

Lord Hood
to Prince William
May 21 - 1784

Sir

Dover Street May 21. 1784

The first leisure I have, I take up my pen, to return my humble thanks to your Royal Highness, for the honor and pleasure of the letters you have had the goodness to write me, since I became engaged in the tedious contest of Westminster - The poll finally closed on Monday at 3 o'clock, and I did flatter myself, I should have been able, to have written to your Royal Highness by Tuesday's post, but what with the Jollity of the evening, and the necessary attention to the business of the scrutiny, it was wholly out of my power.

Mr. Fox, by lodgers, and hired weavers &c, which could not be prevented by the High Bailiff, got a head of Sir Cecil Wray, who has demanded a scrutiny and I can assure your Royal Highness, that if it is fairly & fully gone into, Mr. Fox has no sort of chance to be the representative for Westminster.

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The High Bailiff, was perfectly calm, firm & steady, and not to be diverted from the rule of right, by the threats which were made of, of pains, penalties and perogate. In my poor opinion, he has shewn strict impartiality by making no return of members, but a special one, of facts, leaving the House of Commons to determine whether the business shall be there decided, or left in the hands of the Bailiff, for a scrutiny.

It seems my protesting against being chaired, was a great mortification, and disappointment to Mr. Fox, and his adherents; my reason for for it, was simply this; a conviction in my own mind, that Sir Cecil Wray was as much the legal representative of the City of Westminster, as I am, and therefore I could not think of taking to myself, a compliment from our mutual friends at large, which my colleague was equally entitled to. When Mr. Fox left the Vestry room, the Chair followed him, which he beseeched might be ordered away, saying it was too ridiculous to go into it. - but Mr. Sheridan

O'Brien

Obrien &c. getting round him, and urging the necessity of it, in order to keep up the spirits of their party, they prevailed, but I am told the procession was very solemn and funeral like, not a gleam of joy being light up in the countenance of any one.

The subject of your Royal Highnesses Letter by the last quarterly messenger, is really & truly a most serious one and gives me infinite concern, from the apprehension I have, that it cannot possibly receive the Kings consent, it is on this account, my feelings are very pungent, but as you say Sir, that General Bunde coincides with your wishes of returning to England in the Fall from having maturely weighed & considered all circumstances, I submit it, to your Royal Highnesses judgement and good sense, whether the proposal ought not to be first communicated from your side the water, to the King, and I trust your Royal Highness will see the very great impropriety, and indeed the improbability of my interference, unless His Majesty should

should be graciously pleased to condescend to speak to me upon the subject; in that case, I trust your Royal Highness will give me full credit, when I say, that I shall be happy upon all occasions to promote your wishes, as far as I am able, more especially in any case, which fully meets Genl. Mordaunt's Ideas; but I flatter myself Sir, you will forgive me again repeating, that an attempt to deviation from a plan laid down by His Majesty, is a very serious business, and requires the most cool & mature consideration; and I shall be happy beyond the reach of words to express, in hearing that your Royal Highness has abandoned every thought, of leaving Hanover, until the Kings spontaneous commands shall reach you, for that purpose. You must be well aware Sir, how deeply the Kings attention must be taken up, with the business of the state, circumstanced as things are at present and I beg & entreat, that nothing may arise from your Royal Highness, to give disturbance in the smallest degree

to

to His Majesty's mind

Steadiness is a great, and laudable characteristic in a Prince, and whenever a regular system is adopted and laid down, for his education, many & even great inconveniences, should be cheerfully submitted to, rather than depart from it; The first will shew resignation & firmness, which must set him high in the good opinion of the world, the latter, a versatility and fickleness of mind, which cannot fail of producing a contrary effect. I know Sir you have a mind open to conviction, and from thence flatter myself, you will think it, highly necessary & right not to suffer anyone to say another word about your return to England, but wait with patience the arrival of the day, when His Majesty shall judge it expedient and proper.

I have the honor to be
with every sentiment of respect & attachment

Sir Your Royal Highnesses
most faithful
affectionate, and devoted servant

Arby