

Duke of Clarence

March 23.

1814

45045-C

Her Majesty's Ship.

Yarm.

March 23: 1814.

Late at night.

Dear M^r,

I was nearly in hopes of not having been
under the necessity of writing you a second of this
shape you by the hand before this: but since the ar-
-rival of the Grand Dutch fleet at the Hague, I have
observed her anxiety to arrive in England and her im-
-tation at not finding the ship or vessel ready to
-carry her over: to detail all the particulars would be
-useless: but various causes have combined which I
-will relate when I see you: I had been in hopes when
-I left the Hague she was more pacified: on my arrival

here, first saw the Admiralty orders relative to her
and myself: most strangely moved indeed about the
Grand Dutches: putting before the eye of an elegant
and ignorant female a letter in preference to a
Frigate: but the offer of a Frigate: I could not utter
as an Admiral in the King's service was the be-
-ther of the Prince Regent knowing my brother's senti-
-ments towards the Emperor of Russia permit the
Grand Dutches (who I have mentioned) and the
favourite sister of the Emperor to be advised about
the letter: the cheerful letter cannot carry the Grand
Dutches her own and her suite of thirty new persons
with three or four carriers: I thought but yesterday

I had prevailed on her to embark with me in the Jason
more particularly as the Charcoal Cutter was not then
in this port being only this evening come in with
Bygon with: but the Grand Dutchess again grew un-
-easy and talked of wanting official information and
of this letter: I have had since that two more commu-
-nications with her and have been most unfortuna-
-tely unsuccessful: being still more impressed with
the impossibility and impropriety of the letter
concerning the Grand Dutchess and having with
Captain King exerted myself to get the Jason for
Mr. Imperial Highness. I have made three offers
the success of which I have not yet had time to learn

45046

I write this therefore to account for my absence at the
packet sails early tomorrow and I may not have been
annoyed in time: I am sure I am quite right in what
I have done and rejoice to find from your letter the
Queen of Middelburg recommends every attention and
respect being paid this lady: I shall of course wait
the arrival of the letter and the Grand Dutch ship will
then come here: after having seen the Queen and her
-pet, I shall implore her to take the Queen and her
attendants in the Chapel: I have requested Admiral
Gunning to represent as the King's Commander in Chief
to the Grand Dutch ship the utter impossibility of her

45047

proceeding to England in the latter and recommend-
ing the Jason. I hope yet to see this great and for-
-virating lady land on our shore in a manner
suitable to the sister of the Emperor Alexander
and equally so confident to the wishes of the
Prince Regent who so justly values the Emperor:
you cannot conceive how much I feel for the honour
of our country in not insulting a lady of her rank
who is desirous of visiting the Prince Regent for
whom she so justly has such a veneration and respect:
George the First sends an Admiral Land who he
British Fleet to fetch Peter the Great her Ambassador.

and now a letter is sent for the Grand Dutchess: at
all events I have done my duty and should be more
liable to censure if I had acted otherwise knowing
so well the generous and gallant sentiments of the
Princess Regent:

I still hope to have the satisfaction of sending the
Imperial Highness in England to the credit of
our island and trust this will be the last letter I
shall have occasion to write before we meet:
adieu and ever believe me,

Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely

W. Pitt