

(Lord Egremont)

to

R. Hon. S. Percival
Mar 27. 1812

19349

Grosvenor Place March 2. 1812

Sir

I have not a moment to acknowledge the receipt of your letter which I found this morning upon my return to London and to beg of you to lay my warmest and most humble thanks before the Prince Regent for the great honor which His Royal Highness's goodness had intended for me, and feeling as I do the most dutiful and grateful attachment to His Royal Highness not only for the best high mark of his favor but for the notice with which he has condescended to honor me for many years past and at the same time professing my entire approbation of the principles of your Administration I am afraid that I may incur the imputation of an affectation of singularity when I beg leave to decline this high honor, of the value and importance of which I

am fully sensible, but my principle has been to refuse
no duty which may be attended with trouble and expense
and which is not an object of competition with others,
but to leave the objects of ambition to those who are
more desirous of them and more worthy of them than
I am, and in this line I hope to be allowed to persevere
as it may be desirable that the subject of this correspondence
should be kept secret you may depend upon its
never escaping from me. I beg leave to add my
thanks to you for the obliging expressions in which you
have conveyed the Prince Regent's orders to me and to
assure you that

I am the honor to be

with great respect

Yours much obliged

& most Obedient

Wm. Pitt Rivers

Essex