

A Statement of Facts on which Lord Fairhampton Claims a
Seat in Parliament from His Royal Highness the Prince Regent-

20995

In the Administration of the Duke of Grafton and in
Consequence of a Vote of the House of Commons expelling and incapacitating
Mr Wilkes to sit: I voluntarily vacated my seat and successfully
opposed him in the Election for Middlesex.

When Lord North became Minister I was present at
the timid deliberation of the Cabinet, and when I saw it was
resolved to give way and to rescind the Vote against Mr Wilkes
I wrote a letter to Lord North (a Copy of which I have the honor to
enclose marked No. 1.) and I received from him in his own hand
writing the answer marked No. 2 Now in my possession a Copy of
which is also annexed to this Statement.

Having gone down to the House to exculpate myself, Mr
Robison the Secretary to the Treasury informed me that Lord North
wished to see me before I took any further steps, which produced the
letter from me to His Lordship marked No. 3.

In the Conference I had with him the following day, had
I been influenced by any other motive than a just sense of the injury
I was about to sustain, and an anxious desire to justify my
conduct as well to the House as to the Public at large, had
Ambition or Elevation been my object no difficulties opposed
me in the gratification of either; but I neither asked nor would
accept anything but what I had a right to demand, what it
had never been customary to refuse, and what could only place
me on a level with every other man in Parliament.

This request Lord North advised the King not to
grant, but His Majesty well knowing the zeal and
disinterestedness with which I engaged in this contest, and finding
that I would not come to any compromise with his Minister
without the sanction of His Majesty in future; desired Lord
North to tell me that he guaranteed me a seat in Parliament
during my life hoping I would not agitate this subject any
farther. Whether my acceptance of this accommodation was
was right or wrong it is now too late to decide, but from it
originated all the disputes that existed between me and
my family and that lasted for so many years.

My Brother Mr Temple Luttrell was

Customer

of the Post of Bristol which Office was obtained for him by his Father and by an arrangement between us was made over by him to me; but I being in Parliament it was held in trust for me which had been the practice of former occupants sitting in Parliament, and I continued to sit and was returned by Lord North during his Administration

When Mr. Pitt became Minister he dissolved the Parliament and I found myself left out in the next. I remonstrated with him on this breach of faith, quoted the Sanction of His Majesty and was at length put in Nomination for Basingstoke; but that Borough refused (as was signified to me) to return me ~~to return me~~ alleging they would return any other man in England but Colonel Luttrell. I replied to this Subterfuge as I ought and was returned for Plympton.

An Act of Parliament having passed while I sat for this Borough by which certain Offices were to cease after the death of the then Possessors:

Amongst these Offices that which I held was included; and Mr. Whitty my Nominee dying shortly after; Mr. Pitt states to me the Consequences as well to himself as to me if I continued to sit holding such an Office which could not then be concealed; and I being on the Staff of Ireland and in that situation confidentially employed in quieting the disturbances which then prevailed there, and being involved in law suits with my family originating from Political disagreements I preferred taking the Chiltern Hundreds and keeping my Office to remaining in Parliament and being it. it being clearly understood that when I should be again eligible my right should revert. By an Act lately passed that right now reverts; I just now cease to be a Custom House Officer, and I trust my claim to a Seat will appear to His Royal Highness indisputable.

I was left out of the Representative Peers at the Union, for what reason must be explained by those who thought proper to pass me by on that Occasion.

Disgusted at the Scene that was passing before me; and seeing the Country likely to become

Catholics

Took no part in that Measure.

Of my Services I am not in the habit of speaking at any length; I had borne the brunt of Insurrections and Rebellion in Ireland till my life which was constantly in danger was perhaps less saved by the Conviction and Execution of some of those who conspired against it, than by a total neglect of its preservation for I never skulked from the active performance of my duty at any time. Indignant at such treatment were my Services act of the question the Circumstances of my family possessing Property in In Ireland descending from Father to Son for six hundred years might have entitled me to more Consideration; I felt the injury like a man not used to bear one; I resisted it by the only means in my power I sold everything I had in Ireland and quitted a County when the Conduct of a Cruel and Cowardly Government exposed my life to assassination, wounded my feelings, robbed me of the Weight and influence I had in it, and when I found it was no longer safe or honorable for me to reside. It may be observed that I am at a time of life when it is unwise for me to enter into these pursuits or to urge those Claims: This would be a just observation if there was any period of a mans life when he ought to be indifferent to injuries that strongly affect him in every point of view; that must attack to his Memory when he is no longer able to be the guardian of his own Reputation; and when he has neither sense to feel, energy to resist, or spirit to defend himself against them. I am not exactly arrived at that period and though my life is probably scarce worth five years purchase; I sincerely feel that I have been so long excluded from both Houses of Parliament, and I seize the first opportunity in my power to convince the World that not for anything depreciable to myself have I been so excluded.

In this feeling I trust

This

Royal Highness will participate, and instead of the
Seat which I have a right to claim; if His Royal
Highness shall graciously please to place me in
the situation in the House of Peers, when I had every
right to expect I should have been placed so many
years ago for my life (and an English Peerage can
do no more) I should be proud to owe that
obligation to his Royal Highness.

Yorkborough.