

Lady Kennedy to Col. Leake

Lisbon 14<sup>th</sup> August 1813

My dear Sir 20806 - 7

Did I not feel persuaded I may coast  
the honor of your friendship, I should not dare  
more to trespass upon time which I know to be so  
precious as yours is, to avoid as much as possible  
doing so unnecessarily, I will without further pre-  
face, come at once to the reason of my addressing  
you. You must recollect that about a year ago  
His Royal Highness the Regent conferred the honor  
of Knighthood upon Sir Robert, which He received  
with gratitude, and the value of which was much  
enhanced, by the gracious manner in which it was  
bestowed. The years which has since elapsed, has  
been passed in actual, I ever believe, Honors  
are blazing all around us for Services in this  
Country, and of course Sir Robert is anxious to  
participate in them, as He has done in the Toils  
of those who have obtained them. A Baronage  
to Him it may be said is of no consequence,  
as He has no children, but surely a man must  
be void of all feeling, who is not ambitious  
of His Sovereign's Commendation, and favors. It  
therefore is of consequence to Him to gain the mark  
of approbation, that He may with Heart felt  
gratitude, I need say, He also owe to my

sovereign, another proof that He will reward  
a steady perseverance in Duty.

And such perseverance I may say has been the  
conduct of my Husband for Twenty Years.

He has in that time served in a variety of  
Climates, and has received the thanks of every  
General He has served under, but alas!

He wants a Friend to represent His Services  
properly; I dare hope you will be that Friend, and  
take His Cause in hand, it could not have a more  
able Advocate, in point of Abilities, or in Interest  
with H. R. H.

When I read over the list of  
Baronets made some time ago, I could not help  
wishing Sir Robert's name had been included.  
acquaint me of any Womanish folly in the  
kind, for I can safely say, upon my honor it  
has no share in it, unless the happiness I should  
feel in seeing my Husband rewarded, can be  
called folly. I should be doubly proud to feel my  
Gratitude to H. R. H. called forth thro' the medium  
of a Friend.

Is H. R. H. all is possible, but even if President  
was unopposed, Sir Robert Watson was made a Baronet  
never having seen the variety of service Sir Robert  
has seen. May I hope for your intercession with  
H. R. H. I have the less hesitation in asking you

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because it is not petitioning for a man without  
claims; do not mistake me, I cannot mean to pre-  
sume to say that these claims would make them  
ask but with the utmost humility. They are bolden  
me to press the cause with you, as I trust they  
will have success with you, I in due you to use  
your interest with H. R. & 20807

And now I must confess to you that I write un-  
known to Sir Robert. He is still pursuing his  
duties with unabated zeal. I do not think I shall  
ever tell him I have written, for if I do not succeed  
I would spare him the pain of sharing in my dis-  
appointment, and if success should attend me,  
I would rather you had all his gratitude. I should  
require no addition to the joy my poor heart  
wants feel in seeing him rewarded by H. R. & A.

I know your feelings, and I will say no more,  
I now I felt your kindness on the day he was  
knighted, why then should I doubt your willingness  
to add to the obligation I already feel to you.

I cannot express as I ought what I wish  
to say in apologies, for thus troubling you,  
pray forgive me.

I trust my friend Mrs. M. Mahon has not  
quite forgotten me, tho' she has not answered one  
of the many letters I have written her. pray

all this with my love, I often think, I speak  
of this. She cannot be more happy than I wish  
Her to be, and I know she is completely so, if  
you are well. which I sincerely hope is the case

One more pray, pray forgive the liberty I  
have taken with you, what can I say more than  
that you are the only person I could, or would  
make such an application to.

Believe me  
always yours obliged  
Sincere friend  
M. Kennedy

Kennedy  
14. Aug. 1812  
of date at  
head of letter

It is perhaps too much on you time to  
request an answer. if you are so good as to  
write, pray direct to me under cover to

James Phipps Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Commissary General  
Lisbon