



Late Rural Disturbances

The following letter on the subject of the payment of the rewards for the apprehension to the Home Secretary of State, by Mr. Dyke of Highworth, Wilts; and notwithstanding the mails did not arrive in town till nearly 12 o'clock on the following day, owing to the unfavourable state of the roads, the subjoined reply was transmitted the same evening by return of post. This is a simple fact but it tells well for the prompt attention and business-like despatch displayed in the official department of the Noble and Right Honourable Secretary. E.T.D.

To Viscount Melbourne

Highworth, Wilts Feb 1

"My Lord – On behalf of several individuals who have apprehended or caused to be apprehended, various persons lately concerned in breaking machines & c. In this county and who have been convicted thereof, I have taken the liberty of applying to your Lordship for the purpose of requesting to be informed if it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to make good the promise contained in His Majesty's proclamation of the 23rd November, so far as regards the payment of the reward 50£ to those individuals who, according to the terms of the said proclamation are entitled to the same. I would also wish to ask your Lordship if it is the intention of Government to allow the prosecutors' expenses in the cases alluded to, as many of these individuals are extremely ill-prepared, if not totally unable to meet the same." I am my Lord, your Lordship's very obedient servant." Edw. T. Dyke

To Mr. E. T. Dyke, Highworth

Whitehall, Feb 2

"Sir – I am directed by Viscount Melbourne to inform you in reply to your letter of yesterday, that all persons entitled to the rewards offered by His Majesty's proclamation of the 23rd November will receive the amount on applying to the Lords Commissioner of the Treasury. It is not the intention of the Government to defray the expenses of prosecutions arising out of the recent disturbances, as the law has made provision for the payment of these expenses on a proper application being made to the judge before whom the trials took place." I am, Sir, your obedient servant, Sam Phillips

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