

Capt. Chas. Cregan - Craufurd to ?

16659-60

Gibraltar. 4th March. 1790

Craufurd

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My Dear Sir.

I wrote to you on the 25th the day after our arrival, and said every thing that occurred to me on the subject of the Prince's situation at that time: Omitting you must excuse, as I was much hurried at first by a variety of unavoidable interruptions. I shall begin from the date of my last, and amongst other things I will mention the result of my observations on His Royal Highness; stating what His disposition is as far as I can determine it; what is likely to be the general turn of His conduct here; and what steps seem to me necessary to be pursued in order to ensure the three principal objects, viz. His remaining in the Garrison; His cheerful submission to the Discipline and regulations of it in every respect; and His behaving in such a manner as becomes a Prince, and an Officer of His Rank.

I told you that His Royal Rank ceased on Thursday morning after the presentation of the Officers: from that moment henceforward He is on the footing of a Colonel of the Garrison, and Officer commanding the Queen's Regiment. Every other day He is on Garrison duty as Colonel of the day, acting with Co: Lumsdane of the Royals, the only person of that Rank in this place besides himself. He attends in this capacity at the mounting of all the Garrison Guards, (about six hundred men) which assemble on the Garrison Parade between seven and eight in the morning. Of these He takes the com:

man, and after they are formed and arranged by the Town Major, He man-
:dures the whole according to the General's directions received verbally on the
Parade.. In order to prevent any embarrassment in His communication of
the Commander in Chief orders for this purpose the Town Major gives Him a
card the night before of what movements the troops are to perform, & we
go it over together; I explain what He does not understand — He wears His
sash all day, remaining in readiness to attend on the shortest notice, and at
night He goes either the north or south Grounds, as He chuses, with the Field
Officer of the day for the district which He visits — The following morning
He is reviewed at Guard mounting by Co. Lumsdane — He attends likewise at
Garrison Courts Martial, and he will take his turn in this as well as all other
duties when he has seen a little more of the Service — Lettending to the motto,
Festina lente, we shall do more than by beginning in too great a hurry...
His regimental duty consists, in providing the number of men that his Regt
furnishes for Guard every morning at seven o'clock now, (in summer sooner)
when he receives the reports &c. and settles other details... At Gun Dring he attends
the Evening Roll call, and, if Colonel of the day, the mounting of the Pickets, and
he will visit the Barracks &c. as often as occasion requires: in short, every thing
that relates to the Regiment goes through him, and the responsibility attaches to
him as to any other Commanding Officer — With respect to every arrang:
:ment of the Garrison details, every regulation of the Place, the nature and
meaning of the different Posts, the utility of the different Works, &c. Genl.
Chorra will take care that he is made acquainted with them in due time, &
every assistance on my part shall be given him in explanation of these & other
circumstances of the Profession — Thus I think he is sure of having as much
military occupation as Gibraltar can afford him, which will fill up a conside:
:rable portion of his time — The General has explained to you sufficiently
the advantage that will arise from his having a Regiment of his own here;
it will certainly keep him more steadily to his business, and make him feel

Capt. Chas. Cregan - Crayford to ?

16660

himself of more consequence. On this subject the Prince desired me to write to Sir Wm Pitt Rivers, expressing his ~~wishes~~ wish either to have his own Regiment sent out to him, or to exchange for the 32nd, now in the Garrison & in high orders.

As to his method of living, till within these two days he breakfasted, dined, & supped with the General, who invariably received him with the most marked desire to render the place agreeable in every respect: so much so, that he has feted the whole Garrison on the Prince's arrival, giving Dinners, Suppers, Balls, in short, providing every amusement that Gibraltar can afford. He has now begun to live at home. He means to keep a regular table for eight people, and to invite some of the Officers of the Garrison every day, but on no account to dine out at Messes, or any where excepting at the Genl's.

He has already had invitations, and I have given the same answers to all; perfectly gracious and civil on his part, but decisive. As he intends to adhere to this rule invariably, the inconvenience and impropriety of his mixing in drinking Parties is entirely avoided, and no person will be displeas'd or hurt by a partial refusal of their invitation. He has been requested to put himself at the head of the Masons in the Garrison, and particularly so on, on leaving England, the Grand Lodge gave him a deputation to act as Provincial Grand Master for Andalusia. The evil consequences of his mixing in this society, such as drinking and the encouragement of too much familiarity with the Officers in general, with some others, occurred to me forcibly; consequently I mentioned it to the Commander in Chief, and he spoke to the Prince on the subject, pointing out to him the impropriety of encouraging by his countenance those swelling principles (so destructive of all subordination) in such a place as Gibraltar. H. R. H. much to his credit, became quite sensible of this, and I have written in his name to the heads of the Society, informing them that he entirely declines entering into Masonry here, as he came here in a military view, and is determined that nothing shall divert his attention from his duties as an Officer of the Garrison.

The mixing in too easy a manner with the Officers might lead him to make

improper connections, and certainly it would lessen his consequence; we must therefore do all in our power to give him a proper sense of his own situation in the world, and to keep him from too general a communication with those of inferior rank to himself. In order that I may know who are the fit persons amongst the Officers for H. R. H. to invite to his little parties, or to associate with in any degree, the Genl. will be so good as to give me a list of the whole Garrison, pointing out who are and who are not eligible.

Without compliment to the Commander in Chief I can say that I never in any country saw a Garrison in more perfect order: the duty is admirably done, and no excesses or riots committed by any part of the Troops. Every person seems to know exactly what he has to do, nor to harbour the most distant idea of disobedience, of course the effect of excellent well enforced regulations. With all this order, and Prussian exactness in the performance of duty, the comfort of every individual is studied, and the whole seem highly satisfied with their Commander. A very considerable number of Soldiers are daily employed on the works. Genl. Citron is improving Gibraltar more than you have any idea of. The ready assembly of the troops; the free and safe communication between the different parts of the place; the lodging large Bodies securely in the Defences themselves, so as to have a sufficient force always ready on the spot to make use of as occasion may require, without exposing the troops till the moment of bringing them into action; and the strengthening the works most materially, are matters thoroughly understood by him. He is perfectly Master of what Gibraltar was, and what it may be made, in short the defence it is capable of in every particular. His Majesty has made a most judicious choice in sending the Prince to a Garrison which is a real honour to the British Nation, and whose Commander, from being so much a man of the world, so pleasant in his manners, and so excellent an Officer, is particularly well calculated to convey advice & instruction to a young Prince in such a manner, that he cannot but receive it with pleasure.

perfect good humour, becoming fond of the man whilst he respects the adviser.
16661-2 As to the Disposition of the Prince it may be thought rash in
me perhaps to give a decided opinion on it; however, by what I have seen I am
led to imagine, that the youthful Vanity of wishing to have every thing about
him better, more showy, and in greater abundance than other people is his
chief error. He appears good humoured; he receives and seems to attend to advice
on subjects that relate to his conduct whereas a Prince & a Colonel of the Garrison;
he neither drinks nor games in the least; but in certain points of expense,
such as horses, furniture &c. he is impatient of control; this is his passion, but
in the indulging of any other he seems by no means inclined to excess. At present
he has a great ardour for the Service, and appears quite resolved to give up
much of his time to it. On the voyage he used to participate with great
pleasure his presiding at the head of the Masonick Society; the decided manner
therefore in which he gave up thoughts of it on the Genl's representation was
a good sign. He has assured me that it is thus he means to act; subscribing
with the perfect deference to the General's opinion in all matters that relate
in the least to Garrison Affairs. His general conduct here, I am in hopes,
will give His Majesty satisfaction, but it would be deceiving ourselves to sup-
:pose that he will turn a rigid Economist: You may depend upon it this
will not be the case yet. The constant communication with men may give
his ideas perhaps a more manly turn; these follies will probably correct them-
selves, and his present unmeaning idle passions may be divested into a dif-
:ferent channel. The Summers Sun generally invigorates the suckling plant,
provided the Gardiner's skill in nursing it has preserved it unperished through
the winters frosts; but, tho' the production of the same soil, and watched
with the same care, some arrive sooner at maturity than others.

I must now mention my ideas as to the treatment of him.
He is between two and three & twenty, of course no longer a boy. He feels this,

And seems very anxious to be on the footing of a man in every respect: im-
mediate control therefore will not do; art and management must supply
its place; and the great thing in my mind is to Endeavour the accomplish-
ment of our principal ends, keeping him at the same time in good humour.
Should he once become disgusted with us the thing is over; from that moment he
will never listen to a word we say, and purposely act in opposition to what
we wish: in short, I think he may be led, but I am certain he never will be
drove. The General will do what he can towards keeping him right by
talking to him seriously when any thing really serious comes in question, &
by laughing him if possible out of any little follies which may show themselves;
at the same time that he makes himself and his house agreeable to him. Thus
whilst he is pleasantly conversing with the man of the world, he will be re-
ceiving, almost imperceptibly, advice and instruction. As to me, by an
open fair method of conducting myself towards him I have gained very much
of his confidence. My great object was to make him come of himself to me
for advice, instead of my giving it unasked, being aware how much the
effect depends on the method in which it is conveyed: this I think I have nearly
accomplished. I do every thing in my power to make him feel comfortable,
& to reconcile him to his situation. I give him my opinion freely and openly
whenever occasion offers. I watch every opportunity of inculcating into him
proper ideas of his own situation, in order to make him feel where he
stands in the world, and how necessary it is for him now to establish a
proper Princely, manly Character. I take the utmost pains by every art
& insinuation to hold up the General to him as a person, whose opinion is
the result of much good sense, much observation, and knowledge of the
world, and I strive to make him anxious to gain his approbation. This
really seems to answer beyond what I could have expected, but every day I

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am more and more convinced of the necessity of keeping him in good humor and free from suspicion — This sort of management will, I hope, have the desired effect. As to the affair of furnishing his house, he is anxious to have it soon completed and done handsomely; he appears quite to have set his heart upon this, & I am much afraid that the cost of it will be rather more than the King expects. However, no exertion of mine by night or by day shall be neglected to keep the expences of every sort down; but if, in spite of all my endeavours, the furniture should exceed what His Majesty wishes, I can only say, that in one scale you must place the saving a moderate sum of money, in the other, the danger of defeating the purposes of H. R. His journey hither — The limits of this place are very confined; the amusements of it few; the absolute necessity of not opening the communication with Spain too evident to make it necessary for me to dwell on it, particularly as Gov. Oterro has done so in his letter to you — Were he not then to be engag'd here as much, and made as comfortable as the place will admit of; allowed to indulge in a certain degree his little whims, which, whether childish or not, equally constitute his amusement, I own I apprehend the worst consequences; such as his becoming quite disgusted with the place, and his acting in opposition to the King's commands — At present he has quite made up his mind to staying here at least two years; to prevent his flying off should be one of our first objects; for, however His Majesty may have it in His Power to restrain him by coercive measures, yet the exertion of that power must be particularly disagreeable to so good a King, and so affectionate a Father —

Of the real motives of His Majesty in taking the steps He has; how unskill'd they spring from the purest source of paternal affection and anxiety for the welfare of His child, I endeavour, by every possible means, to convince this young man — A little cool reflection will, no doubt, bring home to him so evident a truth —

I hope that the having deliver'd my opinion with so little

reserve will not be considered as too great a presumption - I am placed in a very particular & unexpected situation - I am honoured with the confidence of a Sovereign to whose service my life is totally devoted; and unworthy should I prove myself of such a mark of distinction, did I not feel stimulated to the complete discharge of my duty by every impulse that can actuate an honourable man and a faithful subject - In conformity to these feelings it is that I have written so fully: if I have erred it is the consequence of an excess of zeal, not a want of deference to superior judgment -

I cannot enter into the accounts for the furniture, as I shall not receive them till the house is finished; there was nothing belonging to it, of course it wants many articles - However, in order to keep down the expence as much as I can I have directed the tradesmen employed to take in their bills, as soon as their work is done, to Mr. Pawleigh, Secretary to the Commander in Chief: he has resided here above twenty years, & he will carefully scrutinize every article by article, which is the only check that I can prepare against their imposition - As I before observed, the Prince will certainly rather overdo the furnishing, but whenever a person quits this place or public sale is made of his furniture, and he seldom loses much more than the wear and tear for the time of course this will be the case with his, which makes the object much less than it otherwise would be -

I beg leave to mention that H. R. H. is anxious to have something fixed about his income, in conformity to which his establishment and housekeeping must of necessity be arranged -

At present I have nothing more to add than that the Prince continues in perfect health and good spirits - I hope to hear from you soon, but without waiting for that I will write again in a few posts, or before if any thing particular occurs - I had the Honour to write to the Duke of York by the first post after our arrival here, and I shall trouble him with another letter when I have had leisure to look round me; in the mean time I