

Sir Geo. Dallas to Col. Keekabow

21419 - 20

Private, and Confidential.

Henrietta Street  
Cavendish Square  
Monday, May 23<sup>d</sup> 1816.

My Dear Colonel.

On leaving You, I lost no time  
in doing, I hope, some good - You have moved me  
at the proper moment, and just in time to be of  
service to Lord Melville - when the current of my  
mind was rather setting in a contrary direction,  
for it is vain to hide from You that the measure  
proposed is not of a smooth and popular nature,  
many arguments have been presented to my mind  
against it - among other reasons, read the enclosed  
Paper which I have got with drawn before it is  
put into circulation -

Mr Baber and myself being  
at the head of Mr Hastings's friends I wrote to  
him immediately on the subject as he was out  
of town. I enforced the policy of our co-operating  
to support Lord Melville. which in his reply he  
has

agreed to do, although he adds - " I do not  
 " much relish supporting the measure,  
 " however, it cannot be avoided, for the  
 " reasons you give, and we must act  
 " accordingly "

Now, My dear Colonel, having  
 thus determined to take an active part in  
 support of Lord Melville, there is a circumstance  
 I wish you to know, relating to myself (to which  
 his Lordship is a stranger) and which on such  
 an occasion it may not be improper to communicate  
 to yourself -  
 " - it is as follows.

In the Year 1798, at the request of  
 the late Lord Melville, I rendered a service to Gov.<sup>t</sup>  
 of a nature so important as to excite the gratitude  
 of Mr Pitt and himself. In return, Lord Melville  
 destined for me a situation for which he thought  
 me peculiarly fitted, and, in a letter <sup>to me</sup> stated  
 his intentions. Two years afterwards it became  
 vacant, and forgetting me, he promised his  
 support to another Gentleman - I wrote to him  
 urging my prior claim - he replied as if I had  
 not a letter under his hand to establish it.  
 Indignant at what I felt to be more than a  
 breach of gratitude I wrote him a spirited  
 + totally inexperienced

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letter, declining any future obligation from him, and enclosing to him his own letter, in proof of his more than inattention to me. This fact is known to my Brother, who saw our correspondence and preferring my feelings, to my interest, I never afterwards changed my resolution. Mr. Baskby was privy to these circumstances, and can vouch for their accuracy.

In the Year 1805 - a rancorous spirit of party sought to crush the late Lord Melville and hurled him from his eminence. Now was the moment for a revenge, of which my heart was incapable, by joining his enemies - I saw in him a great and Persecuted Statesman - I was alive to his services - and dead to my own resentments. I joined, disinterestedly, the band of his friends, and became among the most active of his supporters - One proof is in the possession of the present Lady Melville, as You will see from the enclosed two letters of the late Lord Melville and Mr David Scott - Lord Melville before his trial, came to visit me, and I have no doubt regretted much having afforded me the opportunity of so gratifying a revenge. I mention these circumstances to You My Dear Colonel, although when Lord Melville was President of the Board of Control, [and acquainted with my views on Madras] I would not, to forward them, reveal them to His Lordship: Had I done it, he would, perhaps, have been more attentive to me than I found him. Ever Yrs sincerely  
Geo Dallas.

+ Supporting previously also the  
me as one of his opinion.

Mr Geo. Daltry  
May 23. 1914