

Transcriptions of a series of letters from John Paterson.

Courtesy of The National Archives.

The transcriptions have been put together by volunteers from the Crayford Manor House Historical Society. Text in red denotes writing which is unclear.

Sir

I am informed that the Chartists of the north are all arming themselves.

There was a meeting held last night at "Farringdon Hall" near the foot of Holborn Hill- at this meeting several of the newly elected delegates delivered most inflammatory speeches advocating physical force.

One of the new delegates- I am told-is a Catholic Priest- another a dissenting Minister a third a fellow who for upwards of ten years resided in France and came over special to assist on the memorable 10th. April

Their names I will ascertain and transmit to your office.

My informant tells me that one of the leading Chartists has just received a letter from Dublin- to prepare the Chartists for the news of a general outbreak in Ireland this day.

It is stated that Mitchell and Smith O'Brien are to be elected delegates and will join the convention as soon as they can afterwards

The right Honourable Sir G Grey Bart.

Bexley Kent 7th. July 1848

My Lord Duke

I had the honour yesterday of making a communication to your Grace.

I now beg to transmit a printed letter signed " Geo J Mcarther" addressed to Sir Geo Grey.

This letter purports to be printed at Birmingham but in fact was printed in London, so late as last night- and Mcarther himself is in London -also he wishes to have it supposed he is in Birmingham.

I will try to find out his address

To the Duke of Wellington

(An enrolment will take place at Cartwrights Locality tonight which is in Red Cross St. Cripplegate- excuse this scrawl it is written in great haste) written at the top

Bexley 13th. July 1848

My Lord Duke

The meeting of which I appraised Your Grace, by my letter of the 12th. instant- took place on yesterday evening at the theatre in the Milton St. Cripplegate.

This meeting was convened by means of oral communication from party to party without any written or printed notices- and thus it could only be known to the parties who had to do with it. No Chartist - is in all their secrets

McCrea, I am told, took the chair and he announced to the meeting there were two Government Reporters- present that alone was sufficient warning-to the supporters- they would say nothing, what they would otherwise have said was kept back.

The Attorney General and the Law were highly eulogised- but found fault with the foreman of the jury-(possibly Jewry?) as being connected with some Government Contract. This was on account of the presence of the Reporters.

I omitted to state that before the process of the meeting commenced it was discovered that behind the platform which formed a kind of Gallery there were discovered two policemen in plain clothes- a great confusion thereupon arose and they were expelled.

Having stated this much as to what was said and occurred at the meeting I will now state what the real objects of the meeting were- they were there to charge the Law with partiality and rigour- the judge as a partisan- and revive hatred and revenge upon the government and they were only stopped in their designs as I have before stated by the presence of the reporters.

I now affirm that secret plots are going on for what purposes however I cannot at present learn although I strongly surmise the object- but shall learn - and will then communicate with your Grace on the subject

No 6

Bexley 24th July 1848

It is now arranged that no more outdoor meetings shall for the present be held and no open and advised speaking shall take place- but all the movements shall be in profound quiet.

The various clubs and Local Lodges of Chartists held their meetings yesterday at their various rooms quite in secret!

The clubs and Chartists are about to unite themselves into a new formidable body and measures are being arranged to council an outbreak in the North of England the moment any demonstration shall take place in Ireland and this outbreak, they expect, will become general throughout the land, encouraged by the absence of a sufficient military force here to quell the insurrection

Enclosed is a Printed Bill of a political meeting to be held on Wednesday next July 26th. 1842 at the theatre in Milton St.

No 10

Bexley 24th. July 1848

With Mr. John Paterson respectful compliments to Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington.

No 11

July 26 1848

MY Dear Rowan?

???????? ???? ? ? ? ? ? ?

I send you direct a letter the Duke has just received from Mr. Paterson

Yours Faithfully

Really high speakers at the meeting

No 12

Bexley 26th. July 1848

My Lord Duke

The meeting took place in Milton Street last night as I informed your Grace it would. The orators spoke in the Irish tongue, the Irish Language reasonable enough no doubt but as it could be taken down by shorthand reporters for the want of their understanding of the Irish language it was permitted and remains a secret

But when the sedition became and preached in the language spoken and understood in this country the chairman Sir Kenealy very prudently dissolved the meeting. 97 Did Mr Kenealy understand the Irish language? and if not of a treasonable character, why was it delivered in a tongue unknown?

I trust your Grace here by the time discovered

Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington

No 13

July 26th. 1848

As the writer of these letters to his Grace the Duke of Wellington appears to assume considerable merit for the information which he gives it may be proper for the Police Authorities to show these letters have all been referred to remark that without in any manner wishing to retract from the good intentions by which the writer is in no doubt actuated yet they have always been in possession from other quarters of the intelligence so communicated before they have received it from those letters not to mention that as is the present instance there is no intelligence whatever in most of them but what was patent to all the world for instance the meeting

No 15

That every communication I have made to now have been fully authenticated

Enclosed I send another Printed Bill of an intended meeting to be held on Thursday the 27 July instant at John St. Institution at which it appears Fergus O'Connor is to be present. He should be watched – and dealt with as he merits.

Fergus was to have been at the meeting last night but was not made acquainted with it until too late he being in this County 7 miles from London.

Wakely has written to excuse his presence at the meeting to be held this night in Milton St. in which he states he is willing to present any petition to the House for the mitigation of the sentence passed upon Ernest Jones and the other culprits

No 13

(this appears to be part of same letter but has a different number at base)my brackets

E? Thompson M P has also written to same effect

I have the honor to subscribe myself
Most respectfully
Your Grace Honourable
Jno. Paterson

No 14

No1

Bexley 28th. July 1848

My Lord Duke

I have this moment had enclosed printed bill handed to and I hasten to transmit the same to your Grace.

The clubs are all alive and up in arms ready for any mischief

The movement is kept a profound secret- every member of the Confederation is ordered to be in readiness at a moments notice

The enclosed plan has also been handed to me- The out circle has p???? up it intended to be fired

Around the inner circle the clubs meet

While attraction and d??? arise at

16

of last night was placarded and bills circulated and announced at other meetings days beforehand and the proceedings were all given in the newspapers, Times of this morning to say nothing of the shorthand writers and police reports

A copy of the enclosed bill was in their office previous to the receipt of this letter

No 2

Bexley July 29th 1848

My Lord Duke

I find that governments sent down in very great haste two reporters to attend the meeting held last night in Milton St. they were hurried off so that one of them left his purse behind and had to borrow one 2nd. before he could gain admittance into the room- this at least shows the Govt. were not prepared for the meeting

The Suffolk St. party have been routed out by the police I will find out where they have gone to

On Monday night next there is to be a ??? at Drury Lane theatre.

18

the outer circle- the force is to march from the different Localities towards the Centre there they are to receive the word of command for the next move which will be kept a secret until the moment of being delivered

Too much vigilance cannot be exercised
I have the honour to
remain My Lord Duke
Your Grace Honourable servant
Jno Paterson

As your Lordship here omitted to acknowledge the receipt of a letter which I transmitted to Apsley House on the 21st. instant I shall now number any letters- I have no time to keep copies of the letters- The letter to which I allude as not having been acknowledged In one part of it made a communication of a new Locality having been started by a **Scotch?** an engineer who recently came from France and who had a plan which he exhibited how to raise barrocadoes **???** It also made allusion to the capture of McDoual. Excuse haste
17

Theatre in enmity to Lord John Russell

One of the speakers in Milton St. last night said he was a Fish Monger and if Lord John Russell would not buy a "pike" he would give one

And several members of some of the St Giles Localities have been heard to use language not easily to be misunderstood- I should therefore advise the noble Lord not to unnecessarily to put himself in the way of danger especially as is the only way of relieving Ireland. It should be done on agreed scale if Government and the Landlords of Ireland cannot go hand and glove together The way to do this most efficiently is by shipping off from the south of Ireland- filling up from the North of Ireland and replacing the northerners by the agriculturists of the Cy by this means Catholics will decrease and protestants increase in the same ratio if so lax as the people are under the dominion of the Priesthood and their minds subjugated by the marks of hypocrisy so long will Ireland remain a disturbed and poverty stricken Country

In great haste
I have the honour
To subscribe myself
My Lord Duke
Your Lordships Most respectful and devoted
Jno. Paterson

Bexley Kent

31st. July 1848

My Lord Duke

Enclosed your Grace will find a printed bill of a meeting to take place in Milton Street on Wednesday night next the 2nd. August

I am

Your Graces
Obedient Servant
Jno. Paterson

20

PTO

At Watford they were ready for a break out yesterday if the news from Ireland had been as they wished.

The Class leaders were all waiting yesterday for instruction from the Secretaries. Had the news from Ireland been favourable for their object Sunday being the day fixed for any disturbance- as preferably to any other day

Ross and Mullins who had their secret meeting in Suffolk St. Southwark, being routed out there by the police, held its secret meeting at Cartwrights yesterday as a member of the council from each locality.

Pray excuse this hurried scrawl.

No57

¼ past 2 AM

Bexley Kent August 3rd. 1848

My Lord Duke

I am informed that a person came up to Town from Liverpool, either yesterday or the day before, and the state of that in Liverpool alone there are more than 10,000 men all armed and organised, ready for action immediately upon the recall of the troops from that place. They are all enrolled and numbered so that we may calculate upon their force to a train

Similar arrangements are also made in Manchester and other Northern Towns

Several letters have been received by the Chartists and Irish Confederates written the last day or two from parts of Ireland in which are stated that they are going on still with Secret organisation and preparing for the opportunity of a demonstrating

Mullins and Rose were at the meeting held last night at the Theatre Milton Street and Mullins was one of the speakers. These are the same persons who have their secret meetings in Suffolk Street Southwark as I have before communicated I understand that a letter of complaint was written by them to Sir **???** Clay and his answer was "Serve you right"! I have the honour

My Lord Duke

To remain your devoted servant

Jno. Paterson.

24

Stanhope Street

Aug.1st 1848

7 PM

My Dear **Rowan**

The Duke has just sent me the enclosed from Mr. Paterson which I forward to your ??? loss of time
Yours faithfully
??? Somerset

No 6

¾ quarter past 11 AM
Bexley Kent Aug. 4th. 1848

My Lord Duke

I find that the police made a search at Cartwright last night after Beezer the "Fish Monger" and "Pike Man" but he had left about a quarter of an hour before the entered, having been informed of their approach. He lives in a small court or passage leading into Bell Alley, Coleman Street, City and is well known in Billingsgate. He attends there every morning with a basket to buy fish. He Police cannot mistake him if the description given to me of him is correct. He is a small man with only one eye and pock marked.

The books and papers of the different clubs have been removed from their several places of deposit in order to keep them from the Police

Mischief is still brewing. They have now, I am told, in large quantities a sort of instrument

I am Yours

24

No 7

Bexley Kent 5th. Aug. 1848
20 minutes to 1 PM

My Lord Duke

A letter is in Town from a policeman in Ireland addressed to his Brother in London. There is no signature to it and the writer states he withheld his signature for obvious reasons.

Some parts of the letter have been erased as if purposely to conceal a part of the content evidently done by the party who received the letter. The letter dated from Clonmel

The writer assures his Brother that there will be in Ireland a dreadful struggle That the rebels mean to fight for it at the point of pikes and no quarter will be shown on either side. That he never expects again to see his family. It moreover states that O'Brien is in the neighbourhood of Killymanly CY of Tipperary surrounded by 6000 armed men. That he is supported by French Officers and engineers. That the Gentry are all flocking in from all parts into Clonmel

My man has been informed their support will arrive from France and America.

A sort of **fright?** meeting is advertised for tomorrow on Kennington Common but is not recognized by the Chartists Body many however may out of curiosity attend. It is thought by my man to be put out merely as a feeler in order to see how the government will take it

I have seen one of the point heads it is exactly as described by me in my letter no 6 of yesterdays date It is a sort of instrument calculated to do much injury to horses feet and even to the feet of men. The fellow who exhibited it has upwards of 150 of them himself and they are being so very portable any quantity

may be carried about, if properly dispersed amongst their body and I am told they are made in large quantities. 26

A secret meeting was held last night in the upstairs rooms at Cartwrights, Cripplegate that place should be well watched by the police. Mullin and Rose, Duffy and others attended the meeting alluded to Milton Street theatre is to be refused for their meetings in future

I have the Honour to remain

My Lord Duke

Your Lordships

obedient and ever devoted

Jno. Paterson

27

No 4

We must keep awake!

Bexley 1st. Aug 1848

My Lord Duke

They all went up to Drury Lane last night for the purpose communicated in my letter No 2 of the 29th. July and were foiled in their object as the House was closed. They say some person must have split In consequence of their disappointment in that object they went up to Dean Street

I am informed their men had just come from Dublin via Liverpool and appeared there.

He stated that that they were all ripe and ready in Ireland and enquired whether they were so here. He also stated that one had gone to Scotland and others to other parts of the United Kingdom.

The Chartists Class Leaders are still busy in going the round to the different localities to ascertain their addresses of the members so that they may leave notice to be ready at a moment-

They so watch the House Office, that they are aware that the dispatches arrived there on Sunday, and were immediately transmitted to Sir George Grey in Church!

They are about to dispatch a man or two from their body to Dublin. The names of the men as soon as they are fixed upon, I shall be able to learn & will immediately communicate them to Your Grace.

In Haste

I remain

My Lord Duke

Your Lordship

Obedient and devoted

Jno. Paterson

P.S. I shall endeavour to ascertain the name of the man who came over from Ireland- he stated that he had great difficulty in getting away

No 31

No 8

Private

Bexley August 8th. 1848

My Lord Duke

I congratulate my country on the capture of O'Brien and I hope it may lead to the most happy result to that ill favoured county

I however cannot flatter myself that all is yet over, that the Hydra is destroyed while I see still existing in this Country, Leagues and secret combinations

So long will there exist as the **????** of that land have the power of subjugating the heathen mind and debasing it by superstitious teachings. They are known to preach peace with one face- while with the other they teach sedition and Treason and Hatred to the Saxon race and revenge upon Heretics!

In some isolated cases the priests may be sincere but there are in Ireland too many Jesuits ever to allow of any long guilt there. These must be exterminated or confidence can no where be safely placed.

I trust I may be excused again adverting to Emigration. The Ten Millions spent on Ireland

28

this last two years might have been beneficially employed in the way I suggest. But emigration to have any good results can only be carried on upon a most **mag???** scale otherwise the money expended will be like casting it into the sea.

Another thing has here suggested itself to my mind and that is that the reading of the scriptures and the Service of the church in all districts from Ireland where the Irish Language predominantly should be delivered in that tongue.

In the Highlands of Scotland, your Grace is doubtless aware, that the morning service is delivered in English. In the afternoon in the Gallick tongue; and much good has resulted from it I see no reason why the same result might not arise from the same thing in Ireland.

I think shall not much longer have recourse to trouble your Grace with any further communications

No 28

Page 30

They were talking last night at Cartwrights about turning out- they however did not move. Some policemen where in the in the house in plain clothes and they wished to turn them out but they could not effect it the men consequently remained

A Sunday afternoon a secret meeting was held at Cartwrights by the council of the several Localities.

Notice was given by some of the Metropolitan Police to a person that they were after Beezer, Wilson & Shaw. In consequence these men took care to get out of the way and have not been captured. The Police went to Beezers house in Bell Alley but he was gone. He is now with his Mother or Mother-in-Law at Edmonton or near to it.

Wilson lives in Bethnal Green Road and is well known there as a member of one or two Chartist Localities he is by trade a weaver. Shaw is an undertaker and resides at H??

The police have been after him at his residence

No 29

9)

Bexley August 12th. 1848

My Lord Duke

I have just been informed that Roses Papers have been seized. This circumstance will no doubt lead to the discovery of the plot I have before alluded to-

In short Lord John Russell and Sir Geo Grey- am just told, have been watched by the Chartists to their respective offices and the House- and it has been noticed by these fellows that policemen in plain clothes severally attended their Lord John and Sir Geo.

On Sunday last at the meeting at Kennington Church signals were practised by holding up the ???? in a particular way by one to the other and so on in order to ascertain how quickly a communication could be made in this way the accomplishment of their design

The engineer who lately came from France who, I before informed your Grace had forwarded
No 35

I am aware that I have been already a great tax upon your Lordships time and patience- but then, I have been encouraged to it, by the extreme courtesy of your Grace and civility of your manners to me.

Allow me the honour of expressing the hope that Your Grace may long live in peace, health and happiness and that you will permit me with much sincerity of heart to subscribe most respectfully

Your Lordships

Very obedient ever devoted

Jno. Paterson

Private and Confidential

31 Cannon Street

City

14th. Jan 1850

Dear Sir

You will observe my heading and will no doubt understand my meaning.

The "Hall" I named to you when I last had the pleasure of seeing you at Whitehall, is at the House of Fowler, Baker Golden Lane and which, I understand, is to be opened tomorrow evening, by Fergus of "Glorious Memory?"

I shall have information of what may pass there and will make you acquainted therewith immediately afterwards.

No 44

A new club in Locality of Broad St. Drury Lane or Saint Giles should be looked after- he will be found to be the one of the Ring Leaders in the plot alluded to.

Beezer is still at Edmonton or the neighbourhood thereof.

My man knows many of the persons by sight, who are mixed up in Diabolic plot- and I have set him to find out, if he can, their names and addresses

In Haste I remain

My Lord Duke

Your graces

Obedient and very Devoted

Jno. Paterson,

No 35

Bexley 19th. 1848

Sir

Allow me to suggest that for a short time , at least, orders should be given at every post office in London to dispatch, without waiting for the usual delivery hour, all Letters addressed to the Ministers and other Officials and even this in the middle of the night that no delay may take place in communication to the Government at this critical juncture. The movements of the disaffected will be more secret than ever.

The witness T Powell I fear will do the Government no credit whatever. This is the same man to whom I alluded in a communication I made to the Duke of Wellington

If you write, please to put "private" on the superscription, to prevent being opened by my clerks under the impression that it is on official business.

I remain

Dear Sir Yours Faithfully Jno. Paterson

No 36

Dear Sir

You thought my man had been hunting with the Hare and running with the Hounds

I have now an opportunity of satisfying the error of your mistake.

The enclosure subpoena bears dates the 26th. Sept and you will remember that Powell in his X ????

on that day ????

my man No sooner did this

Bexley 19th August 1848

My Dear Sir.

I have nothing to communicate at present but expect that I shall have in the course of the day-

Whatever I have to communicate will be addressed to you at your Private residence in Spring Gardens you will therefore have orders that no delay may take place in forwarding the dispatches wherever you may be if any may be sent to you.

I am afraid T. Powells evidence will bring an odium upon the Govt. He is the same person to whom I alluded some time ago in a communication to the Duke of Wellington as the person who had such a quantity of spike heads intended to injure the cavalry Horses in his possession. There is no doubt he has been offering for sale cutlasses guns pistols and other implements of destruction and instigating the Chartists to all manner of mischief. In short my informant assures me that it was so and that he was one of the leaders on the night of the 29th. May

I remain

+ Dear Sir

Your Truly

Jno. Paterson

Some time ago as the person who had a large quantity of spike heads made of cork and lead at the bottom to be thrown in the way of the cavalry horses He also boasted that he had a large quantity of muskets and cutlasses which he offered for Sale and all this was before he became a member of the Chartists. He was one of the Leaders on the 29th. May you may in all probability again hear from me in the course of this day or night as I am waiting for information I have also managed to give information to Mr ???? at his private residence if anything of importance shall arise.

I remain

Sir

Your obedient servant

Jno. Paterson

P.S. Tellegraphic communication might be arranged between all the public offices without a very heavy expense.

Bexley Kent

30th. January 1849

(Round stamp HO Jan 31 1849)

Sir

You are doubtless aware that the Chartists are upon the move again. But there is an undercurrent at work which will require the greatest vigilance on the part of the Government to detect. I am ???? going to do all in my power towards putting an end to such doings- but –cannot risk the giving of any information that will not be received as strictly confidential

No 42

Transpire then he was sought after in every quarter by the prisoners attending and late on the evening of the 26th. he was found and subpoenaed – This I hope will satisfy.

He tells me that Lacy was an agent going through the country to incite. But that Tay was really not so guilty as any of the others for that on many occasions he absolutely declined to go out with them and did not take the active part the others had taken.

Excuse haste

Be good enough to return to me under cover addressed to my private residence at Bexley the subpoenas herewith sent and believe me

Yours faithfully

Jno. Paterson

No 40

Bexley Kent

30th. January 1849

Mr Jno. Paterson

Warning Government that the Chartists are again on the move – Complaining of not having had any remuneration for information given on a previous occasion

Refer to Commissioner of Police

No 43

On the former occasion I was told by an "Official" that I had over rated my services but I have to learn how services can be considered over rated for which no remuneration or reward was asked.

I was put to much expense and trouble – but never thought of stipulating for any reward- my information however was made use of and I was subpoenaed to attend one of the late Crown prosecutions and was abroad from my offices for several days and the sum paid to me was one shilling. I never once even complained of this but thought it rather hard that the poor satisfaction of believing that I had performed my duty as a good citizen should be denied to me.

I have the honour

To remain

Sir

Your obedient servant

Jno. Paterson
This letter is written at my Chambers
28, Martins Lane
Cannon Street

No 42

1873

5 Vansittart Terrace
Greenwich
19th. Feby 1850

Sir

I have just learned that the Chartists have determined upon having a "Glorious Day" on the 10th.
April next

I shall communicate further when an opportunity arises

I have the Honour to remain

Sir

You honourable Servant

Jno Paterson

Treasury
28 June 1850

My Dear Sir

At the risk of carrying coals to Newcastle I send you this to say that I have been informed that a quiet
movement is commencing among the ill affected

What I have heard is that the Chartists, so called, are moving their "classmen"

Your Truly

R Mayne Esq. Esq. J B Bertolucci

Private

5 Vansittart Terrace
Greenwich
4th. April 1850

Dear Sir

I some time ago received information which I communicated to you without delay that a meeting
was settled to take place on the 16th. April instant

I am now informed that it is put off- OConnor and Reynolds having made a tour into the North
without meeting the same success there as they expected and that in consequence they intended to

wait expecting a reaction to take place in the on the continent and in that went too late to take advantage of it

I remain

Dear Sir

35 Mincing Lane
24th. Feby. 1851

My Dear Sir

Has the name of Benediske at any time come before you?

Be good enough to drop me a note in reply at you convenience

I am

My Dear Sir

Yours Truly

Jno. Paterson

No 52

Treasury 11th. March 1851

Dear Sir

I have nothing definite beyond that the delegates who met in St Martins lane have given up the room they had there and each went off on Friday to his district

The "Convention" remains at Southampton Street but there some idea of dissolving it when the delegates return I am applying my man to find out what plan they intend to institute for the one which failed in 1848 but as yet I can only learn that a scheme is to be tried which will require but a very short notice to assemble their followers

Yours Truly

Bertolucci

R Mayne Esq.

No 56

Confidential

35 Mincing Lane
26th. February 1851

My Dear sir

I have your favour of the 25th. Instant in reply to my letter of the 24th.

The person whose name I gave you in my letter is, I am informed, the leader of a certain number amounting to at present about 75 persons of Hungarian refugees alluded to me the enclosed extract from the Observer Newspaper, which was afterwards copied to the Morning Advertiser of the 24th. Instant

These men are indeed in a most pitiable plight and their only support, scanty enough, as derived from the Chartists in London, this sympathy has created a friendship between them, which will require watching.

They meet together, have their lectures, form their plans for the present, and make arrangements for the future, and look forward with confidence to no very remote period, for a stirring change in affairs on the Continent and the moment, if ever this occurs, they intend together strength, in order to bring about a convulsion here. And so confidently is this anticipated in Paris and Brussels that it is made no secret of. Even as recently as Saturday last, a Gentleman of Credit and Respectability was dining at Brussels, when the topic of the approaching Exhibition in London was introduced and the Frenchmen and Belgians present said "You in England know little yet of an ?????, but we shall soon teach you" The English replied "you will find our police too strong for you" and they laughed.

There may be really nothing in all this small talk, but still it shows the animus of these foreigners and how much they envy our peaceable condition. We should therefore be up and stirring and preparing for the worst that may take place

No 53

Now to go back to the Refugees I consider it desirable they should be removed to a new locality that this may be beyond the reach and influence of the disaffected. There is a continued correspondence kept up by the Chartists with **Leder Rollin** and Louis Blanc and others of the same clique and I am forcibly impressed with the opinion that at the bottom of all will be found the meddling interference of a class of individuals who uniformly affect insolent prerogatives in order that they may beard the King and enslave the people of any country where they may happen to be. I mean the Jesuits, of whom, in the early part of 1848. I put the Government upon the guard, and the answer then returned to me was "It would be almost impossible to advise an efficient system of registration of such persons" A considerable reinforcement of Hungarians and Poles from Turkey and other places are shortly expected to join those in Turnmill Street, Clerkenwell. We have really been so very coaxing in our invitation to these strangers that we may expect numbers enough of them to cut our throats or to make slaves of us. I fear we shall have to fight for Liberty or death- some may laugh, but I for one wish the Grand Exhibition was to be exhibited in Russia rather than in London. Please acknowledge the receipt of this that I may know it gets to you safe.

I remain

Yours Truly

John Paterson

R Mayne Esq.

No 54

Confidential

35 Mincing Lane

17th, March 1851

Sir

On the 31st. of this month a convention of the Chartists is to be held in John Street Tottenham Court Road.

Fergus OConnor – Principle

The Hungarian and Polish refugees of 41 Turnmill Street, Clerkenwell are designedly kept here to aid the Chartists in care of any emergency arising for their cooperation.

More refugees are expected to arrive.

The pending Catholic Bill and the coming Exhibition, have put fresh courage into the Hearts of the Traitors who say they will petition no more.

Secret movements are going on and every thing that can be done is being done to forward the cause of revolution Let us then "Beware of the Ides of March".

Sir George Grey

May I hope to be favoured with a communication acknowledging receipt of this letter that I may know it got safe to hand

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient servant

Jno. Paterson

No 58

35 Mincing Lane

7th Jany. 1851

My Dear Sir

A new Chartists Locality has been established in Barbican called the Saint Georges Coffee House.

New Leaders- The following persons have been elected

Fergus OConnor

Ernest Jones

Beezer – the Fishmonger now a vendor of books in Tottenham Court Road- The man who was for giving Lord John Russell a Pike

Reed A Stationer, Bridge Row whose name begins Red--- the whole of the name my informant was unable to give me **Aruly??**

More are to be added to the number.

The Chartists are very energetic and they seem determined not to be put down.

I remain

my dear Sir

Your Truly

Jno. Paterson

In past further information this evening or tomorrow

Treasury 7 April 1851

Dear Sir

I have this morning been informed that 36 delegates are to meet at John Street Tottenham Court Road on Tuesday Evening – that they have determined on breaking out in open rebellion at a moments notice on the occasion of the Exhibition but that they have not yet fixed the day that for this purpose they have determined to oppose the operation of the Alien Act by every means in their power and that they are raising subscriptions with a view to enable the foreigners to remain in this Country.

26 were collected at a meeting in Westminster last night for this purpose which was subscribed in

Small pence with a willing feeling on the part of those present. A fire is now burning at the Thames Bank Repository which joins that part of the building which has been fitted up for the reception of the mechanics from the Country. My informant said that cause was unknown but that some suspicion visited as to its being done purposely by the Chartists

Your Truly

M B Bertolucci

Mr. Mayne Esq.

No 59/60

Treasury

26th. April 1851

Dear Sir

I have not communicated with you because there seemed nothing going on. It appears that the precautions taken have overawed them- they say they know if they commit any act of Violence that they will at once be overpowered and they now profess an intention to get their six points by moral force. They go so far as to say that they will show that Chartists can be as peaceable as other people

However the delegates are still in their respective districts and it is not known when they are to be up in Town. There is a sharp lookout on this point and I think from what I hear that if any movement takes place I shall know it before hand. I have told him to be particularly on the alert just previous to the first day of next month.

With reference to your suggestion that I might quis him about what I might think right I have not deemed it

No 61/2

112 Warwick St.

Ecclestons Square

Q

28th April 1851

Dear Sir

I have been told today that the Irish in London mean to get up a demonstration at Highbury barn on the anniversary of Mitchells transportation and that they are endeavouring to induce the Chartists to join them. I also learn that 60 Hungarians are housed in a shed or workshop in Wimpole Street, Clerkenwell and that a ball is to take place at the meeting rooms in York Street Westminster

No 63

Necessary beyond the ??? Jun of 51 to meet any little convivial entertainment he might think useful, and this morning on asking him if he wanted any more he declined taking anything saying at the same time that he had not ??? what I had given him

Your Truly

M B Bertolucci

R Mayne Esq

No 62

Private

35 Mincing Lane

May 14th. 1851

My Dear Sir

The "Irish Confederate and Democratic Society" who were the Grand movers on the 10th April 48 are again stirring.

The enclosed paper will explain that a "public Soiree" will be held at Highbury Barn on the 26th. May and that on Monday next the 19th. a district meeting will be held at the "City Hall" Golden Lane

It is better to prevent disease than to cure it

I am

My Dear Sir

Yours Truly

Jno. Paterson

No 65

Tomorrow (Tuesday) for the benefit of the Hungarians

Ernest Jones is gone to Brighton

The sum collected yesterday in York that was 25/- they still say they want money and men.

It appears that the Convention manage the money matters and that the delegates are paid .

It appears difficult to know who the convention are though I shall probably learn something of them

It does not appear to be known when the delegates are to return to London.

Two of your men sat the meeting out in York Street last night which checked the proceedings at least ostensibly. I shall probably hear tomorrow if anything was done elsewhere in consequence

Yours Truly
M B Bertolucci

R Mayne Esq.
No 64

35 Mincing Lane
17th. May 1851

My Dear Sir

I transmitted to you on the 14th. Instant, a letter addressed " Richard Mayne Esq. Whitehall Place" marked "Private" for which no acknowledgement has been returned.

It may have miscarried or perhaps received at a time when some official duties may have prevented you noticing it otherwise. I feel sure you would not have left me in doubt of its safe arrival.

Should you however consider my information not worth your having you will oblige me by candidly stating the fact and I will trouble you no more

I am

My Dear Sir

Yours Truly

Jno. Paterson

R Mayne Esq.
No 66

35 Mincing Lane
24th. October 1851

My Dear Sir

I have it in contemplation in consequence of the precarious and doubtful state of my eyesight to memorialise the Queen to grant me some appointment as a reward for my services rendered to the Government and the Country in the communications I made to the former respecting the movements and designs of the discontented and factious in 1848 and 1851 and which communications enabled the Government to be prepared for any emergency and happily to frustrate all their plans. As you are aware of any exertions and the nature and extent of any information particularly in 1848 I trust you will be good enough to favour me with your testimonial of their importance.

I have the Honour to be

Yours very Faithfully

Jno. Paterson.

No 67

35, Mincing Lane

28th October 1851

My Dear Sir

On the 24th. Instant I addressed a letter to you at Spring Gardens, and on the same day I also wrote one to the Duke of Wellington

Today on my arrival at my office I found a most satisfactory letter from the Duke from Walmer Castle, in which he gives me "Liberty to use in any way I may think fit! But from yourself I have not been favoured with any notice of my letter

I remain

My Dear Sir

Yours very Truly

John Paterson

No 68

35 Mincing Lane

30th. October 1851

My Dear Sir

I have to congratulate you upon you taking another step up the ladder of preferment. May you soon reach the top and may you have length of years and happiness to enjoy your preferment.

I now beg again to refer you to my letter of the 24th. Instant and to remind you of the conversation which took place between us on two occasions; on the first of those occasions you acknowledged that my

information will very slight variation was important and afforded great satisfaction as it can confirmed and supported other information which had arrived at headquarters On the other occasion on my remarking that I deserved a good appointment you said "Why don't you apply for one" "I have no doubt it would be attended with success if you were to apply particularly if it were backed" You added moreover "I think you would make an efficient servant to the Government". Upon which I said "I am to proud to ask" well then you said "I would say to you as I would a child, if it is not worth asking it is not worth having"

I have always been willing to assist the Government and the police and am still ready to do so. And therefore trust you will not with hold from such so small matter as I now ask at your hands waiting your reply

I remain

My Dear Sir

Your Truly

Jno. Paterson

Sir Richard Mayne

No 69

Tonbridge Wells

October 31st. 1851

My Dear Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th. of July to thank you for your congratulations and good wishes

With reference to Mr. John Paterson Esq.

No 70

Private

35 Mincing Lane

Nov. 1st 1851

My Dear Sir

I thank you most cordially for your kind note of the 30th ultimo from Tunbridge Wells

I quite agree with you that you ought not to do more than state your opinion on the subject of my letter of the 24th. October, if called on for an opinion by the Secretary of State. It did not occur to me when I wrote to you that some official position altogether exempted you from being required to give any written opinion in respect to information given to you.

But if you are so called upon by the Secretary of State for your opinion I feel convinced that you will give it in perfect consistency with right and justice and that you will say all you can

Sir Richard Mayne.

No 72

PRIVATE

35 Mincing Lane

4th. December 1851

My Dear Sir

As I still continue to receive information of the movements of the Chartists (and you are aware **aware** that my information has- invariably been early and proved correct) I should like to have an **(opportunity deleted)** understanding with you as to communicating to yourself direct all future information that may reach me.

Should you think such an arrangement desirable I shall be happy to receive an appointment for a day that may be most convenient to you to see me on the subject.

I am your Dear Sir

Yours very faithfully

Jno Paterson

No 73

Can in my favour

I do assure you that were it not for an uncertain state of me sight and the loss of many thousand pounds in a copper mine, and by other speculations the Government would not have been applied to by me. In proof of this I need only remind you that we are now nearly at the end of the fourth year since April 1840 and none here yet been made by me. Excuse me giving you so much trouble and

Believe me

My Dear Sir

Yours very Truly

Jno. Paterson

35 Mincing Lane

City

20. Dec. 1851

I am informed by a Gentleman who is connected with the manufacturing district in the North, and who has just returned to Town, that neither the Government nor the Country can be aware of the

movement going on at this time amongst the operatives of Bradford, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and other of the Manufacturing Districts that these men are intelligent at the same time are all socialists, Chartists or Communists and unless some means are used to divert their object they will become very troublesome to any Government existing in this Country, If they do not gain sufficient strength to subvert it altogether.

Perhaps it would be advisable that some members of your Force, men uniting in intelligence and good general information to professional keenness should be sent into these districts to watch and report upon these movements.

I merely mention this as a suggestion to your better judgement.

Believe me

My Dear Sir

Yours very Faithfully

Jno. Paterson

Sir Rd. Mayne KCB
No 74

Round stamp top Dec 22 1851 13840

35 Mincing Lane
City
20 Dec. 1851

Sir

I am informed by a gentleman who is connected with the manufacturing districts in the North who has just returned to Town that neither the government nor the Country can be aware of the movement going on at this time amongst the operatives of Bradford, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and other of the manufacturing districts these men are intelligent at the same time They are all socialists, Chartists or Communists and unless some means are used to divert their object, they will become very troublesome to any Government existing in this Country if they do not gain sufficient strength to subvert it altogether.

I have felt it to be my duty to make this communication to you and shall now leave it in your hands to enquire into the truth of it

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

Jno Paterson

The rt Honble Sir George Grey Bart.
No 76

Mincing Lane
20th. Dec. 1851

Jno. Paterson

Alarmed at the socialist Chartists operatives in the Manufacturing Districts I fear they will if allowed subvert the Govt. of the Country

To Commr. Of Police
24th. Dec.51

Treasury 4th. Feby. 1852

My Dear Sir

My informant called on me this morning and said he was at the meeting last night in St. Martins Hall, Longacre- he considers that it was a revival of the Chartists proceedings and tells me that they say there are 30.000 men in the country ready to come to Town at a moments notice and a greater number in London ready to join them. He says that there were no placards about by which

Sir Richard Mayne KCB
No 78

35 Mincing Lane
19th. May 1852

My Dear Sir

By the advice of Lord Lyndhurst I have transmitted to Mr. Walpole on the 17th. Inst. My memorial and statement and today they have been returned to me with a letter referring me to the Earl of Derby

I have now to inform you that I shall lose to time in laying papers before the Earl and I avail myself of the opportunity of sending you a copy of the memorial I intend to submit it to the First Lord of the Treasury

I remain
Yours very Faithfully
Jno. Paterson

No 80

which the meeting could have been called-- he is therefore endeavouring to find out their system of communication with each other and expects in a day or two to know something of their plans.

Their excuse for assembling is their resolution to oppose any attempt which the present Government may make towards establishing protection duties, and their demand for an extension of the franchise, but they say they will not be satisfied with the proposed measures of the late Government

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers are to meet in the same place this evening.

Yours Faithfully J B Bertolucci

no 78

42a Park Street
Grosvenor Square

My Dear Sir,

As Hope is the last thing a man surrenders and as truth conquers all things – So

I am determined still to persevere in the hope of yet obtaining the meed I have so fairly and equitably earned, and which no one can gainsay it!

As this is my determination I intend, with your kind permission to make you the medium of reference as to the value and extent of my exertions and services and I feel assured that with your usual frankness and candour you will not deny me the merit of having acted the part of a loyal and dutiful subject. I may add to my life a few of those comforts which advanced age and impaired health require –In short I appeal to your good feeling and justice to throw no impediments in the way of my success but let the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth be told this I know will be so. In the hope of being favoured with your early reply

I remain

My Dear Sir

Yours Faithfully

Jno. Paterson

26th. May 1853

No 81

Private

35, Mincing Lane

7th. June 1852

My Dear Sir,

On the 31st of last October Feargus OConnor, in a speech delivered at Cowper Street made some strange and disgusting remarks in reference to the Queen at the time I thought they were only in character with the man but now I feel convinced they were the emanations from a maniacs brain.

No doubt you are aware he has returned from America. I believe not much improved.

As a mad man is not accountable for his actions I think Mr. OConnor should be well watched to prevent his doing mischief and should it ever enter his mind to do mischief I fear it will be directed against some personage we cannot well spare Take the will for the deed and excuse my dropping the private hint.

I remain

My Dear Sir

Yours very Truly

Jno Paterson.

From the side at the top

I am sure it will afford your pleasure to know that the Duke of Wellington and Earl Derby have been in correspondence respecting my memorial. The noble Duke has written me a most kind letter—I had an interview yesterday with the Marquis of Westminster He told me he gave my statement to the Marquis of Lansdown to read and had spoken to Sir George Grey.

To the Right Honourable Spencer Horatio Walpole, Her Majesties Secretary of State for the Home Department

The humble petition of John Paterson, Attorney at Law, formerly of Bexley in the county of Kent but now of 35, Mincing Lane in the City of London of Greenwich in the County of Kent aforesaid.

Respectfully Sheweth,

That from the commencement of the year 1848 down to the present time, your memorialist has been privately informed of the secret resolutions and designs of the Chartist Body in the Metropolis acting in concert with the confederates in various parts of the United Kingdom, and that when said resolutions and designs threatened the peace of the country or the safety of individuals he has from time to time, and without a moments delay, communicated his information either to the Home Office, to his Grace the Duke of Wellington, or to the Commissioners of Police as the pressing circumstances of the occasion appeared to demand.

That such information was always found to be correct, as the result proved

That your memorialist exposed himself to much personal danger in becoming the depository of information which so closely affected the parties to whom it relates and that the duty of communicating that information to the Government was one which filled him with apprehension and alarm for his own personal safety; not to mention the distraction of his attention from his professional pursuits in the prosecution of his enquiry in a matter of so absorbing an interest especially in the year 1848, which resulted in much private pecuniary loss.

Your memorialist entertains the conscientious belief that, by communicating information to the Government he has been the means, under Providence, of interposing between the assassins and the highest personages in the State, and that had his communication of the 29th. of May received immediate attention the marching of an organized body of armed men through the Metropolis at midnight would have been prevented.

Your memorialist begs to refer evidence of the allegations contained in this memorial to a Statement accompanying this memorial and marked A, in which written communications are set forth which could not be inserted in a public memorial without exposing your memorialist to personal danger but he is at liberty to lay before you the following communication from His Grace the Duke of Wellington in reference to the subject matter of this memorial

“ Walmer Castle October 25th. 1852

“Sir”

“I have received your letter of the 24th. instant; I return the 5 letters which you enclose to me”

“You have frequently sent me information

“which you received of circumstances which had come to your knowledge in respect to the

“proceedings of persons whose design was supposed to be to commit a breach of the Peace”

which I considered useful”

I have the Honour to be

Your most obedient and humble servant,

“ John Paterson Esq.” “Wellington”

To the above your memorialist has to add the following communication with which His Grace was pleased to favour him of the date of the 10th. May;-

“London May 10th. 1852”

Field Marshall the Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Mr. Paterson he returns the papers enclosed in his letter of the 8th. instant.

“He repeats if referred to by any authority he will state fully what he thinks and knows of Mr. Paterson. But that no power on earth will induce him to solicit any office of Government in favour of any individual whatever.

In addition your memorialist begs to approve the following letter from the Chief Commissioner of Police, Sir Richard Mayne:-

Tonbridge Wells oct. 30th. 1851

My Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 28th. instant has been forwarded to me here, and I beg you to excuse my not having sent you an answer to your letter of the 24th.

I regret that I feel it would not be proper for me in my official position to express any opinion of your services with a view to your making a claim for compensation for them.

I ought not to do more than state my opinion, if called upon by the Secretary of State, my official Head.

I am sorry to hear from your letter that you suffer from injury to your eyesight

Wishing that the application you mention may be successful

Believe Me

Very Truly Yours

Richard Mayne

John Paterson Esq/