

1931/13.1.16

3 Clarence Street.

ALBERT SQUARE.

Manchester July 16<sup>th</sup> 1869.

Dear Sir W. Foster.

Thanks for your valued favor I read  
this morning.

I saw Bro. Evans, the Manager partner  
of the 'Guardian' Newspaper office, on Friday,  
and arranged with him to print the type  
strike me off 100 Copies - I do not expect  
the proof before the middle of this week,  
& as the remainder of the week will  
be a holiday on account of the visit  
of the Prince & Princess of Wales to  
the Agricultural Exhibition, it will I  
suppose be 10 or 14 days before I receive  
the copies.

I wrote Bro. W. de Clarke the other day  
regarding the Emperor of Russia & the  
Masonic Order of St. John the Temple,  
but have not yet heard his reply,  
if, however, I hear anything confirmative

of the statement that the Duke held  
any ratification of appointment from that  
Potentate, I will let you know. If there  
is anything at all in it, Clarke is sure  
to know about it.

No doubt what you say in regard to the  
Cross Grades is correct. It would in  
instance be out of place to offer a Duke,  
Earl, or Baron the grade of a simple  
Chevalier, and in the case of an order in  
the position of the "Ordre de Constantin" (the  
name by which the order is known in  
common parlance) it is doubly necessary  
to observe caution & confirm the grades  
accordingly. But should it ever suppose  
the "Medjidie" as the Prince, no doubt,  
family says it will, the Grade <sup>of Grand Cross</sup> confirm  
his own rank & needs not the adventitious  
aid of title. The very fact of a Grand  
Cross being granted is equivalent to a title,  
- would by many no doubt be more esteemed, -  
and the conventional "Sie", to which you  
allude, would I take it degrade rather than



advance the Grand Cross in the estimation  
of sensible people. Now (if I remember  
rightly) enjoys a salary of about £2000 a year.  
No one knows what he has done either to  
deserve the title or the salary, but if I  
was in the enjoyment of £2000 per annum  
derived from a profession, I should consider  
the offer of such a title an insult, especially  
if I had to kneel on the Saturday with  
a rascally joiner - in quest a rogue  
as was nailed wood together. Were I a  
Grand Cross of the late venetian Emperor of  
Constantinople, I should consider it an  
insult were my own government to offer me  
simple knighthood. The Medjidie is  
divided into 7 classes - The 3<sup>rd</sup> just confer  
a pension - 1<sup>st</sup> Class 1000 per An. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Class £500 - This ranking with the British  
degree of Baronet - of which Hyde Clarke  
is a member.

I saw Prince Q. on Friday, but only for  
a few minutes, as I was very much engaged,  
He had just returned from London where

he had met his Sister, and told me that his father was coming to England for about a month in January next; and I rather understood from a few hasty words, that the old gentleman had asked his Son to leave matters till then, but no doubt I shall hear something more, when I have time for a longer conversation.

I thank Prince Demetrius however to be a thorough gentleman, and he does not forget that it was a "Grand Cross" that he promised me for both of us, although I should never have asked for anything for myself. He seemed struck with a suggestion of mine that he should create simple Elevations, & advance them to Comrades, Grand Cross. but I was not then aware that he was proposing to present the Jewels (which cost about £15) to make his Charge still less.

You have splendid weather for Camping & I trust you an engaging the Wembleton Meeting.

Fraternally Yours  
John Barker Jr