

hd. Carhampton bld. Liverpool.

Oct. 14 1813 A.A. No. 328.

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1813

My Lord

The Prince Regent assisted with your Lordships advice I presume, does not think proper to place me in that situation in the house of Lords, of which the Irish Ministers, at the time of the Union, deprived me, as a punishment for not supporting that measure, the scenes which I witnessed, & the means that were then resorted to, make me disclaim to have any part in it, and in my own justification, I have collected facts, which will I trust, satisfy my friends at least, that I should not, by withholding my support, forfeit the character of uniformity of conduct, & Disinterestedness, which in a very long life, I have endeavoured to preserve, to the Prince Regent's opinion

on that point, I most submissively bow
down. What I humbly claim as matter
of Right, stands upon a very different
Foundation, your Lordship vests the refusal
of a seat in the house of commons, on the
grounds, that neither his Royal Highness
nor his government had hitherto been
made acquainted, with the particulars
detailed in my statement; & my having,
for so long a period as 13 years chosen
forgo the advantage in question; & that
a commutation, had since been granted,
as it should seem (if your Lordship's argument
has any connection with the facts of the
case) for that forbearance. I trust that the
facts do not warrant any one of the
conclusions which your Lordship has drawn
from them, & still less, any conclusion
imputing against the truth or justice of

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Ed. Carhampton 6 Ed. Liverpool.

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My claims, Ministers have certainly not
been made acquainted with the Particulars
to which my statement relates, (I can not conceive
how that should in any respect, weaken their
force) nor should they now, if the Legislature
had not removed the incapacity under which
I labored, of demanding that Situation which
I look to, & which has been guaranteed to me
by the express word of my Sovereign,
Secrecy, while it could be preserved, without
injury to my honor, it was incumbent upon
me to preserve; but it can not be expected,
that I should submit to an implied slur
upon my Character, by his withholding my claim,
Whenever the world sees, that there is no
longer any legal Bar to my sitting in
either house of Parliament, if it be observed,
as by Lordship seems to hint, that I might
at any time during 13 years have rendered
myself eligible, I admit the fact, but by

no means allow the conclusion that my
not having done so, should operate as an
obstacle to my getting a seat in the House of
Commons, now that I am by operation of law,
again rendered capable of sitting there,
For a considerable period, I was employed
in my military capacity, in highly
confidential situations in Ireland for my
conduct in which, I received the repeated
thanks of that government & while on
that account, necessarily residing there,
a seat in the English House of Commons
was of less value to me, the more so, as I then
had a seat in the House of Lords of that
Kingdom, It is however the first instance
I believe, & I trust it will be the last, when
the delicacy or forbearance of the claimant
should be urged as a reason on the part
of government for not protecting or rewarding
his acknowledged services, performed

A.A.

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As mine were in the immediate support,
as well as in that of the Peace, Honor, and
Safety of my Sovereign, & his Family; I
have concealed my Claims out of respect
to his Majesty, & of Lordship's opinion
that the notice was a weak or mistaken
one, it is at all times in my power to
at least this objection to it, by showing, that
no personal consideration has sufficient
weight to keep me longer silent, with
reference to the period which has elapsed,
since the transaction took place, it may
be veracious enough that I should be
43 years after the event a circumstance
which few of the witnesses of the Middlesex
Election in the year 1769 could have ventured
to predict) but if I should chance to live
40 years more, I shall not while I exist
relinquish my Patent, nor be made to
believe by any Authority, short of his own

That the Prince Regent will see his
Royal Father's express Promise violated.
His Royal Highness the very young, was yet
old enough to have participated in that
Safety, which, at the hazard of my own
life & Character, I insured to his Father &
himself, & he will not I trust leave me
to be the only man in England, who cannot
be a Candidate for any Borough upon
Equal Terms with the another, in consequence
of the Part which I took upon that occasion.

If your Lordship supposes, that the
Office which I held in the Customs, was
given to me as a recompence for the
Surrender of my Claims & a seat in the
House of Commons, I beg to assure you, that
you are altogether mistaken. My Brother,
having thro' the Interest of my Father, obtained
the Patent of Customs of Bristol, was desirous

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from the embarrassed state of his situation
of alienating it to me for a valuable consideration
To this Lord North acceded, almost as a
matter of course, I held the office for several
years by a Trustee; but I voted in Parliament
as Mr Foxe my Brethren Predecessors had
done, & I should probably have continued
to do so at this instant, if an act had been
passed, which by the death of the Trustee
rendered it equally dangerous (as I have had
the honor of detailing more at length, in
the statement transmitted to your Lordship)
for the Ministers & myself if I had continued
to sit & vote in the House, antecedent to
that act Mr Pitt did not urge it as an
objection, he in fact says he might have
done, that I held the office in question
but when my Trustee died & that my
being the Refuser must have directly

appeared or the office have been abolished,
but then said that I must resign my seat
or surrender the office as his continuance
would then have been obvious to every man
or out of Parliament, for the reasons already
assigned, I decided as I did, but without
abandoning my right to a seat whenever my
own choice, or other circumstances should render
it not unsafe, or myself eligible. In another
view, I think that it rather fortified my
existing claim, than weakened it, for as long
as on any account, or for any reason, whether
of a public or private nature, I remained out of
Parliament, I did not exact the performance
of the promise made to me, so long, which benefits
that & all other succeeding Administrations,
(of whose shape not accepted) by leaving my seat
to be filled at their disposal, & by a friend
of their own, that my silence has grown out
of the nature of the case, & not from any

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Doubt of the Validity of the Claim, appears
 clearly from what occurred in Mr Pitt's
 Administration, many years after the Treaty
 had been signed, on which his Majesty's promise
 to me was founded, Mr Pitt then as to the Acquaintance
 with the Transaction & his Royal Master, then
 in it, as of Lordship now is, having as I know in
 the first Instance ~~and heard~~, satisfied himself
 directly from the King, who did not do any thing
 might allowing that the Claim was from its
 nature irresistible,

If it be a maxim of Law, that Nullum
 Tempus occurrit Regi, I hope that a feeling of a
 similar Nature will prevent an implied
 Statute of Limitations from being pleaded on
 the part of his Majesty, to a Debt of gratitude,
 due to the Mercies of his Subjects, I trust that
 I have now shewn of Lordship, that the place
 which I held, was not a recompence for my being
 out of Parliament, but an Office purchased for
 valuable Consideration, & consequently, that

neither this, nor the other objections stated to
my claim do in fact apply. But of respect
to your Lordship, & in justice to myself, it is
incumbent upon me to remove those objections
which (the value of your time not admitting
of much consideration of the Documents
submitted by me to you) you have on perhaps
a cursory view of my case, urged against me,
& to express a hope, that you will upon
reconsideration not think them sufficient
in honor or conscience to defeat my claim,
should I however be disappointed in that
expectation, as I then mean to solicit an
opportunity of appearing to the Prince & Queen
in Person, it will be but fair, that if you
found the advice which you may give, that
the Covenant with me shall be broken
through, upon the reasons which of Lordship
has stated to me, you will make his Royal

High
The Prince

Prince
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Highness acquainted with this, may
reply to them

I have the honor to be
my lord
Your Lordship's most Obedt
& Humble Servt
Caspar von Follen

Paris Hill
14 of Oct 1819

[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged paper]

14 October
Lord of Salisbury
& Lord Treasurer

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