Copies of the Letters received and Drafts of the Answers relative to an Establishment for His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales commencing the 15th June 1783.

See also other letters in this box in their chronological order.

No. 1

Copy.

From the Duke of Portland. Downing Street June 15th 1783

The Duke of Portland having had the honour of humbly representing to Your Majesty on Friday last, that the reason of his not being prepared to submit to Your Majesty's consideration drafts of Messages similar to those which it has been usual to send to the Two Houses of Parliament in all cases which affect the Interests of the Royal Family, consisted in the variety of Modes which had occurred for making a provision for the Establishment of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, has now the honour of transmitting them to Your Majesty in obedience to Your Royal Commands. —

In the two Messages to the House of Commons, Your Majesty will observe a difference, the cause of which the Duke of Portland begs leave with all humility to state to Your Majesty, on the consideration of which, he presumes to hope for the signification of Your Majesty's pleasure concerning the one or the other being prepared for Your Royal Signature. —

Upon a very attentive consideration of the Subject, it was conceived that it should be submitted to Your Majesty, that Parliament should enable Your Majesty to allow Fifty thousand pounds, part of the One Hundred thousand

Pounds

Pounds, which it is most humbly presumed may be requisite for the Prince of Wales's Establishment, by granting to Your Majesty out of the Sinking Fund an annual Sum to that amount untill the Exchequer Bills which have been issued for the discharge of the Civil List Debt are wholly payed off, when the disposal of that Sum would revert to Your Majesty, & that the remaining Sum of Forty thousand Pounds which together with the Revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall will make in the Whole the Sum of One Hundred thousand Pounds should be advanced to Your Majesty out of the Aggregate Fund, unless it should be Your Majesty's pleasure to order this Sum to be payed to His Royal Highness out of the present Civil List Revenues - But as it is obvious from the numerous Royal Family with which Providence has blessed Your Majesty, that it will be impossible for Your Majesty to provide a suitable maintenance for the Younger Princes and Princesses out of Your present Revenues, the propriety of Alluding to that happy circumstance is most dutifully submit=
=ted to Your Majesty in case Your Majesty should judge it expe=
=dient to call upon Your Parliament for the whole of their assis=
=tance on the present important occasion. —

Your Majesty may possibly be the rather induced to consider this latter Mode not wholly unworthy of Your attention by Your Majesty's being informed of a communication which has been made to the Duke of Portland by the Prince of

Wales's order of which His Royal Highness, who has expressed in the strongest terms his determination to conceal nothing from Your Majesty has directed him to lay before Your Majesty. — It appears upon a very strict scrutiny into the state of the Prince of Wales's expenditure, that there remain due to Tradesmen various Sums amounting in the whole to somewhat more than Twenty nine thousand Pounds for the discharge of which there is no resource but in the great liberality of Your Majesty who may direct them to be included in the Arrear of Debt which Parliament was apprized of at the Opening of this Session by Your Majesty's most gracious Speech from the Throne, from which it is most reasonably to be expected that the Civil List should be exonerated, or who may order it to be payed out of such part of Your Revenues as Your Majesty has heretofore graciously condescended to appropriate to the use and Maintenance of His Royal Highness. — The Duke of Portland thinks he ought not to close this Subject without laying before Your Majesty the assurances of His Royal Highness that he is not more or otherwise indebted than as the Duke of Portland has had the honour of representing to Your Majesty.

The Duke of Portland most humbly ventures to hope that His Majesty's goodness will be so far extended to him as to forgive his having presumed to offer his poor thoughts

to

to Your Majesty upon a Subject which he most anxiously solicits Your Majesty to believe he most devoutly wished never to have had occasion to mention to Your Majesty or to have been otherwise employed upon but as the Instru=ment of carrying Your Majesty's gracious Intentions into Effect. —

Downing Street
Sunday 15th June 1803.

A Sketch of an humble Address from the House of Lords is also here-with most humbly submitted. —

AA Copy of the Draft of the Answer to the aforegoing. (No. 2)

16360

Windsor June 16th 1783. m 59 pt 10 a.m

It is impossible for me to find words expressive enough of my utter indignation and astonishment at the Letter I have just received from the D. of Portland – These words are certainly strong and would be inexcusable if not authorized by the following facts – When the D. of Portland desired I would turn my thoughts to fixing on a Sum for the Seperate Establishment of the P. of Wales when he arrives at the Age of Twenty One Years I desired He would with the rest of the Efficient Ministers, consider what proposal should be made to me on that Subject – about a fortnight since He acquainted me that it was their unanimous opinion that a Sum of One Hundred Thousand pounds including the Revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall should be obtained from Parliament – I instantly shewd my surprize at so lavish an idea and the more so when my Subjects are so much loaded with Taxes, & said I thought Fifty thousand pounds in addition to the Revenue of Cornwall which would nearly exceed Twenty Seven Thousand per annum of what the late King thought sufficient for me in a similar situation, was all that could with any reason be granted, and consequently desired that Duke to acquaint the Ministers with my opinion and of my wish that they should reconsider this business – On the 6th of this month the Duke of Portland told me they continued to think it right

right to propose that Sum to Parliament, from whom they meant the whole Sum should come; that the reason of putting it so high arose from a knowledge that the Prince of Wales has Debts which must be paid out of His Annual Income, besides the Expence of fitting himself out and that they meant to acquaint Him of this and that no addition could be made whenever He married; I did not deny that I still thought the Sum too large though I acknowledged if no encrease was made whenever He married that I would make no further Objection.

I therefore was surprized on the 13th to find the Duke of Portland had not the Drafts of the Messages, but that they would soon be sent to Me; from which time I have been in expectation of them. but this suspence is now fully explained for the whole proposition is changed; I am to be saddled with the whole Odium of the Measure, and the expence at the same time ultimately to fall entirely on me, who am not, from my numerous Progeny in a situation to bear it, though I had been assured no part was to be paid by me; and in addition. I am pressed to take Twenty Nine Thousand pounds of Debt on my self which I have not incurred that the Public may blame Me; And the Prince of Wales with so unreasonable an income not to be subject to this Sum which can alone have arisen from shameful extravagance. —

I

I therefore must declare that unless the proposal is brought back to the Mode in which the D. of Portland first stated it to Me and that all Expences are thrown on the P. of Wales, I can not proceed in this business and shall think my self obliged to let the Public know the cause of the delay & my opinion of the whole transaction. —

I can not conclude without saying that when the D. of Portland came into Office I had at least hoped he would have thought himself obliged to have my interest & that of the Public at heart & not have neglected both to gratify the passions of an ill advised young Man.

No. 3) AA

Copy

Duke of Portland. Downing Street June 16th 1783 $\frac{m}{30}$ p. 5. P.M.

The Duke of Portland should feel himself too much oppressed by the signification of Your Majesty's displeasure, if he could not acquit his own conscience of every idea of having intentionally incurred it. He therefore with the utmost humility implores Your Majesty to be graciously pleased to reconsider the Propositions which he had the honour of submitting to Your Majesty; not with the view to the Adoption of Either of them, but in the humble hope of its being possible that Your Majesty may be so indulgent as to allow that such Ideas might not have appeared to him totally inconsistent

with

with the Plan first proposed to Your Majesty's consideration. But as Your Majesty seems to prefer a direct application to Parliament for such a Sum as together with the Revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall will amount to one Hundred Thousand Pounds Pr. Annum, it only remains for Your Majesty's Servants to give effect to that Preference and the Duke of Portland most readily recurs to It, as the Mode distinguished by Your Majesty's approbation. Your Majesty will forgive the Duke of Portland's presuming to take the liberty of representing to Your Majesty that the proposition respecting the Prince of Wales's debt, rested entirely upon the Idea of the Civil List's being exonerated from the Allowance Your Majesty has heretofore made to His Royal Highness or by Parliament taking the payment of it upon themselves but in this he concludes himself mistaken and is ready to acknowledge his error; at the same time he can not but request Your Majesty's permission to disavow every idea of escaping from the odium which any measure may be subject to, which he may feel it his duty to recommend to Your Majesty - It has always been his opinion that such blame should fall entirely upon those who have the honour of being advised with by Your Majesty, and from those sentiments Your Majesty will never find him deviate in the least degree. He also must beg leave to declare that however he may have been mistaken in the Propositions he had the honour of laying before Your Majesty for Your Majesty's choice of the Mode in which Your Liberality

was to be extended to the Prince of Wales, and not as a Substitute for the Plan first submitted to Your Majesty; He never had any other Motive but his regard to Your Majesty's Honour and the Interest of Your People which he knows it so essential to attend to entitle himself to any share of Your Majesty's approbation.

The Duke of Portland takes the liberty of offering to Your Majesty's consideration the Messages he had the honour of transmitting to Your Majesty this Morning and of again availing himself of the opportunity of repeating his declaration that it never was his intention or that of Your Majesty's Servants to attempt to influence Your Majesty to deviate from the Plan originally proposed, & that what was suggested to Your Majesty was implicitly submitted to Your Majesty's Option which was to be considered by them as the Rule of their Conduct. —

Downing Street
Monday 16th June 1783
half past five P. M. —

AA

No. 4

Copy of the Draft of the Answer to the aforegoing

Windsor June 16th 1803
22 P.t 10 P. M.

The Letter I have this instant received from the D. of Portland does not in the least alter my opinion with regard to the one I have received this morning and to which I wrote the feelings of my Heart: if the P.e of Wales's Establishment is to fall on Me, it is a Weight I am unable to bear, if on the Public I cannot in Conscience give my acquiescence to what I deem a shameful squandering of Public Money, besides an encouragement of extravagence and likely to prevent the P. of Wales at a proper time wishing to Marry as it would be lessening his Expenditure. — To shew that my Ideas do not arise from any other Motive than Duty towards the Public, I make the Proposal on the adjoining Sheet. —

No. 5

AA

Copy of the Draft of a Proposal for the P. of Wales's Establishment

Windsor June 16: 1803

Not thinking it advisable to apply to Parliament for an Establishment for the Prince of Wales till He chuses to Marry, My Subjects being so much loaded with Taxes; I have examined the Civil List and having put every expence upon the lowest possible Establishment, only fifty thousand Pounds

remain which I am willing to allow the P. of Wales in addition to the Revenue of the Duchy of Cornwal, which will make his Income Twenty Seven thousand Pounds more than the late King thought expedient to grant me in a similar situation; but then I do not mean any encrease should be made of his Attendants but those of an inferior kind, which the having a seperate House and Table will require; and if he will promise to avoid running again in Debt I will apply to Parliament for a Sum to pay his present ones and for furnishing his House and other Expenses, which articles together shall amount to fifty thousand pounds —

Therefore all that is required is a Message to Both Houses of Parliament for a Sum to pay the Debts of the P. of Wales & to fit him out on the present occasion; the Sum to be moved for will be fifty thousand pounds - thus he will be comfortably, but not extravagantly settled. —

AA

(No. 6

Copy of the Draft of a Letter to Lord North.

Windsor June 16th 1783 $\frac{\text{No}}{35}$ p. 11 et. seq.

Lord North the treatment I have received from the D. of Portland if the other Ministers are not equally privy to the transactions concerning the Establishment of the P. of Wales is such that I have thought it necessary to send an immediate answer to the letter I have received from the D. of Portland, of which the inclosed is a copy. I can scarcely suppose You and Lord Stormont can have known the Whole and acquiesced in it. I therefore send this for the perusal of both & that You may exculpate Yourselves; though it may not be necessary to assure You of the truth of every Syllable of my letter, yet as it is so strong it may not be wrong to add that I could take an Oath with regard to every circumstance. —

AA Copy. Lord North's Answer. Whitehall. (No. 7

June 16th 1783

Lord North has had the honour of receiving His Majesty's Commands which he will immediately communicate to Lord Stormont. —

Whitehall. June 16th 1783. —

16364

(No. 8

AA Copy. Lord North. June 16th 1783. at night. —

Lord North has the honour of informing Your Majesty that Lord Stormont was at Wandsworth Hill when he sent Your Majesty's Letters to Him and did not arrive in Town till late in the Evening — Upon recollecting what had passed upon the Subject of the proposed Establishment for His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, they have set down to the best of their remembrance the exact state of the Fact; many reasons might occur after the Cabinet sufficient to induce the Duke of Portland to think it his duty to submit the alterations in question to Your Majesty's consideration.

Monday night June 16th 1783.

AA Copy. Lord North. June 16th 1783. at Night. (No. 9

Your Majesty having done Lord Stormont and Lord North the honour of communicating to them Your Majesty's Letter to the Duke of Portland and having been pleased to command them to acquaint Your Majesty whether they were informed of the alterations made in the first plan proposed for the Prince of Wales' Establishment, beg leave in obedience to these Your Majesty's commands to submit to Your Majesty that the said alterations were made since the last Meeting of the Cabinet and consequently without their knowledge; but they imagine that the Duke of Portland finding a difference of opinion among those he had conversed with

thought

thought it right to State the Matter to Your Majesty in all Its different views —

Monday Night June 16th 1783

AA

No. 10

Copy. of the Draft of a Letter to Lord North.

Windsor June 17th 1783 30m past 7 A.M.

I have just received L.d. North's letter stating what He and Lord Stormont remember concerning the transactions on the Proposal of a seperate Establishment for the P. of Wales; and it is so much less explicit than I should have expected from, to a degree, their joint production, that it convinces me they have not been thoroughly apprized of the Whole & rather than avow that, evade the question; for it is impossible they can seriously think that if Persons objected to the largeness of the provision, made it right to encrease it by paying His Debts. I have received a Second letter from the D. of Portland which certainly does not set his conduct in a more favourable light in my eyes, to which I have wrote an answer a copy of which I herewith enclose as well as of my proposal. This whole business shews who has the interest of the Public at heart and who has virtue enough to cast aside all private feelings where that interest is intended to be sacrificed; I desire all these papers may also be communicated

to Ld. Stormont; believe me no consideration can ever make me either forget or forgive what has past, and the Public shall know how well founded the principles of Oeconomy are in those who have so loudly preach'd it up, who have most shamefully on that supposed principle diminished the Peace Establishment yet where they think it will answer their own wicked purposes are ready to be most barefacedly lavish. —

(No. 11

AA

Copy. From the Duke of Portland. Downing Street June 17th 1783. 11 P.M

The Duke of Portland is extremely concerned to find by the commands he has had the honour of receiving from Your Majesty that Your Majesty's opinion remains unaltered by the Representation he humbly submitted yesterday to Your Majesty's Consideration. It is impossible for him to presume to trespass upon Your Majesty's Presence at this moment, and he has only most humbly to request Your Majesty's permission to have the honour of attending Your Majesty as soon as Your Majesty may think proper to order him —

Downing Street
Tuesday June 17th 1783
1 Clock P.M.

AA

No. 12

Copy. of the Draft of a Letter to the Duke of Portland

Windsor. June 17th. 1783. ½ 17 pt. 4. P.M.

I have this instant received a letter from the D. of Portland, but to my great surprize no answer on the proposal I sent him last night for such an Establishment as on the maturest reflection, I can think fit for the Prince of Wales on the present occasion, and he may depend on My not agreeing to one of farther Extent. I shall be in Town by half hour past twelve to morrow when I shall be ready to hear the Duke's ideas on the Mode which the circum=stances of the times makes me think fully adequate to the only one I can, with justice to my People, propose

Correspondence

To and from the Prince of Wales

From 1783 to 1786. —

See 16395 AA

No. 1

Copy of Draft of a Letter to Col. Hotham. Windsor June 21st 1783.

Colonel Hotham. The punctuality with which You have always performe every minutest part of Your Duty, during the time I have had the pleasure of personally knowing You, added to your discretion and the attachment You have ever shewn to the real good of my Children makes me pitch on You to acquaint the P. of Wales with what I should have done by word of mouth, had He not, when He came here to mention the affair of his seperate Establishment, changed his mind & from what I learnt from the Queen, begged Her to thank me, declining doing it in person, least it might draw on a conversation which might embarras Him - I am not surprized He avoided it, as his conscience, if not entirely put to sleep, as well as his knowledge of my sentiments must have made Him expect that on such an occasion I should have utter'd very home felt truths: Now that the business is fully in train, I desire You will acquaint Him that not thinking it advisable to apply to Parliament for any further Assistance than such as may Enable me to allow fifty thousand pounds pr. Annum which with the Revenue of Cornwal will make his income about twenty seven thousand more than the late King thought sufficient for Me in a similar situation; which will, I am fully perswaded enable Him, with proper attention, & Oeconomy to live handsomely, but not with the shameful Extravagance He has shewn till now, which appears the stronger by an intimation He has sent me through the D. of Portland that He has Debts to the amount of above twenty nine thousand pounds to which I might add what I gave Him on a former very improper business. He must therefore recollect that this is the last time his Debts can be paid and that therefore He must Live on the Sum allotted & that I do

expect an assurance through You from Him, of his Intentions to keep within bounds. — What I mean to apply to Parliament for his Debts & for fitting up his House, Stables & any other necessaries upon this occasion is a Sum of Sixty thousand pounds. — I mean to let Him have the use of the House my late Mother inhabited in Pallmall, but on condition that the premises be not damaged; particularly that the passage my Mother granted to the late D. of York, be not widened, and that He shall take all Repairs, Taxes, & the expences of keeping the Garden on Himself; He must also find Stables in Town for his Horses & Houses for his Carriages, I having no room for them; besides an interference of seperate Servants is very inconvenient.

As to a Country House, I have none for Him; besides it would draw on so many additional Expences, that I think it best avoided. His Apartments at Windsor shall always be kept ready to receive Him; Yet should He wish another, He must provide it Himself. But I here again repeat, He must, If He means not to lose the good opinion of this Nation, avoid Debts. — I do not mean to propose any addition to His Attendants except those of an inferior kind, which a seperate House & Table naturally require. — When ever He shall think it right to express to Me the Wish of Marrying, I shall look on my self authorised to apply to Parliament that his annual Income may be encreased to One Hundred thousand Pounds.

I can not quit this subject without just saying that a Plan must now be prepared under His Inspection for the Expences of his Housekeeping, Stables, Privy purse, keeping back a Sum for

Extraordinaries

Extraordinaries, which should be exactly kept to, or He will soon be obliged to retrench or do worse; Now is the hour to put the whole on a proper footing; As to Furnishing and Repairing the House, buying or hiring Stables, Estimates should be first made that the expence do not exceed the means of effecting them.

I cannot conclude without mentioning that I am convinced the P. of Wales on the smallest reflection, must feel that I have little reason to approve of any part of His conduct for the last three Years; That His neglect of every Religious Duty is notorious; His want of common civility to the Queen and Me, not less so; besides His total disobedience of every injunction I had given and which He in presence of His Brother and the Gentlemen then about Them Both declared Himself contented with. — I must hope He will now think it behoves Him to take up a fresh line of Conduct more worthy of His Station, that He may regain the good opinion of Men of Religion, Decency and Worth; and that a continuation of Levity may not shorten His days & make Him too late repent at not having followed this advice of an affectionate though distressed Parent. —

No. 2

Copy of His R. H. the Prince of Wales's Letter to Col.ᵉ Hotham

Dated Queen's H. 22ᵈ June 1803.

Dear Hotham

In the Letter that you yesterday shewed me from the King, there are many parts which give me extreme concern; That in particular where His Majesty is pleased to mention,

that I have been wanting both in Duty and common Attention to Him and the Queen. Nothing, I can assure You, was ever more distant from my thoughts. Indiscretions I may have been guilty of, but of none with a criminal intent. A real sense of my Duty to, added to a most affectionate Regard for their Majesties, with a sincere inclination to shew it upon all occasions, has and I hope ever will be the constant Rule of my Conduct. Upon these Principles I am persuaded that You will do me the justice to believe, I acted in my ready acquiescence to accept the present Proposals for my future Establishment, notwithstanding I had received assurances that His Majesty had graciously consented that an Application should be made to Parliament for a far more ample Allowance – However I may in this Instance feel my disappointment, I Desire that You will assure His Majesty for me, in the most Dutiful and Affectionate Manner, that as far as it lays in my power, my Intentions are, not to exceed my Income. – At all times Their Majesties shall find Me a dutiful and affectionate Son, & I trust that whatever unfortunate misunderstanding may have unhappily subsisted between us, it will hereafter be buried in oblivion.

I remain Dear Hotham

most sincerely Yours

(Signed) George P. –

Queens House 22d June 1783.

See 16397

Copy of Colonel Hotham's Letter to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales dated Windsor 22d. June 1783 — No. 3

AA

Sir,

I have the most sincere and heartfelt satisfaction in informing Your Royal Highness that His Majesty's Perusal of the Letter You did me the honour of delivering me this morning, was attended with every good effect I could expect. —

I have His Majesty's Commands to acquaint Your Royal Highness, that Your Reception on His Part, on Your coming to Windsor to morrow, shall be such as may leave Your Royal Highness no room to doubt of His paternal affection; and from a Principle of delicacy, not a single word shall be mentioned by His Majesty relative to any past unhappy Misunderstandings.

I have the honour to be with great respect
Your Royal Highness's most faithful
and most obedient Servant
G: Hotham. —

No. 3

No. 4

Copy. P. Wales. Brightelmstone August 24th 1784. Recd August 25th.

Sir.

It is with the utmost reluctance I now sit down to communicate any thing to Your Majesty, which may in the smallest degree tend to any thing like uneasiness either to Yourself, or to the Queen, whose mutual good opinions and approbation I should ever think the most flattering sanction to any measure I should judge fit to adopt. I therefore feel it my duty to inform Your Majesty of a resolution I have been induced to take, from the peculiar and very embarrassed situation of my Affairs; arising from the necessary Expences I incurred, during the course of the last Year. I mean the putting in full practice a System of Oeconomy by immediately going abroad & which nothing but my absenting my self from this Country for a certain time, can ever thoroughly effectuate. The unwillingness I naturally, & sincerely, feel to inconvenience Your Majesty, especially at this time upon my account, can be equalled only by that which You Yourself expressed to me some time since, at the Idea of attaining that object by laying any additional burden on the Country. I therefore beg leave to repeat that I think it incumbent upon me, to give Your Majesty the earliest information of an event which it is absolutely necessary for me to put in immediate practice. — I have the honour to subscribe my self with the most profound respect, Sir

Brightelmstone
August 24th
1784.

Your Majesty's
most dutiful & obedient Son & Subject
(Signed) George P. —

AA

No. 5

Copy. of Draft of the Answer to the P. of Wales. 27th Aug. 1804.

The Prince of Wales if not void of every degree of reflection, and of those feelings which a good heart must experience, need not be told the unpleasant sensations the Letter Lord Southampton delivered from Him on Wednesday has occasioned, in addition to what I constantly suffer from His reprehensible conduct, which has grown worse every Year and in a more glaring manner since His removal to Carlton House. — To be more explicit the Prince of Wales must remember, that after Voting in the House of Lords in a manner that He felt must be displeasing to Me; He came and voluntarily declared His resolution of not opposing any persons I might at any time judge right to Employ; that if I did not trust to His heart, He hoped I did not think Him such a fool, as not to know that His interest was inseperable with mine — He is certainly a Judge whether His behaviour has coincided with this declaration —

After assuring Me when His Establishment was settled, a large Sum allowed for furnishing the House I have given Him the use of, and for purchasing other Necessaries, and an equal Sum for paying off the Debts He had contracted; that He would be careful to avoid again getting into difficulties; I own I had hopes He was sincere, as on my going to Carlton House He proposed the only painting It, & putting handsome furniture where necessary; but in very few Weeks this was forgot, & large

additional Buildings erected, & least these should not waste enough money, the most expensive Fêtes given, and at this hour considerable additional are again begun; Yet the Prince of Wales chuses to term his difficulties as occasioned by necessary expences, when I am sensible that with the Income He receives of the large Sum granted Him at setting out last Year, might have afforded Him, every reasonable Elegance and enable Him to Live with Magnificence; but then Sense, not every frivolous & irregular passion, must have directed his Conduct. — If He has deranged his Affairs, He ought to take a Manly resolution to diminish His Expences, & thus establish a Sinking Fund by degrees to clear these Debts, which would in some measure palliate with the Publick for an Extravagance which every One but His flatterers have universally blamed — The Prince of Wales ought to know that every Step He takes is of consequence; that if He once loses the good opinion of this Nation, it is not to be regained.

I have found my self under the disagreable necessity of shewing the Prince of Wales's Letter to the Queen, Who is as much hurt as me, and coincides in the opinion that if His improper plan was put into execution, His character would be forever blasted in this Country and also in all Europe. — I therefore insist on His giving up a measure that would be a Public breach with Me — To save Him, has been my only reason for putting up with many unpleasant things; but if He is resolved to ruin His Character at least I will not bear any part of the blame, & my People shall know

know that this shameful flight is in defiance of my express Prohibition both as King and Father; But if this representation brings the Prince of Wales to a recollection and makes him take the honourable path I have proposed, when I see by an uniformity of Conduct, it is acted up to, and that a certain Sum is employed annually to pay off his incumbrances & fresh ones not incurred, I will see whether I can contribute towards getting it sooner effected; for which reason as yet except the Queen, I have not mentioned the strange Plan to any one but Lord Southampton. —

I am certain if the Prince of Wales will consult the different Gentlemen of his Establishment on their particular branches, that they can form a Plan, & that He like a rational Being will conform to it, He will find things much easier arranged than He may imagine; but if He acts otherwise He must remember these last words of a much distressed Parent, He will in every sense be ruined and lose the affection and protection of Him who as yet remains

His very affectionate Father

August 27th 1784.

Copy of the Prince of Wales's Letter. Carlton House
August 30th 1784. Recd. that day

Sir. —

I am more shocked than I can possibly express at the Contents of Your Majesty's Letter, as I am fearful that You have misunderstood both my Conduct & Intention with regard to any retrenchments that could be of material Service in point of effectually lessening the incumbrances alluded to by Your Majesty in Your Letter; I find that by staying in England, that Object is perfectly unattainable & that nothing but my going abroad can possibly put me in the situation I should wish.

Your Majesty must easily conceive how truly hurt I must feel at a publick breach with You, Sir, I therefore hope that as Your Majesty must be conscious that my view in going abroad is to relieve my self from embarrassing difficulties, not to incur the censure of acting with the smallest disrespect towards You, that You will for these reasons not be induced to bring this affair to so cruel or so painful an issue, as that of an open rupture; or think of placing me, in so injurious or so unjust a light, as that of being guilty of a shameful flight, while I have taken every possible and respectful means of previously acquainting Your Majesty with my intention — I therefore think it my duty to inform Your Majesty that I have an idea of residing for some time at Brunswick, which I hope will meet with Your Majesty's

approbation

approbation, as I see no fresh reasons for altering my resolution of travelling; a resolution formed upon the most mature deliberation and upon the thoroughest conviction of the necessity of its taking place — I have the honour of subscribing my self with all possible respect, Sir

Your Majesty's
most dutiful and obedient
Son & Subject
(signed) George. P.

Carlton House
August 30th 1784.

See Nos 16465–7. For covering letter, see 16464 (No. 7 A)

Copy. of the Draft of a Message to the P. of Wales
Queens House Sept.r 2d. 1784. —

An Open Breach with Me, is but one among the Many & still greater Mischiefs which the Step the P. of Wales seems misled enough to take, probably leads to. The Precipitation with which He has been advised to preclude all Communication with Me on the Subject of His leaving this Kingdom, or of the Circumstances & Manner of doing it and the abrupt and offensive Manner which has been recommended to Him of Announcing this purpose; Could not fail in the first instance of producing that effect; The Consideration of the further Evils which I foresee from the P. of Wales's executing this design makes me think it necessary as His Father & His Sovereign strictly to charge & command Him by this Paper, not to leave the Realm, without having obtained my particular leave. —

Queens House Sept.r 2d. 1784.

No 8

Copy of the Prince of Wales's Letter.

Brighthelmstone Sept. 5th 1784.

Sir. —

As I still continue apprehensive that Your Majesty has throughout this business misunderstood both my conduct and intentions, I again presume to trouble Your Majesty upon the Subject of my intended plan. I have already informed Your Majesty that my reason for going abroad arises from the impossibility of remaining here, situated as I am. With respect to Your Majesty's proposal, which I understand from Lord Southampton, as well as from Your Majesty's own Letter, You did not think I had taken sufficient notice of, I beg only to request Your Majesty to refer to the Letter I had last the honor of writing to You, in which I mentioned to Your Majesty the impossibility of such retrenchments being made out of my income as could effectually tend to relieve me & which I had flatter'd my self would have appeared to Your Majesty as a sufficient answer to what You had recommended, as well as an adequate reason for my absenting my self for some time. Your Majesty therefore I hope must be convinced that it is necessity alone that drives me abroad, and by no means an inclination to act in contradiction to Your Majesty's wishes. Impressed with the recollection of Letters which Your Majesty wrote to Colonel Hotham last Year and which I saw at Your own immediate desire, Your Majesty may conceive that I could

could not presume to do more than humbly and simply to repre=
=sent my Situation, as well as the only means I have of extri=
=cating my self from my difficulties. I have the honour to
subscribe my self with the profoundest respect.

Sir

Your Majesty's

most dutiful & obedient
Son & Subject
(Signed) George P.

Brighthelmstone
September 5th 1784.

See 16472-3

(No. 9)

Copy. Lord Southampton's Letter

Fitzroy Farm. Sept. 12th 1784.

Sir.

I humbly presume to acquaint Your Majesty that the Prince of Wales having order'd me to Town to meet Him at Carlton House yesterday, His Royal Highness observed that He had no Letter from Your Majesty, that my answer left Him no alternative as He could not presume to ask the King to relieve His distresses, His Majesty's Letter to Colonel Hotham, having made it impos=
=sible. It was in vain for me to try to convince Him of the propriety of obeying Your Royal Commands and sub=
=mitting His circumstances to Your Majesty's Generosity.

H. R. H. insisted that He had done that, by implication in His former Letter, and remained unwilling to ask more openly; at the same time He acknowledged that in this case the application being directed to Your Majesty immediately, He would be under no obligation to any intermediate person. The Result was H. R. H. ordering me to communicate to Your Majesty with all duty, his resolution of going abroad, unless something new should arise from Your Majesty. That before He went, He should write to the Queen stating that the situation of His affairs, alone, drove Him to this Step.

I can only dutifully apologise to Your Majesty for this intrusion by hoping it was the most respect=full way of communicating H. R. H. sentiments. — Tho' H. R. H. honours me so far as to give me His orders I am sorry to say that He does not trust to my judge=ment in any part of this business, or open Himself so fully as to enable me to be master of His real intentions I am therefore at a loss what to think of His determina=tions

I have the honour to remain with all duty and respect. Sir

Your Majesty's Devoted Subject and Servant

Southampton.

Fitzroy Farm
Sunday Sept. 12th
1784

See No. 16471

(No. 10

Copy. of the Draft of the Answer to Lord Southhampton

Windsor Sept.r 12.th 1784

Lord Southhampton's account of what has passed between the P. of Wales and Him, is a fresh proof of the bad advice given, or the pride and Vanity that prevent the P. of Wales from acting as he ought. The Letter formally forbedding his going abroad as Father and Sovereign draws to such serious consequences, that there is no fear He can be encouraged to disobey it. —

Has the P. of Wales any application to make on account of His Debts: He ought to state them for my consideration; indeed that is the only line; for till I know what they amount to and what Security that future excesses will be prevented, it is impossible for me to engage in a business of which neither the Extent nor the Mode of assistance I am at this minute in the least able to form any Opinion.

Lord Southampton has adopted the best Mode of making this Communication. — —

16374 For covering letter see 16474 A4 No. 11

Copy. Prince of Wales to Lord Southampton.

Carlton House Sept. 17th 1804.

My Lord

I am exceeding obliged to You for the communication of His Majesty's Letter and as I think by His manner that it may be His gracious intentions to extricate me from my difficulties, I must desire Your Lordship to order Colonel Hotham to make out as near a state as he can of my debts in order that You may transmit them to the King.— I also take this opportunity of informing Your Lordship that till I am acquainted thro' You with His Majesty's Intentions, I shall postpone my departure, as I should of course ever be desirous of acting in conformity with His Majesty's Wishes as far as in my power. I remain

My dear Lord

Carlton House
Sept. 17th 1804.

most sincerely Yours

(Signed) George P.

Copy. Prince of Wales. Carlton House. Jan: 5th 1785.

(No. 12)

Sir.

Several Months have now elapsed since Your Majesty encouraged Me to hope that You might relieve me from my present very unpleasant situation, by having expressed a Wish that an account of my debts should be submitted to Your consideration; which would have taken effect much earlier, had it been in my power to have obtained a sufficiently exact amount of them —

Your Majesty may conceive how sensibly I regret the largeness of the Sum, but I will hope that You may consider that the chief part of the Debt I have incurred has been in objects, which in general have been deemed necessary and which from their nature, can not be again repeated. I mean of course the Expences I have been at, in making my House more adapted to the residence of a Prince of Wales. I hope Your Majesty will do me the justice to believe that I shall feel the Obligation of any relief from Your hands as gratefully and as naturally as I ought to do. And I flatter my self Your Majesty will not be offended at the Mode I have taken of laying this Matter before You and that You will allow

me to have the honour of subscribing my self with all possible respect.

Sir

Carlton House
January 5th
1795.

Your Majesty's
most dutiful & obedient
Long Subject
(Signed) George P.

Copy of the Paper inclosed in the above.

Sum Total of the whole of my debts.

£
1,50000

(Signed) George P.

See 16488 AA

No. 13

Copy of Draft to Lord Southampton. Queens House March 13th 1795

Lord Southampton having on the 5th Jan.y delivered to me a Letter from the Prince of Wales inclosing, what he calls, the State of His Debts, which was merely saying they amounted to 150,000 £, though in the Prince's Letter to Lord Southampton of the 17th of Sept.r He directed Colonel Hotham to make out as near a State as he could of His debts. I have till now been waiting for such a Statement; but none being arrived, I have wrote the inclosed to the Prince of Wales, which I desire may be delivered to Him.

Copy of the Inclosed AA

No. 14

Draft of the Message to the Prince of Wales
Queens House March 13th 1795.

On the 25th Aug.t last the Prince of Wales gave Me Notice of His Resolution to leave the Kingdom, driven to it, as He suggested, by His necessities. A project so replete with mischief and disgrace of course drew from Me a Peremptory Command that He should not quit the King=dom without my express Leave, together with a recommenda=tion of some Plan for Retrenchment and Payment of His Debts by a Reserve out of His Revenues.

on

On understanding afterwards that the Prince considerd what had passed as an implied application to me for the Payment of his Debts, and that although he thought such a Request made to me directly would lay him under no obligati=on to any other person, he would not make it but rather persist in his Resolution; I sent him word that if he had any Application to make on account of his Debts, he ought to state the Amount for my consideration, and the Security against future excesses, without which it would be impossible for me to engage at all in the business. —

On the 17th Sept.r the Prince of Wales ordered Colonel Hotham to make out as near a State as he could of his Debts to be transmitted to me and said he should postpone his Departure till he was acquainted with my Intentions. At the End of four Months on the 5th Jan.y I received from the Prince the following Note (Sum Total of my Debts £150,000) and to this moment I have received no further particulars nor any sort of Explanation. This which he calls a state of his Debts was enclosed in a Letter where he refers the chief part of that Sum to Refitting Carlton House, for which purpose as well as for enabling him to begin his Establishment and discharge such Debts as he had then contracted, the Sum of £60,000, was allowed him. He had at the same time an annual Income assigned him of £50,000 together with the Duchy of Cornwal.

This

This was more than any of His Predecessors unmarried, had ever enjoyed; Yet His Expences appear to have been nearly four times His Income. —

Upon this I forbear to make any reflection; the impossibility of continuing such profusion will strike His own good sense, and the impropriety of exerting such supplies, if that were possible, from the good Will of an affectionate Country, will equally strike His Generosity — In the confidence that these must be His feelings, I should anxiously adopt His Wishes to be delivered by any practicable Mode, from a Situation so mortifying to Himself, and so distressing to the honourable Support due to His Rank.

But whether I can take any Measures for this purpose consistent with His Credit and My own, or what these Measures could be, cannot be decided without the fullest examination into the Source and Extent of the Evil. An exact Statement of His Expenditure, and the Management under which It has issued, is the ground on which any Plan must be conceived, for Establishing a stricter Oeconomy, and for creating a Security fit to be relied on again

Without these the payment of His present Debts would be of little avail; instead of satisfying His Honor, it would only compromise It with other Parties and involve Him deeper by raising a new Credit liable to be abused in the same

manner. Such a Statement is equally necessary for Examining the Nature and Extent of the Prince of Wales Engagements; for it would be an unpromising commencement of Reform, if Debts supposed to be contracted in a state of Mismanagement and Dissipation beyond any visible fund for payment, or any probable expectation of such a fund, should be taken on general Suggestion only, without full investigation. —

This Examination is also necessary to distinguish the Preference and Priority of Payment, which may be due to them, as after every reduction which may be effected, their amount must probably require on any possible supposition some tract of time to discharge them.

Lucers House
March 13th 1795

Copy

(No. 15

of the Prince of Wales's Letter. Carlton House. March 14th 1795

Sir.

I seize the earliest opportunity of returning Your Majesty my most grateful thanks for Your gracious Letter, and have desired Lord Southampton to wait upon Your Majesty with the particulars of the Estimate I had the honor of sending Your Majesty some time ago, and which I should already have done, had I not understood

that

that it was the amount only Your Majesty wished to receive.

I have the honour to subscribe my self with all possible respect

Your Majesty's

most dutiful & obedient

Son & Subject

(Signed) George P.

Carlton House
March 14th
1795.

See 16478 Copy. —

Estimate Delivered to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales by Colonel Hotham. 27th October 1794.

Debts.

In Mr. Lyte's Department	£ 30,000
Stables on Calculation 25th Decemb. 1794.	12,000
Ballance due for the Old works at Carlton House in Mr. Hollands Department	7743
Ballance due on Mr. Ganbert's Department Do	8700
£	58,443

Carried over.

		£.
Brought over.		58,443
Mr. Holland's Estimate to compleat the New Works in his Department — £	30,250	
Deduct Money paid Mr. Birch for Purchase of Houses —	1,400	
£	28,850	
Mr. Gauberts Estimate for completely Fitting & Furnishing the Inside with Furniture for Two Seasons &c. —	35,000.	
		63,850
£.		122,293

Money borrowed by H. R. H. on the 22d. Decr. 1784 of which Col. Hotham was informed by H. R. H. on the 14th Jan.y & recieved application about from Mr. Birch on the 11th Feb.y 1785.

Security on Houses near Carlton House £.	4,000	
To be paid off in one Year by Quarterly Installments, the 1st Payment commencing 25th March 1785 —	6,000	
£	10,000.	
Money likewise borrowed the Particulars of which H. R. H. has not yet been pleased to inform Colonel Hotham about —	15,000	
		25,000

Total Estimate of Debts & Engagements £. 147,293

See 16489

44

(N.º 16

Copy of the Draft of a Message to the P. of Wales
Lucan's House. March 21st 1785. —

The Estimate delivered to the Prince of Wales by Colonel Hotham 27th October 1784. by no means answers what the Paper delivered by Lord Southampton on the 13th March 1785 from the King to the Prince of Wales requires; Indeed it shews there are Debts, but no ways points out that the Works at Carlton House have been conducted with Oeconomy; that what is still to be compleated is void of profuseness; nor is it any explanation of the Sums borrowed, & for what purposes; besides there is no plan for reduction of Expences to avoid future embarrassments, and to establish a Reserve for gradually clearing the inordinate Debts that have been permitted to exceed every reasonable hope of being discharged. —

Lucans House
March 21st 1785

16379 Copy. (No. 17.)

of the Prince of Wales's Letter. March 23d. 1785.

Sir.

I had the honour of receiving Your Majesty's Letter yesterday from Lord Southampton. As to any further information relative to this business, I must take the liberty of referring Your Majesty to Lord Southampton, for every thing that both Colonel Hotham and I know concerning every Debt, has already been submitted to Your Majesty. —

Your Majesty desires in Your Letter that some method might be found of making a reserve out of my income by way of gradually paying off those debts which at present so greatly encumber my situation; I already have had the honour of informing Your Majesty that it would be perfectly impossible for such a retrenchment to be made consistently with my residence in this Country as it is with the greatest difficulty that I am able to go on with my present Income — I humbly conceive, by Your Majesty's wishing me to bear a part in clearing of my own debts, that it is not in Your power to assist me so far as You could wish. I therefore hope that as Your Majesty will please to recollect, that I have hitherto postponed leaving this Country, till I was fully acquainted with Your gracious intentions, and as I now find the impossibility of putting them in execution, that You will accept of

of my most grateful thanks for the trouble I have hitherto occasioned Your Majesty, and that You will not think it unnatural in me, if I decline giving Your Majesty any further trouble in this very distressing business. —

I must now, Sir, adopt the Plan which I some=time ago submitted to Your Majesty, as the only effectual and honourable means of relieving my self from a situation which all the World must be acquainted with, & the manner of getting rid of which they must equally approve; I mean by going abroad and making a thorough reduction in every expence I now have; because I know how very inadequate a partial one would have been. — I have the honour to be

Sir

Your Majesty's
most dutiful & obedient
Son & Subject

(Signed) George P.

Carlton House
March 23d 1785.

No. 18

Copy of the Draft of the Message to the P. of Wales
Windsor March 29th 1785.

The Prince of Wales is sufficiently aware that His Letter of the 14th of March, is not deemed by me a satisfactory or suitable answer to my proposal of the 13th.

It contains a paper dated the 27th October 1784, entitled an Estimate of Debts and Engagements; the first, being Debts-

already contracted amounting to £58,443. The Second of Debts he is still resolved to contract, amounting to £63.850. in all £122.293. This Paper, it should seem, was drawn out in consequence of the Prince's order to Colonel Hotham of the 17th of September, of which he gave Me Notice by Lord Southampton on that day.

On the 5th of January the Prince of Wales had represented the gross amount of his Debts to be £150,000 without further Explanation.

By way of further Explanation the above mentioned Paper is sent me with a Note subjoined to it of Money borrowed on the 22d of December 1784, amounting to £25.000. which added to the former Sums make £147,293.

The Paper does not purport an Account of the present Debts, nor even mention the Names of the Creditors, the Conditions of Loan, or other particulars respecting the nature of his Engage=ments; for which in the last Article of £15.000. Colonel Hotham makes this Apology, „That His R. H. has not yet been pleased to inform him thereof. In Short, it corresponds so little with the avowed Object of My Enquiry, that these particulars would not be worth observing, if they did not derive some importance from an Assertion in the Prince of Wales's Letter of the 23d of March, That Every thing which Either He, or Colonel Hotham, knew concerning every Debt, has already been submitted to me.

That Letter proceeds to insist on the impossibility of Making any abatement of his Income; as it is with the greatest difficulty

difficulty, that he is able to go on with it at present, and infers from my having stated to Him the necessity of his adopting some Plan of Retrenchment, that I find my self unable to assist Him so far as I could wish; and thereupon declines all further communication upon this business, and concludes with a Menace to run away from his situation, in direct defiance of the Solemn Injunction I have laid upon Him not to leave the Realm without my Express Permission. —

The immediate consequences of Executing such a threat, if that step were really taken, both to the Prince Him self, and to any Person who might bear a part in it, make it of some Importance, that whatever has passed in this correspondence should be rightly understood. —

I have hitherto said nothing either of my power, or intention to assist in delivering the Prince of Wales from the Embarrassments into which he is daily drawing Himself; Nor of the Proportion in which his present means ought to be applied to that End. But I have frequently said, and I now Repeat, that My concurrence in any Plan for that purpose, must depend on It's being formed with sufficient regard both to His honour, and Mine. It is, in My Judgement, essential to Both, that considerable expence should not either now, or hereafter, be entailed on the Public on this account; that some Scheme of Oeconomy should be settled for reducing His Expences within a certain Measure, and that the observance of It

should be secured as far as the nature of the occasion will permit. –

To reform the Profusion of his present Expenditure, that expenditure, and the Management under which it has issued must be examined; the Excesses in the one must be retrenched the Abuses in the other Corrected, and a settled Application of His Income must be made to a measured rate of necessary Expences. This must be further secured by making His Servants responsible in their Several Departments for their Diligence and Fidelity in the observance of It. To this End, their Accounts should be submitted to due Examination from time to time. That no future Debts may be Contracted, the Examination and Payment of the present Debts, should be so order'd as to cut off all temptation to borrow, or lend in an improper manner. –

This, or some other Plan, equally adapted to the avowed Principle upon which, alone, I can ever interpose, must be adopted; for It is extremely obvious that to advance £150,000 and leave things as they are, would only occasion the same situation a Year or two hence, with additional reproach to the wisdom and honour of all Parties concerned. –

To look into the detail of Pocket Expences, is no part of this Object, on the other hand it is plain that no Articles material to the avowed principles of this Inquiry can be buried under loose denominations, without defeating altogether the Object proposed.

Windsor
March 29th 1805 ———

Copy. (No. 19

of the Prince of Wales's Letter. Carlton House April 7th 1785

Sir.

I am very much concerned that your Majesty continues to persist in wishing me to adopt a plan which I have all along thought & think still more from having reflected upon it farther perfectly impracticable, I mean the reducing my expences while my residence is in England. —

As to the particulars of the account, which I had the honour of transmitting to your Majesty, I still must beg with submission to repeat 7th I have delivered in (not only every Item I knew of) but that they have been made out in the most explicit manner I was able. —

The part of the Statement I conceive your Majesty principally alludes to, is to that of the £25,000 I borrowed; It was impossible for me to communicate either to Colonel Hotham or any body else, the names of the People who advanced me this money, and feeling the obligations I am under towards them, I can not abuse the confidence they have placed in me by exposing their names upon this or any future occasion.

Before I conclude, I beg leave to assure your Majesty, that the Plan I have laid down for my self has not been framed with views of gratifying any desire I might have of seeing foreign Countries, but simply and honourably to clear my self from the confined, embarrassing and truly

improper situation, I at present feel my self in. — I have the honour of subscribing my self Sir

Your Majesty's
most dutiful & obedient
Son & Subject

Carlton House
April 7th
1784.

(Signed) George P.

(should be No 5)

Copy of the Draft of the Message to the P. of Wales (No. 20

Queen's House April 12th 1785

AA

While th. Prince of Wales [illegible] as perfectly impra[illegible]es during his Reside[illegible] the payment of his present Debts, an Object of no Importance to his future happiness or Honour. Whenever the Prince of Wales changes his Mind so far as to look upon a Plan of Measured Expence and Settled Oeconomy as an Article of Conduct which he owes both to himself and to his Country, it will be time enough to take up the consideration of his present Debts, of none of which any particular explanation has yet been given but one part of which to the amount of £25,000, the Prince describes as Debts which it would not be honourable to his Creditors to avow. — Upon the Prince of Wales's Plan (as he terms it) Simply and honourably to clear himself from his present Situation, I shall only refer it to himself, to reconsider the whole force and extent of that Phrase.

3d Line th. No 19

including date of endorsement be 1786 — omitted —

It requires looking but a little way forward to foresee how

Copy. (No. 19

of the Prince of Wales's Letter. Carlton House April 7th 1785

Sir.

I am very much concerned that your Majesty continues to persist in wishing me to adopt a plan which I have all along thought & think still more from having reflected upon it farther perfectly impracticable, I mean the reducing my expences while my residence is in England. —

As to the particulars of the account, which I had the honour of transmitting to your Majesty, I still must beg with submission to repeat that I have delivered in (not only every Item I knew of [illegible] the most explicit [illegible]

The part of the Statement I conceive your Majesty principally alludes to, is to that of the £25,000 I borrowed; It was impossible for me to communicate either to Colonel Hotham or any body else, the names of the People who advanced me this money, and feeling the obligations I am under towards them, I can not abuse the confidence they have placed in me by exposing their names upon this or any future occession.

Before I conclude, I beg leave to assure your Majesty, that the Plan I have laid down for my self has not been framed with views of gratifying any desire I might have of seeing foreign Countries, but simply and honourably to clear my self from the confined, embarrassing and truly

improper situation, I at present feel my self in. — I have the honour of subscribing my self Sire

Your Majesty's
most dutiful & obedient
Son & Subject

Carlton House
April 7th
1784.

(Signed) George P.

(should be 1005)

Copy of the Draft of the Message to the P. of Wales (N°. 20

Queen's House April 12th 1785

While the Prince of Wales persists in rejecting as perfectly impracticable any Plan to reduce his Expences during his Residence in England, that Determination renders the payment of his present Debts, an Object of no Importance to his future happiness or Honour. Whenever the Prince of Wales changes his Mind so far as to look upon a Plan of Measured Expence and settled Oeconomy as an Article of Conduct which he owes both to himself and to his Country, it will be time enough to take up the consideration of his present Debts, of none of which any particular explanation has yet been given but one part of which to the amount of £25,000, the Prince describes as Debts which it would not be honourable to his Creditors to avow. — Upon the Prince of Wales's Plan (as he terms it) Simply and honourably to clear himself from his present Situation, I shall only refer it to himself, to reconsider the whole force and extent of that Phrase.

It requires looking but a little way forward to foresee how

how much he may risk of his present Situation, the moment he should act on such an Idea as that of leaving the Kingdom against my express Command.

Queen's House
April 12th 1785.

AA No. 21

Copy of
The Prince of Wales's Letter. April 26th 1786.

Sir.

Nothing but the very difficult Situation I feel my self in at the present moment, should have made me presume again to trouble Your Majesty upon the Subject of my own private affairs, as I am conscious, that Your time is already but too much taken up with the multiplicity of publick business that comes under Your inspection - The very disagreeable consequence that must infallibly ensue to me, should I not meet with Your Majesty's gracious assistance, will be much better & indeed much more amply explained to You, Sir, by Lord Southampton, than I either can or could do by any literary correspondence, as the particulars of my Situation are so numerous and require so much explanation that I do not think they could any how be reduced within the compass of a Letter - I have therefore ordered Lord Southampton to wait Your Majesty's commands, for attending You whenever

it should best suit Your Majesty's convenience; and then to lay the whole State of my Affairs before You, in the fairest and most impartial manner. I cannot conclude without expressing how truly grateful I shall ever feel to Your Majesty, should my request meet with that reception which the urgency of the present Moment makes me so ardently wish. I have the honour to Subscribe my self with all possible respect. Sir

Your Majesty's
most dutiful and obedient
Son & Subject
(Signed) George P.

Carlton House
April 26th 1786.

AA No. 22

Copy of the Draft of a Message to the P. of Wales
Windsor. May 9th 1786.

Though it would certainly be My Inclination to cooperate as far as depends on Me, in any practicable Plan which can relieve the Prince of Wales from His present Embarrassments, and prevent their recurring hereafter; He must be sensible that I can as yet form no Judgement what Steps can be taken for this purpose, as I neither know the amount to which His Debts have now arisen,

nor

nor what Security there will be that his future Expences shall be confined within his Income. Both these Points must be cleared up if the Prince of Wales wishes me to consider this Subject further. Till they are so, it is in vain even to enquire how far any way can be found of assisting Him, consistent with what I think due to My Subjects, and with My constant Wish to avoid encreasing the Public Burthens.

Windsor
May 9th 1786

AA (N.° 23

Copy of the Prince of Wales's Letter
May 14th 1786.

Sir.

In obedience to Your Majesty's Commands which I received in the Letter You did me the honor of sending me by Lord Southampton, I have ordered Colonel Hotham to make out the Estimates of my Debts for Your inspection, & which I will take care to transmit to Your Majesty as soon as I have received. I must take the liberty Sir with all possible Submission, of recalling to Your recollection, that it is

now two Years since I first did my self the honor of apply=
=ing to Your Majesty for Your gracious assistance in freeing
me from the load of Debts with which I was then incum=
=bered, & which I fear, what with the being so unfortunate
as not to prove successful in the request I then made
to Your Majesty, & what with the common events which
will always occur in the transaction of money matters
when the settlement of them is delayed, they have unavoi=
=dably encreased to nearly the double of what the Principal
was at that time. This, Sir, being the case, I fear it
will not be in Colonel Hotham's power to collect the whole
statement of my affairs at a minute's warning, but I
flatter my self that with all the diligence he can
possibly employ, a few days will be the utmost extent
of time that will pass before I shall have the honor
of laying them before Your Majesty. You will then Sir,
have it in Your power to see how truly desperate my
case is, & that if it is in Your gracious pleasure to
relieve me, my situation will not admit of any delay
in carrying any such plan into execution. I can only
say before I conclude that if I am to be saved from
falling into the precipice which now surrounds me
on all sides, nothing can encrease the pleasure I
shall feel on that occasion so much as knowing that

I

I owe it to your Majesty. — I have the honor to subscribe my self

Sir

Your Majesty's
most dutiful & obedient
Son & Subject

Carlton House
May 14th
1786.

(Signed) George P

~~A~~ (N°. 24

Copy
of the Prince of Wales's Letter June 15th 1786.

Sir.

I now have the honour of laying before Your Majesty through Lord Southampton, the Amount of my Debts, which I am concerned at not having had in my power to do sooner; but I wished to be as minute as possible in the Account I here enclose; however there are some particulars which I have not been able to collect with as much accuracy as I desired, as it is my wish that nothing respecting my present situation should be concealed from Your Majesty's knowledge —

You will now Sir be able to see how dreadfully

involved I am. I confess the Sum is large, but what adds more to my distress is, that the longer it continues unpaid so much the more it will continue to augment. I therefore have nothing to do, but to throw my self upon Your Majesty's benevolence, hoping for Your gracious assistance; which if I am so unfortunate as not to meet with, will throw me into a situation below that of the lowest Individual in the Country – I therefore flatter my self Your Majesty will be pleased, whenever it suits Your convenience to favour me with a speedy and a final answer respecting Your intentions, as circumstanced as I am, my affairs are too pressing to admit of much delay. I have the honor to Subscribe my self with all possible respect

Sir

Your Majesty's
most dutiful & obedient
Son & Subject
(Signed) George P.

Carlton House
June 15th
1806 –

(N.° 25.)

Copy of the Indorsed Title of

Statement of Arrears due to Sundry Persons from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Lady day 1786

Copy of the Inner Title of

Statement of Arrears due to Sundry Persons under the Several Departments of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Lady day 1786. –

	L.	s.	d.
His Royal Highnesses Private Debts –	8000	–	–
Arrears in the Department of Privy Purse —	46,900	2.	6½
D.° Comp.ᵗ of the Household —	12,800	14.	11
D.° Mr. Weltze in aid of Privy Purse —	5,601	2.	6½
D.° Commᵗ of the Stables —	32,399	10.	2¾
D.° Building & Furnishing —	52,637	14.	7½
D.° The Treasurer —	1,050	17.	6½
D.° The Housekeeper —	765	5.	2½
Debts — £	160,178	6.	7¼
For compleating, finishing & furnishing the Works and Designs now in hand at Carlton House —	79,700	0.	0
For incidental Charges not yet come in, or to be ascertained exactly —	30,000	0.	0
Total. £	269,878	6.	7¼

16386 See 16535 AA (N.o 26

Copy of the Draft of a
Message to the P. of Wales. Windsor July 3.d 1706

From every thing which has passed between Me and the Prince of Wales during these last two Years, relative to His embarrassed Situation, He must have seen that I held it impossible even to Enter on the Consideration of any means to relieve Him untill I should receive a sufficient Explanation of His past Expences, and see a prospect of reasonable Security against a Continuation of His Extravagance. —
On His renewing His Application this Year I repeated the same Sentiments as formerly, and at the end of Several Weeks, I have received a Paper called a Statement of Arrears due to Sundry Persons, making a Sum total of neer £270,000 Of this Sum £160,000. is stated as a actual Debt, and is made up of private Expences wholly unexplained to the amount of about £60,000. Of above £52,000. for Building &c. above £32,000. for the Stables, and some comparatively Small Sums of Household Expences. —
The remaining Sum of £110,000. consists of a specifick Charge of above £79,000. for carrying on Works at Carlton House, and a general demand in addition to all the rest for un-ascertained Expences — A moments reflection ought to have made the Prince of Wales sensible of the Impropriety of offering such a Paper to My Consideration.

Without

Without some Examination of the Expences which have led Him into His present Situation, it is scarcely possible to conceive a sufficient Security that the same Abuses will not recur. But then instead of proposing or expressing a Readiness to conform to any future Regulations for this Purpose, This unsatisfactory Account is followed by a demand of above £100,000. more to support farther Extravagance, Assistance from Me, is, under such Circum=stances out of the Question. —

The Prince of Wales has nothing to expect from Me, till I see reason to Expect that the Attempt to relieve Him may be effectual, instead of probably serving only to involve Him still deeper. —

For this purpose it would be necessary to have as clear an Explanation as the nature of the thing will admit, of His past Expenditure, and above all to ascertain that It shall be confined within proper Limits in future.

It is then and then only, that It can become a Subject of Consideration by what means I can Cooperate in Extricating Him from the Embarassment to which His own Imprudence has subjected Him. —

Windsor
July 3d 1786

Copy
of the Prince of Wales's Letter.
Carlton House. July 5th 1786

Sir

I yesterday had the honor of receiving Your Majesty's Letter from Lord Southampton and feel my self particularly unfortunate at not meeting with that relief which I flattered my self I had some reason to expect from an application for three Years successively, & trusting to Your Majesty's great munificence. I feel my self greatly concerned for the trouble I hitherto have given Your Majesty thro' the course of this most unpleasant business, & can only assure You, Sir, that You shall receive no further disturbance upon that Score from me, as You have now convinced me that I have no reason to expect either at present or in future the smallest assistance from Your Majesty. I have the honor to subscribe my self. Sir

Your Majesty's
most dutiful & obedient
Son & Subject
(Signed) George P.

Carlton House
July 5th
1786.

See 16536

(N.° 28

Copy of the
Draft of the Message to the P. of Wales
Windsor July 8th 1786.

After so often repeating to the Prince of Wales the same Sentiments on the Subject of His Applications and with so little effect, I should add nothing farther at present; but I must express My Surprize at receiving a Letter from Him, in which He states Himself to be convinced that He has no reason to expect either at present or in future the smallest assistance from Me.

A Reference to My last written Message and to the former Correspondence, might shew Him what it was I expected before I could enter farther on the Business.

If He chuses to interpret what has passed into a Refusal on My Part to take Measures in any Case for His Assistance, the consequences of His doing so, can be imputed only to His own Determination. —

Windsor
July 8th 1786. —

(N.29.

Copy of the
Prince of Wales's Letter — Carlton House. July 11th 1786

Sir. —

I have had the honor of receiving Your Majesty's written Message transmitted to me by Lord Southampton, & am greatly concerned that My poor Sentiments cannot coincide with those of Your Majesty, in thinking that the former Message which I had the honor of receiving, pen'd in Your Majesty's own hand, was not a Refusal. After having repeatedly sent in various applications to Your Majesty for two Years successively, Representing that a partial Reduction out of so incompetent an Income as Mine, was to no purpose towards the liquidation of a Debt, where the Principal and Interest were so Considerable, I this Year humbly requested Your Majesty that You would be graciously pleased (having previously laid my Affairs before You, Sir, for Your Inspection & painted them in the distress'd Colors which they so justly merited) that whenever it suited Your Convenience, You would favour me with a decisive Answer, as the various delays which have occurred thro' the Course of this business have in reality proved more pernicious

to

to the Situation in which I have been for some time past involved, than the original Embarrassment of the Debt. To, not only these, but any future delays would I most willingly have submitted, had they rested meerly upon my own patience, but the pressing importunities of many indigent and deserving Creditors (some of whose very Existance depends upon a speedy discharge of their Accounts) made too forcible an appeal to the Justice becoming my own honour and the feelings of my heart, to be any longer delayed. Another consideration is, that any further procrastination might have exposed me to legal Insults as humiliating to me as I am perswaded that they would have been offensive to Your Majesty. I therefore previously to my having the honour of receiving that Message, to which Your Majesty had referd me, had determined that (should I not be so fortunate as to meet with that relief from You, Sir, with which I had flattered my self, and which indeed I thought that I had the greatest reason to expect) I would exert every Nerve to render that just redress and assistance to my Creditors, which I can not help thinking is denied to me. These are the Motives, Sir, that have actuated my Conduct in the Step I have taken of reducing every Expence

in my Family, even those to which my Birth and Rank entitle me, & which I trust will ever continue to be the Principle & Guide of my Conduct till I have totally liberated my self from the Embarrassments which now oppress me, and the more so as I am persuaded that such a Line when pursued with Consistency will meet with the approbation of every candid and dispassionate mind. —

I shall not trespass any further upon Your Majesty's leisure, but have the honour to subscribe my self

Sir

Your Majesty's
most dutiful & obedient
Son & Subject
(Signed) George Augustus Frederick. P.

Carlton House
July 11th
1786. —

Copy 16390

Queens House Jan.y 18th 1787.

This contains the Correspondence with the D. of Portland on the Joining an Establishment for the P. of Wales in 1783. as also that with the the P. of Wales from 1783. to 1786. on that Subject as also on his Debts. I chuse to deposite this Copy with Mr. Pitt that should the subject be mentioned in Parliament He may be fully apprized of the Uniform conduct I have held, the wishing to save a Son at the same time not forgetting what as a King I owe to My People. I shall not add more than on carefully perusing this I am clear all unprejudiced Persons must approve of my conduct, and I trust Mr. Pitt will if it is alluded to, do justice to the whole tenour of a Father who has been at least not kindly treated but has kept his temper with that care which the rectitude of Intent was could alone effect.

G.R.