

Whitehall, November 4.

His Majesty having been pleased to order a Board of General Officers, consisting of one Field Marshal and four Lieutenants General, to examine into the Conduct of Lieutenant General Sir John Cope, and Colonel Lascelles, from the breaking out of the Rebellion in North Britain, till the Action was over at Preston near Seaton; and likewise into the Conduct of Brigadier General Fowke, from the Time he took the Command of the two Regiments of Dragoons, then in Edinburgh, till the said Action was over; the said Board, after having examined upwards of forty Witnesses, made the following Report to his Majesty:

“ THE several Examinations being
“ finished, all Parties attending
“ were dismissed; Whereupon we the said
“ Field Marshal, and other General Of-
“ ficers before named, having duly weigh-
“ ed and considered the several Matters
“ laid before us, upon our Examination
“ into the Conduct, Behaviour and Pro-
“ ceedings of Lieutenant General Sir John
“ Cope, Colonel Peregrine Lascelles, and
“ Brigadier General Thomas Fowke,
“ contained in the foregoing State there-
“ of, do, in further Obedience to your
“ Majesty’s said Warrant, most humbly
“ report, That having made all the En-
“ quiry we could after proper Persons,
“ who were able to give us any Informa-
“ tion relating to the Matters aforesaid,
“ and having examined all such as could
“ be brought before us, (there being sever-
“ al others whose Duty on your Maje-
“ sty’s Service in Scotland would not ad-
“ mit of their leaving it to come before
“ us,) It doth appear to us, and we are
“ unanimously of Opinion,

“ That Sir John Cope made all the
“ proper and necessary Preparations for
“ the Support of the Troops, with as
“ much Dispatch as he was able, both at
“ Edinburgh and Stirling.

“ That he also made the proper Ap-
“ plications to the Chiefs of the Clans,
“ that were reputed to be well-affected
“ to your Majesty and Government, for
“ them to join your Majesty’s Troops.

“ That he used all possible Diligence
“ and Expedition before, and on his
“ March to Dalwhinney, considering the
“ Difficulties and Disappointments he met
“ with.

“ That his attacking the Rebels on the
“ Corryarrick, with any Prospect of Suc-
“ cess, was impracticable.

“ That his March to Inverness is
“ justified by the unanimous Opinion
“ of the Council of War, and the repeat-
“ ed Assurances of being joined on the
“ March, and at Inverness, by the Clans
“ that were reputed to be well-affected
“ to your Majesty and Government; of
“ which he afterwards found himself dis-
“ appointed, except by 200 Menro’s,
“ who marched with him from Inver-
“ ness to Aberdeen.

“ That his going to Aberdeen, and
“ then by Sea to Dunbar, was the only
“ proper Measure he had left to take

“ That Sir John Cope’s Disposition of
“ his Body of Troops on the Field of
“ Action was judicious, and the Ground
“ on which they were engaged (according
“ to the Plan and Description of many
“ Officers who were present) appears to
“ have been well chosen.

“ That he did his Duty as an Officer,
“ both before, at, and after the Action;
“ and his personal Behaviour was with-
“ out Reproach; and that the Misfor-
“ tune on the Day of Action was owing
“ to the shameful Behaviour of the pri-
“ vate Men, and not to any Miscon-
“ duct or Misbehaviour of Sir John
“ Cope, or any of the Officers under his
“ Command.

“ As to Colonel Peregrine Lascelles,
“ it does not appear to us, that any
“ Misconduct or Misbehaviour can be
“ laid to his Charge; he having plainly
“ proved, that he was at his Post both
“ before and at the Action.

“ As to Brigadier General Thomas
“ Fowke, we are of Opinion, that his
“ March from Coltbridge to Dunbar
“ was right; and the Offers he made
“ twice to the Lord Provost of Edinburgh
“ to march into the City with the Dra-
“ goons for its Defence, (though refused)
“ were commendable; and that his per-
“ sonal