

Rushmore,

Salisbury.

Dec. 9th, 1891.

2017

Dear Sir,

I find there is a good deal of ill-feeling in this neighbourhood about the dismissal of Bennett and the suggested appointment of Whitmarsh in his place. A memorial has been got up in favour of Bennett, which has been signed by some people and taken to Sir Thomas Grove. So far as I can ascertain, the feeling arises more from the proposed appointment of Whitmarsh than from a wish to support Bennett. Whitmarsh is said to be more unfit than Bennett. I know nothing about him, except that he was under-keeper here and was dismissed for improper conduct, though I don't think that would be enough to exclude him if he were otherwise fit. But I understand that he cannot read or write. I doubt whether he would be likely to stop long.

There can be no doubt whatever of Bennett's unfitness for the post. I think there is an ill-feeling against Mr. Waterfall in the matter, and Whitmarsh is his servant.

Of course I have a thousand times more concern in this Post Office than all the others put together. The value of my letters which pass through the Post Office is very considerable, and I have to exercise considerable vigilance.

I do not feel inclined to recommend anyone, as if any thing goes wrong with the man, it will be said that it is my fault for recommending him.

It appears to me that it is a case, in which the appointment of a steady old soldier of good character would be desirable. The Postmaster-General has expressed his intention of doing this, and I think it is a case in which the principle might be applied.

It is not Sir Thomas Grove's Post Office, and I don't think he wishes to have anything to do with it.

Yours truly,

*A Pitt Rivers*

Mr. F. Mackland,

Postmaster,

Salisbury.