

M^r Pitt

Downing Street May 30th 1795

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Saturday. May 30th

1795

It is not without the utmost regret that
M^r Pitt presumes again to importune
Your Majesty on a subject on which Your
Majesty's Opinion has been so strongly
intimated; But a deep sense of all the
important Interests which are at stake
compels him to state to Your Majesty

without reserve all that he feels on the
 present important occasion. In order to
 apprise your Majesty of the grounds on
 which he states the impossibility of resisting
 the proposal for applying a larger proportion
 of Income to the Extinction of the Princes
 Debt, He takes the Liberty of enclosing

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a Statement of the probable numbers formed
after repeated examination, and after
collecting as much Information as possible
from those who have the best Opportunities
of learning the Sentiments of Persons of
different Descriptions. Mr Pitt is confident
that this Statement, tho' from the nature
of the thing it can not be perfectly accurate

is at least not too unfavourable; and on
the view ^{of it} the Prospect of carrying the Plan
as originally proposed is certainly desperate.

The real Question therefore is whether
Conceding now, with as good a Grace, as
Circumstances will admit, is not preferable
to making the Trial with the Certainty
of

of Failure. In the first Case, The Imta-
-tion which now prevails will soon subside.
It will be in the Prince's Power to pursue
such a Line of Conduct, as may restore
him to the Place he ought to fill in
the Public Estimation; and the Discussion
will not have left behind it the seeds
of future Embarrassments. In the other

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Case the consequences will, as Mr Pitt is
persuaded, be more serious and extensive
than they have yet appeared to your
Majesty. In addition to all the other
circumstances which have already made
an impression on the Public Mind so
unfavourable to the Prince of Wales, the
proof which will be given of his determina-

tion to yield nothing to the Public Opinion
at the very moment of an Application
for relieving his Embarrassments, will
produce an Effect on which it is too painful
to dwell. But the Mischiefs will not
stop here. Your Majesty may be assured
that the Strength and Credit of your
Government, which has rested chiefly

on sincere Public Opinion, and on your
Majesty's Personal Popularity will be
deeply affected. The Shock given it in
one Instance will more or less operate
on every other trying Question that may
arise in Parliament. And at the next
election the Consequences will be felt in
the increased Risk and Difficulty to which

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Many of those will inevitably be exposed,
who may carry their Attachment to
Government so far, as to stand by them
in a fruitless Resistance on the present
Occasion. Considering the Impression
which, according to every account, this
Question has made in all Parts of the
Kingdom, It is not easy to say how

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for this effect may operate in the choice
of a new Parliament. Mr Pitt trusts
He need not assure Your Majesty of his constant
Desire to shew his deference to Your Majesty's
Wishes and Opinions. He believes Your
Majesty will not suspect him of exaggera-
-ting Difficulties, or of hastily yielding

As them when they can be overcome by
Perseverance and Exertion. But he is
so much convinced of the inevitable
Mischief which depending this Measure
must produce to your Majesty's Service,
that, if he had any Option, He should
feel himself bound to entreat your

Majesty to commit to some other hands
an experiment which is so directly against
his decided and deliberate opinion. But
after having undertaken to bring forward
the measure, He certainly feels himself
bound (if your Majesty's opinion and the
Princes Wishes should unfortunately remain

unaltered) to make the Trial even under
the present Circumstances; but he must
do it under the Certainty of Failing; with
a Conviction that the Measure is equally
against your Majesty's Interests and those
of the Prince; and with no other Consolation
than that He will stand acquitted to
your Majesty of the Consequences.

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He cannot however forbear hoping that
the Considerations which he has thus
ventured to lay before Your Majesty
will induce you to recommend it to
the Prince to signify on Monday, thro'
Mr Anstuther, or any other Person whom
he may authorize for that Purpose, his

Desire that Parliament may allot whatever
Proportion of his Income they may think
most expedient for the discharge of his
Debts, and make Provision for duly
appropriating the Remainder. Mr Pitt
understands from Lord Cholmondeley that
the Prince refers himself on this Point
to your Majesty; and he cannot conceive

that the Prince himself can feel that your
Majesty ought, under such circumstances
to persist in an attempt leading to the
consequences which have been stated, and
from which His Royal Highness can derive
no one possible advantage.

Mr Pitt has discharged a painful but
indispensable duty, and waits with the
utmost anxiety your Majesty's Determination