Samuel Whitbread to ? Col. McMahon
Oct. 15 1811

18706-7

My dear Sir

I communicated to the Prince Regent, and to the Princesses the gracious intention of this Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that they should, and their Models and Designs to Carlton House for the Inspection of this Royal Highness tomorrow; & I have received their grateful acknowledgments of the condescension of this Royal Highness.

It has since occurred to me, that as there are plans of other Architects of Eminence before the Committee, it might be considered unjust to them, if that fact were not to be submitted to this Royal Highness; & however the Committee may have decided upon the superiority of the Designs of the two Chosen Rivals, & the Prince order the Rest, there might possibly be a feeling of Dissatisfaction in the minds of the other Competitors, if upon enquiry they should

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that His Royal Highness has not been informed of their Labours. Might I presume to hope that Your Good Offices, His Royal Highness ~~might~~ may be induced to allow the Designs of the other Architects before the Committee, to be sent to Carlton House. Key and Drawings only, & not Models, & if permission is granted I will take care of the Conveyance.

I feel great Concern indeed on the subject of the two Designs by Chalon & Wyatt, & cannot help expressing it to You. If the Committee have adopted a Mode of Advertisement not convenient in case of the second Lot to have advertised Problems & Proposals designated by Letters, or Mottos: we should have avoided all the painful discussion which is now before us on the subject of Family differences. We should have selected the design in our opinion the best adapted to our purpose, & begun at once with the Architect after you have discovered his Name. Now should either of the Chalon & Wyatt be successful, we have a Family Feud to go into, before we can begin to build, & by what I have heard I am fearful our task of Building with Love dispute before the Preliminary step can be accomplished.

I have an hereditary Intimacy with the Wyatt Family, & had rather oblige the Benjamin Wyatt rather. He became a Competitor for Building the Theatre. But it is only Justice to him to say that His Pretensions were given in, & his Designs should stand by the side of Chalon's, that he solicitous was urged to the Committee that his Design was not his own till long after that period, & that it cannot be the province of the Committee to decide upon a point so delicate & difficult between two Brothers.

It would however be a great misfortune, if after having accomplished so much & achieved a labour so unexpectedly as that of yesterday we should on the account of an unhappy Family Dissension, be prevented from going on, & executing the

intention of the General Assembly to have instructed me to come to a decision upon ~~some~~ Design & to have contracted for the Execution of the work, before to-morrow fortnight. — May this, with a view to the complete success of the undertaking to have brought on the spot on Monday morning next; & if this unhappy obstacle did not arise to the ordinary and obvious mode of proceeding, I am sure it ought to be done — & <u>much depends upon it</u>. — the Celebration of the Throne should be adopted.

I am fully sensible of that goodness of Heart which has induced His Royal Highness to go so fully into this Matter; and I do pay full Homage to the feeling which so evidently, & nobly ~~actuates~~ fills his Breast, & actuates his Conduct upon ~~this~~ the occasion, & I will contribute any efforts lay in the as they may be, to so great a work.

But I earnestly & anxiously hope that the consideration of this Matter may not destroy our undertaking. We have no time to select, combine, & produce

a place out of Windsor place, & then to find a person independent of Peerage, to execute the mission, as far as I can judge. Decide upon the plan the least objectionable, & correct it; & Prince and employ one person to do the thing. If not one of the royalties should be the successful candidate which ever it may be, I & with Peel be the person to say whether they will, both consents. divide the deputation. if they consent, they must give us one of Peel to look to & treat with; if they will not, we must look to treat with the Peel whose Design we have selected. I have taken the great liberty of discussing my hints to Peel upon this subject, and am quite sure Peel with handsome. In the solo prospect of these complicated concerns, no difficulty has weighed so heavily upon my mind as one I was sure it would be looked for in South it's occurrence was such within the range of probability.

The Town Commissioners themselves will be at Carlton House, to wait the Commands of His Royal Highness: & to explain their views. — ~~[illegible]~~ The Discussions of the Prince Regent will be most satisfactory & beneficial to the Committee, & if with his gracious assistance & concurrence one step decides upon the Design of ~~the other~~ either of the two Royalty, I earnestly hope his benevolent feelings will be gratified in their Reconciliation.

In the whole matter I am completely sensible of the value of the Zealous support we receive, & of His Royal Highness's most Benignity

I have the Honour to be
My dear Sir
Your most obedient
and faithful Servant
Samuel Whitbread

Dover Street
Oct. 15. 1811. —

I am ashamed to add to this long letter but, a very particular Friend of mine at the other end of the Town has expressed a great desire to see the Satirist of the Prince Regent's Stables at Brighton

It would be a great Favour by me, if I could obtain that Permission for him. — perhaps you would be so good as to assist me. —

Mr Whitbread

Octr 15. 1911.