

Captain Macomber beg to present his compliments to Mr Cotton, and regrets to learn that what he thinks that he ought not to have quoted Messrs Barkham and Walker's communications to him in his Book, without first obtaining their own permission, or that of their friends in W. D. Land - Ayt, under all the circumstances, he feels perfectly justified himself -

The communications in question were made to him for the express purpose of being employed in conveying Captain M.'s views of the question - For this end they were furnished him mostly in Duplicate, but one even in triplicate.

that Captain M. might both send originals home,  
and return originals in his own hands - They  
were thus perfectly known by Messrs B. and M.  
themselves to be sent home with the official Papers,  
as Supplementary and corroborative documents; - and  
moreover, they have been ever printed them, with  
the others, by order of both Houses of Parliament -  
so that even if there had been any original  
doubt, or delinquency, about the matter, it was thus  
removed -

The truth is, however, that Messrs B. and M.  
~~themselves~~ never seemed to entertain themselves any of  
the scruples suggested by Mr Cotton - They did not  
regard the question of Prison Discipline as a Political  
one, thought it undoubtedly has one Political aspect, but  
altogether as a Moral, Religious, and Scientific one; - and

the interest which they accordingly take in it  
in ~~them~~ they certainly appear to Captain M. to  
be born out by examples in the Society of Friends  
in all ages - Penn. for example, defended the  
rights of the North American Indians, before he  
set the example of practically respecting them: -  
and Clarkson and William Allen were scrupled  
to show themselves even ultra Slave-Abolitionists -  
And the question of Corvée Management is pressing  
like this last, with not less, but even greater  
interest, - inasmuch as it bears on the treatment  
of some intelligent and employed individuals -  
Every moral question has, in truth, a Political,  
or, in other words, practical aspect, - as, on the  
other hand, every Political question has a moral  
one: - so that the difference between them is rather  
in the way in which they are discussed, than

essentially in themselves - On the present occasion  
Captain M.'s reasoning is almost throughout  
moral; and when otherwise, is directed chiefly  
to show that the well understood Temporal interests  
of the Sellers are in harmony, not in conflict,  
with the same which he also wants to be shown  
of the Temporal and Eternal interests of the poor  
Sons of Man - And surely there is nothing in this  
which ought to taint his other Moral reasoning,  
- or from which good men, whether Friends or Strangers,  
should desire to hold back, - or which they should  
scruple to discuss, as being Political - If otherwise,  
what possible question, either in National Morals or  
Institutions, may not equally be so shown? -

Captain M. answers Mr Cotton's Note at  
this length because he would be very sorry if

his esteemed friends, or their friends, thought,  
or at least continued to think, that he had made  
an unexcused use of their communications  
to him - But this, on a full re-consideration  
of all circumstances, he is now persuaded that  
they will not -

New Town }  
17<sup>th</sup> Dec }  
17<sup>th</sup> Dec }

7. Cotton Bay  
care of Mr Mather  
Liverpool Street

Pat. Fr. P. P. P. P. P.  
17/12/1838