

Bank House

June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Dear Sir,

My friend Sir Herbert Maxwell has got a friend of yours to bore you about some literary difficulties of mine. I have been writing books about Raiders and other bad characters, and now I have to write about heavy cavalry, or at least to bring them in in a new story of the Covenanting time in Scotland. I have a fight on horseback to start with and I don't want to make Gordon of Lochinvar and Peter Inglis of the Dragoons make arrant fools of themselves. When I have that Chapter done, would you kindly read it over and tell me if there is anything particularly asinine in it.

Futhermore is there any way of finding out what was the accoutrement and arms of the Greys about 1680? They would wear long cavalry swords with basket hilts I suppose, and 'buff coats' are mentioned by chroniclers, but one can rarely rely on these details.

Sir Herbert thinks that ordinary dragoons had only carbines or firelocks; but 'heavy swords' are so persistently mentioned in all contemporary records that I cannot help thinking he must be mistaken.

Apologising for troubling you

I am, Dear Sir,

Faithfully yours

SRC