

C. Arbuthnot to Col. Leckham

18897

Confidential

Downing Street
Tuesday 10th Dec^r

Dear Mr. Leckham

In the first place let me mention that Lord Bathurst would be very much obliged to you if you w^d call upon him tomorrow ^{at the Board of Trade} between 1/2 past 12 & 3, as he wishes to speak to you about some French articles which are to come for the Prince - Lord B. will propose a mode of bringing them over which seems unobjectionable.

Don't say it to any one, but Mr. Gurney has been with me to day, & I think it right to apprise you that talking to me of £200,000 to be voted to the Prince as a sum to cover the expenses of his last year, I observed that I fear Percival w^d not be able to propose so large a

Sum

Sum, upon which he told me that you on Sunday had said that it was now the intention of Ministers to give £200,000. — He afterwards desired that I w^d say nothing to you about it, so you must not let him have an idea that I have repeated it to you. I have however been desirous that you sh^d know how y^r name has been brought forward, but I must entreat you to say nothing which could make it appear that you & I have communicated together.

I sh^d be very glad if so large a sum as £200,000 could be voted, but what Perceval says makes me fear that such a sum would not be possible, & he has more than once told me that the Prince's own declarations at the beginning of the Regency, of not allowing the Regency to be any burden to the Country, increases the difficulty of proposing any sum.

y^r most truly
Obedt^{nt}

I don't put my name on the outside, as I wish this letter to get to you without its being known from whom it comes.