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Letter, Elliot C. Cowden to Salmon P. Chase, September 2, 1862

Elliot C. Cowden

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ELLIOT C. COWDIN & Co.
327, Broadway,
NEW YORK.
7, Rue du Faubourg Poissonnière,
PARIS.

New York Sept 2 1862

Hon. S. P. Chase

Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir

I have an unpleasant but imperative duty to perform. Mr. John Mack, who has just been appointed U.S. Collector for the 4th District of this City is universally regarded as utterly incompetent and unworthy of the office; so much so, that it is a matter of surprise and regret among those who know him best.

My appreciation of your own high character and patriotism leads me to infer that Mr. Mack has been imposed upon you from purely selfish and personal motives. Having never had anything to do with Mr. Mack personally, I have no interest in opposing him, and have no one to propose in his place. My opposition is based solely upon public grounds, feeling that no man who is not well known and highly esteemed in private for probity and intelligence, should be entrusted with so responsible a position.

Unfortunately for the Government Mr. Mack is altogether unknown to the Citizens of New York generally, and doubtless his true character has thus been overlooked. But as an evidence of his standing with those who do know him, I will cite one instance as the united voice of many others.

Mr. Kingsley (of the highly respectable importing

house of Messrs Linder & Kingsley) of this City, who has known Mr. Mack long and had constant business relations with him, has declared in my presence, that his appointment was "an outrage upon the tax-payers of New York a disgrace to the administration, and especially damaging to the Treasury Department."

Unpleasant and thankless as it is, I have deemed it my duty to call your attention to this matter, and respectfully request further investigation.

With sentiments of high regard, I am, dear Sir

Very respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

P.S.

signed

Wm. C. Cowdin.

Since writing the above I learn that Messrs Geo. Pearce & Co. of this City, an old and highly influential house, are particularly ^{impressed} at the appointment of Mr. Mack, and are ~~at~~ anxious to give their testimony in regard to him, though I have had no communication with them on the subject. The evidence of such high minded men is due to yourself and the government.