**Name**: Reverend Charles Wickstead Ethelstone

**Occupation**: Fellow of Collegiate Church and Magistrate

**Home**: Manchester

**Date**: April 8, 1822

**Source**: Redford v Birley, 436-438

**Summary**: Read the riot act out of the window as was impractical to do so in front of the house. Felt that sending in the military was ‘absolutely necessary.’

**Done by**: RM

*The Rev. Charles Wickstead Ethelston sworn: examined by Mr Littledale*.

Q. I have only two or three questions to ask you. You are Fellow of the Collegiate Church of Manchester, and a Magistrate for this county?

A. I am.

Q. Were you one of the Magistrates who were at Mr. Buxton's house of the 16th. August 1819?

A. I was.

Q. Did you see different parties of men come upon the ground?

A. I did.

*Mr. Littledale*.—It is only to know what he saw, before reading the riot act.

Q. Did you see Mr. Hunt and his party come upon the ground?

A. Very plainly; very distinctly.

Q. Did the assembly appear to you to be tumultuous; or did it appear to you to be a proper measure to read the proclamation in the riot act?

A. It appeared to me to be highly proper to read it, certainly.

Q. Did you read it?

A. I did read, it; and I have luckily found the very identical card, from which I read it, which is in my possession. I can swear to it. It is similar to the one lately produced by Mr. Hay.

Q. Where was you when you read it?

A. I was in the house of Mr. Buxton, and I read it out of a window—the first floor.

Q. Did you read it out of a window?

A. I did. I exerted myself in every manner possible.

Q. You read it out of a window. Were you, going to read it out of the area in front of the house?

A. I made several attempts to read it in the area, but I found it impracticable, of no use whatever; I could not possibly be heard. It may be proper to state that I came on horseback, that I had my

servant with me, and he took the horses, by my orders, round the house where we were. I came down for the purpose of finding my horse. I looked for my servant, but I could find him no where, otherwise it was my intention ---

*Mr. Evans*.—I object to this gentleman telling his intention.

*Witness*.—I was only going to shew why I did not read it in the area.

*Mr. Serjeant Hullock*.— Our time is wasted by these frivolous objections.

*Witness*. — It was my intention to have mounted my horse, for the purpose of elevation.

Mr. Justice Holroyd.—You intended to go out and read it?

A. On finding that impracticable, I read it out of the window.

Q. I believe Col. Silvester was one of the Magistrates who attended the meeting?

A. He was.

Q. Do you know whether he made any endeavour; to read the riot act?

A. After I had read the riot act out of the window, he said to me ---

Q. We cannot have the conversation, I ask only whether you know he had made the endeavour?

A. 1 was going to state that he said to me ---

Q. He went down and made the attempt; I understand you did not see him yourself?

A. I did not.

Q. Did you see Col. Silvester make any attempt to read the riot act?

A. I did not.

Q. Did he leave the room for the purpose?

A. He left the room for the purpose of reading it.

Q. Did you concur in the propriety of calling in the military in aid of the civil power?

A. Most certainly.

Q. Did it appear to you to be necessary?

A. Absolutely necessary.