

Robert Thorne to Duke of ?
(p. 18554-5)

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Grafton St
Monday 9th Sept 1811

Sir

In consequence of your orders that I should trouble your Royal Highness with the Result of my conference with Mr. Yorke, I beg to state to your Royal Highness that my interview on the whole was of a satisfactory kind -

Mr. Yorke, I think, was all but decisive in my favor, although he desired not to be considered as having given to me an absolute promise - He introduced the subject after

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mentioning the powerful recommendation of His Royal Highness The Prince Regent, by asking whether I knew the nature & emoluments of the Office;

But before I state any thing further, may I beg of your Royal Highness to present to the Prince Regent my most dutiful & most humble acknowledgments for this very extraordinary kindness, & marked favor towards myself — My future life will be devoted to Him, & thro' His Royal Highness has obliged many, & will serve many more, with great humility I can venture to declare that no heart more than mine shall be governed by feelings of unceasing gratitude to so illustrious a benefactor — Mr. Gorkie signified at first that the profits of the place were greatly magnified & overstated, that he had looked into them, & that it was not an office of great

emolument, that a decision had taken place some years back by which the profits were curtailed nearly $2/3^{\text{ds}}$ & he talked of the silver car to be carried before the judge, & doubted whether it would suit the dignity of a member of Parliament, & whether the profits could render me the service I looked for: — I told Mr Gorkie that by honorable & proper management I hoped to raise the office, if the office would not raise me, & inwardly I felt that my dignity was sufficiently flattered by the marked kindness of His Royal Highness The Prince Regent in asking it for me, & by the anxiety of your Royal Highness on my behalf — As to the

emoluments I fear they are not what I
once expected, but I have to recollect that
Mr Crichton conducted the office in a manner
that did not give satisfaction - He was not
esteemed to be a person of education, or of
gentlemanly & liberal conduct, & I find
that he used low & most exasperating expressions
in court even towards Sir William Scott as
well as others, so that latterly there was a
general disposition on these grounds to turn
away every source of profit from him -
Commissioners were appointed to conduct
sales, which were once entrusted to his
management - Perhaps I may be enabled
to do credit to the recommendation of
the Prince Regent, & it shall be my
first endeavor to execute well the duties
I may have to discharge should I be

finally successful, & that may even tend to
my own advantage, & render the office better
than it has been lately, & as good as it once
was — Much will rest for the future with
Sir William Scott; & I did not at all
give up my pursuit, or relinquish my hopes
of benefiting thro' the kindness of the Prince
Regent from any gloomy statement Mr
Gorke made to me — He admitted that Mr
Daines Barrington, brother of Lord Barrington
then first Lord of the admiralty had held it,
& I believe had the Prince Regent not
interfered the vacancy at this time would
have been filled up by the Hon^{ble} William
Frederick Eden, brother to the late Teller
of the Exchequer — Mr Gorke told me
that whoever took the office must do it

subject to any future regulations that
might hereafter be made respecting it—
To this I fully submitted, & he told me that
perhaps an arrangement might be made
not unfavorable to myself should I be the
Marshall, & that a fixed sum ^{per ann^m}
might be given not subject to the changes
of war & peace, I told him that I left
with gratitude my interests in the hands
of the Prince Regent, & that I was ready
to submit to any thing that might be
arranged for me in regard to this office

I suppose I shall hear further from
Mr Yorke in a short time, perhaps
He means to consult Sir William Scott
on some points — I shall have the honor
to be at Colchester on Thursday to be

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ready for Friday, & to pay my devotions
& profoundest respect to the Prince Regent
as well as to thank your Royal Highness
for your unmented kindness. —

I believe that some thousand
pounds will be saved to my pocket
by my being allowed to have the
honor of attending such exalted &
illustrious Personages on the ground of
the poor bay-makers whom I represent

I hope we shall ever be loyal &
attached to the throne in a body together,
but for myself I can only say that my
nature must be changed, if I fail in
those qualities which are so eminently
called for by the favor I have

rec^d — I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Royal Highness's
most dutiful & most
obed^t servant

Rob^t Thornton

Rob^t Thornton

9. Sept. 1811