

Richmond.
June 7th 1796.

Sir,

After the very gracious and confidential
manner with which Your Majesty has been so good as to
treat me on the late unhappy occasion respecting my
Brother the Prince of Wales, I should have felt no scruple
of communicating any wish of mine personally to Your
Majesty, if I had not thought that by so doing I might sub-
ject Your Majesty to some embarrassment. I am persua-
ded that ^{to} a person of Your Majesty's character truth and
plain dealing only will be the most acceptable and it
appears to me most decorous to communicate my senti-
ments to Your Majesty by letter.

I have learnt from a person nearly

connected with Lord Spencer that from the state of His Lord-
-ship's health it is doubtful whether he will be able to con-
-tinue long in Your Majesty's service: it is natural for
one who has served from his childhood in the Navy to
wish to be at the head of this popular and favourite ser-
-vice and I should think myself deficient in those gene-
-rous sentiments which always have distinguished the
House of Brunswick if my ambition did not lead me
to a wish of standing first in my profession. I therefore
presume to solicit Your Majesty to be at the head of the
Admiralty either as First Lord or in any other way which leads
Your Majesty may judge to be more proper and more beco-
-ming the Son of a King of Great Britain: I freely ca-
-veat this wish to Your Majesty because it is to you only
Sir that I will ever be indebted for any situation in

the Government of this Country: I never have been and never
will be a party to any intrigue with any of Your Majesty's
Subjects: and tho' I shall ever respect those whom
Your Majesty shall in your wisdom think proper to
appoint your Ministers, it is to Your Majesty alone that
as a Son I ought to apply for any favour.

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At the same time that I make

this request. I implore Your Majesty to consult the good
of the public service and Your Majesty's personal affec-
tions on this occasion: I wish not to be the cause of the
least uneasiness or embarrassment to Your Majesty, and
therefore I beg leave to add that whatever may be the
result I shall be perfectly satisfied with Your Majesty's
determination and that I shall continue to take every

opportunity of proving myself to be with the utmost
sincerity and filial attachment,

Sir,

Your Majesty's

most affectionate and most dutiful

Son and Subject,

W. Edward

P.S. If Your Majesty should not think it right
to comply with this request I should implore Your
Majesty to commit this letter to the flames and its
contents to oblivion.

Cable of Harcourt
September 7, 1896