

Extract of my letter of the 28th October 1855, to
Thomas Falconer, Esquire, Advocate, Putney,
Putney-Hill, London.

D. S. I forgot to mention to you a fact which
places me and my friend, Mr. Jacques Viger, in a
rather delicate position. I have some time ago
received from Ben. Moreau Bishop, who is now
in Europe, a communication stating that His
Holiness, the Pope, to whom I had the honor to be
presented when at Rome, in December 1853,
had conferred upon me the order of Chevalier
Commandeur de l'Ordre de S. Sulpice. The
Order of S. Grégoire le Grand is conferred upon
Mr. Viger and Mr. Wilson. The Diplôme or Patent
is not yet received, but I have reason to believe
it will shortly reach Montreal. If I had been
consulted beforehand, I would have respect-
fully declined the honor. I have already
enough of my Baronetcy, if not too much
of it. But, in the circumstances, I apprehend,
it is too late to refuse. You will find, in the
London Gazette of the 11th May last, certain
regulations made by the Queen, respecting foreign
orders, and substituted for those then in force.
Some pretend that they apply only to Persons
in the Military Service, and not to Civilians;
if so, my case falls under the old regulations,
of which I am totally ignorant. But whether
so or not, it is evident that, in either case,
to be regularly or legally authorized to wear the
Insignia of a Foreign Order, Her Majesty's
permission must be previously obtained.

It is not likely I will ever apply for it. But in
case I would be disposed to do so, as is my Friend
Mr. Viger, if the thing can properly be done, I would
like to have your Friendly advice on the subject.
N^o. 3 of the Regulations of the 11th of May could not
be performed by the Government of Rome, for the
reasons you know. But your laws which pre-
vent any communication between your Home
Government and that of Rome, are not the laws
of my Country. Here, the exercise of my Religion
being authorized and guaranteed by the Capitulation,
the Treaty of 1763, the Quebec Act &c, my Religion
is here established by law. It seems to me, that the
natural consequence of such a state of things is that,
with regard to the Government of Rome, I am
entitled to be considered, by my Government,
as standing in the same relations as you and I, or
any other British Subject, stand with regard to the
Government of France, or any other foreign
Gov^t. Suppose, for a moment, that the Emperor
of the French, or Austria, or, if you will, the Prince
of Monaco, or Queen Pomare, were tomorrow
to communicate to Her Majesty's Secretary of State
his intention to confer upon me the Insignia of an
Order, as referred to in N^o. 3 of the Regulations, and
that thereupon H. M. would be graciously pleased
to grant Her permission, treating me as favorably
as She would any other British Subject, I humbly
think I ought to receive the same favorable consi-
deration with regard to an Order conferred upon me
by the Sovereign Pontiff, towards whose Government
I, in my peculiar position guaranteed, as above-
stated, stand in the same relation as I do towards
any

any of the other foreign Governments I have just mentioned. Otherwise, I would not be allowed to enjoy the pluritude of the advantages of the laws under which I have become a British Subject. If, therefore, in the present case, the application were to be met with a "no", while it would be met with a "yes", if the order were preferred by any other foreign Government, I could not but feel that I would be made to suffer from the application of laws which do not concern me, and that the laws guaranteed to me are ignored, or the benefit of them denied to me, whether the reasons of the refusal were assigned or not. I would have, I think, just cause to complain. It would be quite different, if, in the hypothetical case above alluded to, the application were to be met with a refusal, whether the order was preferred by the Sovereign of France or the Sovereign of Rome. Then I would not feel that the refusal is to be ascribed to a state of things from which I ought not to suffer; I would have to attribute it to other considerations.

Some time ago, Mr. Viger mentioned the subject to the Governor who said that he would with pleasure transmit his application to the Home Government, and added, I think, that he thought there would be no difficulty. I am not so sure on the matter. I would like very much to have your friendly advice as to the possibility of any such application being made with success, and how it should be made.

28 October 1855

Extrait of my letter
to Mr Falconer, Esq
London

on Foreign Orders