

Enclosure -

Dup. of 16072-3

in Charles Thompson to Lord Bruce

My Dear Lord

16081 - 2

Old Bond Street June 1<sup>st</sup> 1776.

To save Your Lordship the trouble of a Conversation You may not have time for, I will submit to Your Consideration in this manner, the Result of what has occurred to me in Consequence of Your Commands, to point out to You the Person I should think the fittest for the important situation of Sub Governor to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

I told You, that in my Opinion, He must be in the first place, a Gentleman as well by Birth as Education, that He must be possessed of the Sentiments of one: that is, of the strictest Honour, of the most liberal and enlarged Principles, of a solid Understanding, and sound Judgment; but that of the two, his Heart should be better than his Head. That He must be of no Faction or Party, belonging to no Man, or set of Men. That He must enter upon his Office with the honourable view alone of doing his Duty, and must be above the Idea of any other kind of Recompence. He must agree in Opinion with Your Lordships not only as to Your general Plans, but likewise in the mode of carrying it into Execution, and He must treat You and therefore be treated by You, with the most unbounded Confidence and Friendship. He must be, let me add, of polished elegant Manners, a Man of good Breeding and good Temper, of a benevolent Heart and conciliating Disposition. He should be, without Pedantry, a Man of Letters. He must above all, be free from every species of vice, and even from Dissipation,  
Lord Bruce &c. &c. &c. yet

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yet his Mind should be a cheerful one. His Character should be universally good, as that He should unquestionably stand high in the general Opinions of Mankind.

To find a Man, possessed of these Qualities, one must know him well, a common Acquaintance is out of the question. So that one's views is of course confined within a very narrow Circle indeed and after taking a most accurate one of my Friends, I must, however vain and presumptuous it may appear, declare to Your Lordships my Eye remained fixed in my own Family. I mean, upon my Brother, Lieut. Colonel Holham.

Now, My Lord, I would have died a thousand Deaths rather than have named him, of all Men living, if I did not religiously believe, that both His Majesty and Your Lordships, will be firmly convinced, no Consideration on Earth could have led me to it, but the most conscientious Assurance of his being in my Judgment, the Man, I know, who comes the nearest to the Picture I have drawn.

No Advantage to him, to myself, or to any part of my Family, could have induced me to have taken this step. I feel, better than I can describe, the delicacy of it: I feel the Risk, the Danger in which I place him, and I feel the Responsibility towards My Sovereign, the Nation, His Royal Highness, and Your Lordships, in which I place myself. I am not, if I know myself, swayed by Affection or Partiality towards him. My Heart tells me, I am actuated by the most affectionate Attachment to the Thing that any Man perhaps ever proposed. That and that alone it is that

leads

leads me to give him this Proof of it.

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My Object is, that there should be a proper Man in that Situation, and if Your Lordships shall tell me You have found a properer than my Brother, so far from its being a matter of Concern, It will be a matter of infinite Satisfaction to Me: for if I knew a fitter, I would propose him; and if hereafter I should recollect One, I will, in the mean time, I satisfy myself with having done my Duty.

There remains only for me to say, that upon my Honour, He is totally ignorant of what I am writing; and that I am by no means sure His Modesty and Diffidence will allow him to engage in so momentous an Undertaking.

I have the honour to be with the utmost Regard and Respect

My Dear Lord

Your most faithful and most  
Obedient humble servant  
(Signed) Cha. Thompson.

