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Copy 16545

Colonel Atham's Letter to His Royal Highness The
Prince of Wales, dated March 21st 1707.

Sir

I am truly sensible of Your Royal Highness's Indulgence in allowing me
Time in the giving my Answer to the verbal Message I had the Honour of
receiving from Your Royal Highness by Mr. Luke, Yesterday; but it is my Duty
to create as little Delay as possible; more particularly, as I know Inconveniences
to your Affairs may happen from there being any.

It is with the utmost Concern that I lament my Inability to bring my own
Case of Honour to submit to the two Points, objected to by me, & insisted on
by Your Royal Highness. The Pleas of many, perhaps, would approve of my
Doing so; but that Consciousness of having done only what I truly thought
to be Right, (which is now likely to be my chief solid Comfort) would then
be wanting.

I am infinitely grateful to Your Royal Highness for the noble Offer You
are pleased to make me on retiring from Your Service; an Offer greatly
exceeding the Expectations of a Man, who untroubledly had not Idea of any
at all being made; & my Opinion that Your Royal Highness thereby not
only consulted my own Distress, but those of my Family, who must depend
on me for their Support, greatly enhances the Obligation. - But I am
persuaded Your Royal Highness will not be offended, if I take the Liberty
of saying, that, as from the moment Your Royal Highness has read the
preceding Paragraph, I can no longer look upon myself in Your Service,
I esteem it my Duty to receive the King's Commands what I ought to do
on that Subject; as I should by no means think myself justifiable in
receiving any Honour for an Office I no longer executed, or as a Reward for
my

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Colonel Atham
to
H. R. H. The Prince of Wales.

My past Services, without Them; the rather, as His Majesty placed Me
Himself in both the situations I have enjoyed; & in My present One, I can
now esteem Myself as a servant of His Majesty, only.

Should The King, on My dutiful Application, which I will make as soon as
possible, send Me His Commands to accept Your Royal Highness's very kind
Offer, I shall do so with the Gratitude which becomes Me; not in the least Doubt
but that Your Royal Highness will not wonder, that I should be careful, on the
present Occasion, of saying any thing that My Enemies might interpret as
having a greater Regard to My own Interest, than desire of securing Myself
in Your Royal Highness's Service.

Should Your Royal Highness hereafter think of any thing, in which,
either by Assistance to those Gentlemen with whom I have been lately a
Colleague in Your Lord of Trist, or in any other Point, I can be conducive to
Your Royal Highness's Service, no Pains, Diligence, or Attention shall be
wanting, on My part, to prove Myself at all times,

Yr^o H^o