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4 April 1811

Sir George Dallas

Very Private.

Henrietta Street  
Cavendish Square  
April 4<sup>th</sup> 1811.

My dear Sir.

The gracious manner in which His Royal Highness the Prince Regent was pleased, through Your presentation in the Year 1808, to receive my Work on the Wars in India, during the Administration of Lord Wellesley, encourages me to request, through the same Channel, that I may be permitted to lay at the feet of His Royal Highness, Copy of a Minute on the subject of India, which I am going to present to the President of the Board of Control.

In contemplating the widely extended interests of the Crown, I am aware His Royal Highness's enlightened mind would pay particular attention to those which relate to its rich Possessions in the East; and consequently, that His Royal Highness's anxiety must have been painfully directed to the late Madras convulsions

which menaced the most alarming consequences. His Royal Highness is well aware that to suppress similar Disorders they must be calmly traced to their real Sources, and that to prevent their Renewal, Clemency and Vigour are unitedly required from the Superintending Government.

Impressed with these Ideas, I have laboriously endeavoured to investigate the origin and progress of these troubles; and the result of attentive inquiry enables me to say, without incurring the risk of offering a rash opinion, that with a just respect for the fortitude and Courage displayed by Sir George Barlow in the Crisis of a Storm created by his imprudence, the Parliamentary and other Documents demonstratively establish, that a Mutiny which all must view with indignation, was preceded by measures of indiscretion, and improper severity, in the Government of Madras; measures which none can approve, which the Court of Directors, and the Board of Control, have, in various Cases, been the first to correct and reverse. These were the real causes that laid the foundation of a Calamity that shook to its centre our Indian Empire, and had nearly deprived the Crown of its brightest Gem, and the British Empire of one of the best Supports of its public Credit.

Under these Circumstances, now  
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the Revolt is put down, and the Civil Power restored to its due authority, it is generally considered that with a view of closing the wound, and of extinguishing those feuds which yet threaten the peace of India, and to which the watchful eye of Buonaparte is turned with vindictive hope, the Government of Madras will shortly be committed to hands entirely disconnected with the dissensions of Sir George Barlow's administration: Such is the Opinion, such is the wish of a portion of the Direction, and such, before long, I believe, will be the general decision of the Court.

In the contemplation of such an event, some respectable friends, both in and out of the Direction, knowing that my life has been devoted to the Service of the Company, and the study of their affairs, have urged me to lift my mind to the noble pursuit of healing these dissensions, and of restoring good will and harmony in that agitated Settlement. I have, in consequence, been induced to offer my Services to Government to succeed Sir George Barlow whenever, from any Cause, he shall vacate the Chair at Madras: And my Minute to Mr. Dundas has for its object to signify to him my ambition to be thus employed.

With the whole Department of India practically familiar to my mind, and with  
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the warmest attachment to my Sovereign and His  
Illustrious Race, I should be proud to devote myself  
to the glory of His Royal Highness's administration, and  
by a system of Conciliation, and vigilant attention to the  
interests of the Governed, to be the happy instrument of  
realizing in the Provinces entrusted to my charge, the  
beneficent wishes of His Royal Highness, by rendering  
the Sceptre of His Power as acceptable to the Natives  
of India, as it is welcome to the loyal and devoted  
Subjects of His Majesty in Great Britain.

Should His Royal Highness condescend  
to sanction the wishes of my friends in the Direction, by  
approving of this tender of my Services, I have then to  
request that He will be graciously be pleased to remember  
me, when the India Minister will officially wish to have  
His Commands relative to the Government of Madras.  
It would be the highest object of my pride, upon this occasion,  
that my Prince, so distinguished for His superior  
Knowledge and Talents, should honor me with His  
early Countenance; and my highest and devoted ambition  
would be, on succeeding to the Government of Madras,  
to make the Prince Regent's virtues universally known  
to the native Chiefs of India.

Regards,

I have the honor to be, with great

My dear Sir

Your very Faithful Humble Servant

George Dallas.