

Adm. Robert Digby to Duke of Clarence

44859-60

Upper Harley Street

25 July 1799

Sir

After Your Roy. Highness's receiving me so graciously, and I may say, with so much Friend^{sh}, something must have happen'd since, to alter your conduct towards me so much as to induce you (after intending me the honor of dining under my roof) to put it off sine die.

Perhaps you have taken offence at my saying to you, that I was sorry you was to have your Flagg; I was so indeed, but on your account chiefly; I think it will deprive you of much pleasure, & the Nation of much advantage. I look upon it as laying yourself up in ordinary.

If your Roy. Highness has been offended at the friendly advice I gave on our first meeting, viz. to rejoice that you had been absent during the last Winter, and cautiously to avoid engaging in any party, I am sorry, but I must glory in it still & will venture to say that it is advice that every honest man that is your friend would give, Nay I will be bold to say that it w^d be good advice even for the interest of the party, you, to appearance seem to have espous'd. If you have suppos'd me

to be engag'd myself in party, & that is my offence
I shall very readily acknowledge, that as far
as wishing well to the King and what he wishes,
I am sincerely. And can with the same sinc-
=erity say, that, since your Majesty's first came
under any care, I have never consider'd my
own interest when in competition with that of
your Majesty's Highness, at any one moment; and if any
one has represented me otherwise, that I have ~~said~~
or done any thing injurious to you, they have not
done me justice, nor has your Majesty's Highness done
me justice to believe them, But it is not my
intention to screen myself or any thing I have
said, from the knowledge of your Majesty's Highness
(I wish you knew all I have said) on the con-
=trary I catch at the opportunity you have
given me, in obliging me to write, to say,
that I wish'd to have said to your Majesty's Highness
in person, that I could not see your spirits run
away with you so far as to make you commit
yourself before my comp.^{ny} & servants, without
feeling exceedingly for you & without wishing,
even at the hazard of displeasing, to put you
upon your guard, I should have trusted to the
good nature I know you possess. I doubted.
but now I have nothing to fear, and that

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Your Royal Highness may know in truth
what I have said; I will tell you. I have
said that if you went on abusing body's
of People you did know, before mix'd comp^{ts};
and taking pains to make enemies, you
would too easily succeed, & that you would
damn your Character irretrievably in a
month. (pardon the expression) But
I have never said it but to your particu-
lar friends who wish you as well as
I do. Ask any one of them, if what I say
is not a truth; Princes do not always hear
such truths, nor do they all like to hear
them. However I will tell you one other truth;
Refuse believing it if you can; I have never
omitted any opportunity to say those truths
relative to y^r H^{ty} Highness that reflect honor
to you. I have no interest but one in telling
them, I don't look for reward, I have receiv'd
none, nor ever sought any, but that one of
seeing Your Roy^{ty} Highness deserve the applause
of every body. Nor am I in that situation
to be in dread of Your Roy^{ty} Highness's displeasur^e.
I shall now take my leave & shall sincerely
rejoice in every thing that reflects honor
upon you, and shall think I have gain'd
more if I have touch'd your feelings with
regard to yourself, than I shall have lost by
The loss of

Your Friendship, knowing your good son
will some day or other tell you that I have
deserv'd better — I have the honor

to be Your Royall Highness
very obed. serv. & very
Sincere Friend

Wm. Fitzby

Monday morn.
May 25. 1709.

Adam - Fitzby: Esq.
to the Duke of Clarence

May 25. 1709.

His Royall Highness Duke of Clarence