

Geo. Walker to the Genl. Turner

Dec. 30 1811

18997-8

Mr. Walker presents his most respectful Compliments to
General Turner — The paper he took the liberty to
send last for General Turner's perusal, was the substance
of what he had drawn up about Two Years since, when
Lord Keith was pleased to Honor the Undertaking with his
Lordships Countenance —

In this Arduous Task, he is anxious, to avoid what may be
considered as presumptuous; — Instead of the Word Essays he
has been advised to substitute that of History — but this, beside,
being too pompous, would imply at least a Volume or two on the
Subject. — Essays, it is true, are now given on almost every
Subject; — however, after all that can be done either in Art or in
Science, the utmost effort is but an Essay. —

The Structures, or Essays in question, are intended to be
addressed to Ninety parts of the Commissaries, and to be
read, if read at all, previous to entering on the Descriptive
Account of the Pictures, & consequently should precede it
in the Arrangement — The List given, contains the
Names of those Noblemen & Gentlemen who have Honored
the Undertaking with their Countenance — On this Score
he is under great Obligations to Lord Mordaunt, Lord Keith
and General Turner — He begs to state that he has
no intention of Publishing the Work by Subscription

(Please turn over)

18998

He had calculated on the sum of Twelve or Fifteen Hundred Pounds, covering the Expence of the Portraits alluded to, but he now finds it would require a much larger sum - which Circumstances has led to the Abandonment of that part of his Plan

In a day or two, he shall have an opportunity of sending to Woburn, for the purpose of Recording the Duke of Bedford's Pictures, a Volume, Bound up similar to that which the Earl of Moira was pleased to charge himself with the Commission of, to Carlton House, for His R. H. The Prince Regent's Pictures. And as he shall have occasion to refer to His Grace's letters, he requests General Turner will have the goodness to cause the Portfolio of Papers to be returned to him, along with those specified on the other side, and which, from a Note of the Earl of Moira, he understands were transmitted to General Turner for his perusal

Regarding His R. H. The Prince Regent's valuable Pictures, he shall say nothing, till he has the pleasure of hearing further on the Subject from General Turner - Unless it may be permitted him to express his Admiration of the Vandyck - Ostade Wouwemans - Both - W. & A. Van der Velde and also of the Rembrandt, which are all of the highest Class of their respective Masters. - Respecting the Ostade & Wouwemans he is inclined to think they have both been engraved from

In

In his extensive Collection of Prints & Etchings, he has, at Hunter Square Edinburgh, a large Aperture of the latter by Rembrandt, which he intends to bring to Town next Summer. - In the mean time, he requests General Turner will be so good as to give a Room to the Accompanying Portrait, till an opportunity be afforded him of Describing His R. H. The Prince Regent's Pictures - as it is interesting to compare an Artist with himself, even to the Paraphernalia of his Painting-Room or Study. - He has another Duplicate of a fine Portrait by Rembrandt, which, so soon as returned by a Friend who has a Sight of it, he shall have to request of General Turner to allow it to remain in his Hands till the period alluded to

The Papers above referred to & transmitted to the Earl of Moira are as follow

a Letter from Mr Byres regarding the Raphael
a Note from Sir W. Forbes - on Mr Byres's return from Rome
a Description of the Portrait of Sir Rowland Dwyer by Vandyck
and a Note on the Subject from Lord St. Helens.

Pall Mall No 81

December 30. 1811

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George Walker Esq

To his papers.

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