

Buckingham Palace.

Dec: 1: 1823.

Dear Sir, I have this instant received
 the joyful news of His Majesty's most gracious
 commands to attend him this evening to dinner
 and afterwards to the Theatre.

It is with infinite grief I am under the pain-
 ful necessity of declining for this day the
 King's orders: but I am confident His Ma-
 -jesty will with his usual kindness see
 the propriety of my absenting myself from
 serving him both my respect and attachment
 to him in public this evening as I am in the
 Chair this evening at the Festival of the Fest-

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-test Corporation. St. Andrew's day having con-
tinued to fall this year on Sunday which
was yesterday. The cause of haste will I am
sure plead my excuse with the excellent
heart of our Sovereign.

With His Majesty's gracious permission
I shall have the honour of attending next
Wednesday at Carleton House at four o'clock
and of accompanying the King towards the
Theatre.

^{as I can}
As soon after twelve, I shall have this day
the honour of calling at Carleton Palace and
trust that to be permitted to pay my personal
respects to His Majesty.

45159

I cannot conclude without expressing you
of my regard and esteem and ever remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely
W. Pitt

[Faint, illegible cursive handwriting on aged paper]