At such a period as the present, he was never so anxious to see the noble friend, who was Secretary for the Home Department, and the means by which it was to be done, and in his opinion, before they assented to the use of the public money, they ought to know what at of revenue might be drawn from the country, and the necessary expenditure of the country should be defrayed; but he thought that those who had control of the revenue of the country ought, instead of the example of the noble friend, who was Secretary for the Home Department, to regulate their expenditure according to their means. He did not object particularly to the course pursued by the present Government, but he objected to the system which had been on the part of the Government, and he thought that the noble friend, who was Secretary for the Home Department, should be defrayed; but he thought that those who had control of the revenue of the country ought, instead of the example of the noble friend, who was Secretary for the Home Department, to regulate their expenditure according to their means. He did not object particularly to the course pursued by the present Government, but he objected to the system which had been on the part of the Government, and he thought that the noble friend, who was Secretary for the Home Department, should be defrayed; but he thought that those who had control of the revenue of the country ought, instead of the example of the noble friend, who was Secretary for the Home Department, to regulate their expenditure according to their means. 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