

Enclosure

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Most confidential & private

Minutes of Interviews with Lord Palmerston 4 Nov. 1813 -

After the ordinary Intercourse of Civilities his Lordship expressed much pleasure in seeing me as he wished to speak with me - he said he fully stated to Mr. Canning about the Subject - I then intimated his Lordship & expressed in the warmest Language my obligations to him, & my Resolve if the arrangement proceeded to under myself of me to his Lordship in the diligent Discharge of my Duties - he said he was sure we should get on together quite well - that as to Mr. C. ^{Curran} he could not disguise his objections to his Conduct, & that he would have been glad that he had given him an opportunity of requiring an Explanation of stating the grounds of his Conduct; he then observed he had taken strong measures as to him in not including him in the Commission for the Custody of the Seal & I alluded to his Speech at Newry, & he animadverted upon it - He then said he met Mr. C. at Holyhead but never exchanged a word upon the Subject, & he added his Regret that the Nature of their Intercourse prevented him from offering ^{to him} a better

in his Packet &c - he then said he had seen my letter (if he
recalled right to you) - that he understood ^{in fact} since his arrival
from the friends of the Solicitor Genl. that he was most anxious
for the Rolls - he spoke at large upon his Services & claims upon
the Government & further that in consenting that Mr Laurin as
Atty General should be put over him he had imposed such a weight
of obligation upon the Government, that if he made a point about
the Rolls he could not be resisted - I said I could not
at all affect to question his claims or to depreciate ~~their~~ their
value, and that I would frankly state my Impression to his Lordship
If the Solicitor General proposed for the Office, I presumed he would
get it, but that still it would be unlikely he would accept it
without some visionary Engagement as to the Seat of Chief Justice
when there should be a vacancy - that my Impression upon this
point was direct & plain - that if Burke was to get the
Rolls from me at present & I was to be Solicitor, I
would only consent to hold the Office fairly & purely as he did;

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without any obligation or incumbrance upon it, & that as the incumbent
of it (as I have declined judicial office) that I would expect the
first Chief Justice - and would not yield to any pretensions
of Burke then - that such was my statement & that I
would say so to Burke as we were in habits of intercourse
in private life - that I could have no wish to share an
office with any person but that I would not ~~be~~ resist holding
an office incumbent with Engagements, as the probable
benefits of the Country may afford me an equal opportunity
by my services as solicitor of deserving the consideration of
the Government - he said this was a fair & just statement
on my part - I then added technically, my Lord, if
Burke takes the 20th now, it must be a satisfaction of his
claims & there can remain no incumbrance upon the
solicitor part of the day - he said emphatically - this is
quite right & just - I observed I was sure that Burke upon
as he did;

then Terms being communicated to him would have accepted the
Offer - He then inquired, what Mr. C. was about - I said
as he thinks the Government will support you & that the Prince
recommends you he will be making Terms - I answered
Mr. C. knew at Cheltenham that I never would enter into any
Terms inconsistent with my private Honor or the purity of
a judicial arrangement - he said they were quite right -
he said the Government would do nothing about Terms but the
Prince, & that Mr. C. must get the Certificate of a Physician
that a year ago this was quite plain as he was then ill.
I said I should at present leave Mr. C. to himself & to
his own Mind - he then closed the subject by observing
in a marked manner that it would be worth any thing to
get rid of him from the judicial Bench -