

Rev. I. Ashe to ? Col. McKeanow (with enclosures)

18495 - 8

Sep 5th 1844

Jam. Light
Moneyman

Sir

I request your indulgence for this additional letter, most probably the last with which I shall presume to trouble you - for the truth is, I shall not leave myself any thing else to say, but, having, as far as in my power, discharged my duty to my King, my Country & my little family, I shall bid a long and last, to worldly Concerns of that description -

I have had the honor, Sir, of receiving a second letter, by the commands of Mr. Ryder, by which I am given to understand that, as the Transactions to which my Depes relates, have taken place in Ireland, my Petition & the documents in support of it, have been transmitted to the Irish Government & that any future representations, which I might judge expedient to make, must be submitted to the same.

I can assure you, Sir, with much sincerity, that it was extremely painful to my feelings, & more especially in the present melancholy Situation of domestic & public Affairs, to trespass on his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, with the private complaints, or sufferings of an obscure Individual, for I am well aware of mine own Insignificance, & indeed I have been taught to know it, & I had exhausted every other possible mode of relief, before I presumed to adopt that desperate appeal,

Rev. I. Ashe to Col. McKean (with enclosures)

but, though the Transactions, immediately in question, literally
took place in Ireland, I was led to imagine, from the
intimate connexion which subsists, & which, I hope, ever
will subsist between the two Kingdoms, that they substantially
concerned the Empire at large; & if I have erred, my error
was an error of judgment. I really persuaded myself, Sir,
that the only question to be discussed, was, whether the
Copies of the Letters which I have the honor of transmitting
were, bona fide, transcribed from the originals in my
possession, & that, if this were admitted, not only the
faith of Government, but the honor & dignity of Majesty
itself were unavoidably interested & engaged in justifying
spontaneous, solemn & repeated Promises made by
the Inventors of the Cause, & the Representatives of
Majesty itself - & I did not think that the heads
of the Individuals made any distinction in this point
or if any, that it would be in favour of the words -
but as the originals of these Letters, Sir, have been
long since submitted to his Grace the Duke of Devonshire,
& by his Grace honourably returned to me, unaltered,
which was Lord Camden's Letter, acquainting me that
his Lordship had recommended me to Lord Castlereagh
in order that the Noble Secretary might lay my
claims before the Marquis Cornwallis, & which most
probably was mislaid, I really cannot conceive
what further representations remain for me to make,
supposing that I were inclined to make any, after
the one great appeal which I have already made

18496

Transcripts of two Letters, not in the smallest degree,
confidential, which Mr. Ashe Rector of Tamworth,
had the honor of receiving from his Grace, the
Duke of Richmond, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, &
with a few observations, which appear to flow
from the Letters themselves -

Sir

Charter Park - Sep 8 1806

I am aware of the claims which you allude to,
in your Letter of the 17th Ult. & which have been
mentioned to me by Sir Arthur Wellesley. I shall
be very happy if an opportunity does occur of just-
ifying them, & will keep your Letter as a Memorandum,
according to your wishes. I am, Sir,

Richard L.

I think, Sir, that you will candidly allow that,
though this Letter does not contain a positive promise,
either with respect to any particular Provision,
nor point out the exact time when any Provision
would be made, for that was impossible,
yet it contains a general positive promise,
that a Provision would be made for me, if
opportunity offered, & that if opportunity
did not offer, that there a Provision of one

Rev. I. Ashe to Col. McKeanow (with enclosures)

18497 Second Letter.

6. July 21st - 1809

Sir

In answer to your letter of the 10th & 18th Inst^o his Grace the Lord Lieutenant directs me to assure you that he has no prejudices against you whatever, & that he has, at all times, been ready to admit that you have been useful to former Administrations, but his Grace cannot consider himself bound to fulfil the Promises which they may have held forth. And with regard to a Decision to Mr. Ashe, the current State of the funds is such, that his Grace very much regrets that it is not in his power to hold out any hopes of being able to comply with your wishes. I have &c. of Tuesday

Most assuredly, Sir, I feel extremely desirous, from respect for his Grace the Duke of Richmond, to be on my guard in any observations which I may presume to make on this Letter, but it appears, in my judgment, to be in manifest contradiction to the one, which had been previously received, & to have been written, from what cause I cannot conceive, under very different Impressions of mind - & what is the obvious meaning of this Letter, when unconnected with the former?

Sir

I freely acknowledge that you have been useful to former Administrations in this Kingdom, for the documents which you have submitted to my Inspection manifestly prove it; & it is also manifest by the dates of the Letters, that those Services were rendered, while Mr. Pitt was Premier in England, & as I was always politically attached to the Administration of that Gentleman, & was at that very period serving in Ireland, in the same cause with you, under his auspices, I must not persuade myself, in serving the Government, at that critical & useful moment, you were serving your King & Country - I am sensible also, Sir, that we are indebted to you for the Suggestion of the Yeomanry Corps in this Kingdom, & for the entire plan on which these Corps were formed, which was communicated by you in a Letter to Mr. Pitt, & almost instantaneously adopted, without deviating in the minutest point, from what you have proposed -

18497
hundreds a year would be settled on Mr. Ashe, in trust for my children, for it was to that most earnest request of mine that the concluding Paragraph related, where his Grace had the benignity to say, he would keep my Letter as a Memorandum. It is now, exactly three years since the Letter was written, but still if an opportunity did not offer, & his Grace alone must be the Judge of that, I have not any right to complain; but if his Grace should resign the Government, without making any provision for me, or settling the Pension specified, which would be far more congenial to my feelings, I must then conclude that there were more expressions of course & courtesy, & the language of Countenance on which I was not to place any dependence; but, at that period, Sir, I could not have formed such a supposition, especially where the Expectations held out, were connected with the Letter, which I had the Honour of receiving, at the same time, from Lord Bunsbury & Sir Arthur Wellesley - the natural consequence of which was, Sir, that I placed a most implicit confidence in what I deemed a positive Promise, & acted accordingly - the result of which confidence has involved me in the most serious difficulties, which are daily increasing, & which materially have prejudiced, & are prejudicing on my health & spirits.

Rev. I. Ashe to Col. McKean (with enclosures)

I am fully sensible that by this salutary measure, the disaffected persons, & were intimidated, the wavering, were confirmed on the side of Patriotism & Loyalty, & those, who, though sincerely attached to their King, the constitution & genuine liberty, dare not, at the hazard of their lives, avow that attachment, become at once, animated with spirit & resolution. I am also sensible that, independent of the advantage which immediately resulted from the adoption of the measure, the yeomanry answer as a security for the Militia, as the Militia do for the yeomanry; & that, if the People of this Kingdom would avoid the degradation & slavery, which vitify & enchain the Continent, if they would deliver themselves, & do that is most dear to them, from plunder, rapine & murder, they must in future consider themselves not only as a commercial but as a warlike Nation, while the gigantic Power of France remains in its present force, & that its despotic Government views with Antipathy, & shrinks appalled at the sight, the first sparks of vital Liberty which kindle in Europe. Of all this, Sir, I feel fully sensible, but find myself so peculiarly circumstanced by engagements of various Sorts, that, notwithstanding the Promises which you have so frequently received from my Predecessors, & the Expectations held out to you by myself, I cannot promise you, Interest in the Cause, nor do I consider myself bound to do it. & your zeal, Patriotism & Loyalty must be their own reward. & with respect to a Division, you have already displayed such proofs of attachment to your King & Country, that I am convinced you would not wish to prep upon the State with a Burden of one hundred & a year, when I acquaint you that it is already overburthened.

If Patriots & Loyalists, & surely none of the Wobblers or Partisans, from whom these Promises have been received, will refuse these truly honourable Titles, pursue Patriotism & Loyalty as they would Treason, by tantalizing with Expectations never to be realized, the Kingdom, in which such a Schism in the political Hemisphere takes place, must be divided against itself, but alas we know too well that such a Schism does so in circumstances cannot stand. & it will venture to say that there is not an individual more interested, in every point of view, in its prosperity & welfare than I am.

18498

and I must candidly own, that, if the Object of my Petition cannot, for political reasons, unknown to me, be granted, I would have wished that the refusal had been announced from the Supreme Seat of Government.

I am not, Sir, conscious to myself that I have ever affected the slightest regard to his Grace the Duke of Devonshire to change the favourable Sentiments which his Grace was pleased to express in the first Letter which I had the honor of receiving; but that Letter & the second which so immediately after, differ so essentially, that they scarcely appear to have been written by the same Person; & you must excuse me, Sir, if I presume to enclose copies of these Letters, with the deductions which, in my Opinion, flow from them, without any forced Construction; at the same time I am perfectly well satisfied that his Grace of Devonshire did not view the second Letter in the same light in which it appears to me.

I must, Sir, excuse myself in the vicinity of the King, it is the best resource of disappointed hopes, that, I trust, and that, if his Grace peruses these elective Sentiments so congenial to his high rank & descent, he will be the first to lament that he did not, before it was too late, resolve on such a happy Means from the difficulties, which on all sides surround him, in consequence of his Patriotism & Loyalty, various parental anxiety, & realize the Expectations which he himself has pleased more than once to raise. You must make allowances, Sir, for the State of Mind & Body

under which my Observations will be made, for it
is, with some difficulty that I have under this Letter —

I have the Honor to be,
Sir,
with high respect, your very
obedient & very humbly servant
J. A. Asher

5 Sept 1711

Geo Isaac Asher

5 Sept