

Ld
Berresford
6
H.R. &

22012 - 36

To His Royal Highness The Prince
Regent, & — & — & — & —

My Brother having communicated
to me in a letter received by His Last Pack-
et, that your Royal Highness had been
pleas'd to express to him your desire that
I should communicate directly to your
Royal Highness the circumstances attending
the late events here, as any other relating
to the present circumstances of Portugal;
I will not delay thanking your Royal
Highness for this mark of confidence;
and I must equally express my very
humble thanks to your Royal Highness
for the gracious and flattering expressions
of your approbation of my efforts to do my
duty in the late critical state of Courts
here, & the Sovereign. I have the Honour
to serve by your Royal Highness's permis-
sion and during your Pleasure. I beg
most humbly & sincerely to assure your

Yours
most Obedient & Loyal
Servant

2

Royal Highness that in all my actions, my
final object & ambition is to merit your
approbation, & my best reward will be to
receive the expression of it.

I'm proceeding to obey your Royal High-
ness's desire, tho' I am afraid I may occupy
too much of your time, I will be as brief
as possible; but it may be necessary cursorily
to review the time past which has laid
the foundation for the present state of
things. At the conclusion of the war in 1814
there was no nation in Europe more free
from the contamination of French revolu-
tionary Principles than this, nor was
more strong than friendly feelings towards
the subjects of your Royal Father's Crown,
which an alliance & the good offices of
ages had fostered & brought to maturity
and which the vents of the war had strength-
ened. I think from the knowledge I
have of His Majesty's sentiments on this
thead, I may presume to say that had he
been here, or come immediately from the
Brazil, that some loyalty to him, and
those

those same feelings towards His antient
 ally would rather have gathered than lost
 strength, but the reverse took place from
 the Personal feelings of some and the am-
 bition of others in the local government of
 this Kingdom. Your Royal Highness may ea-
 sily conceive that during a war such as
 was carried on within or near the Frontiers
 of this Country & in which its exertions
 must naturally influence much, and con-
 sequently be continually required by the
 chief or Chiefs conducting that defence, that
 differences of opinion must have at times
 arisen between them & the local Execu-
 tive Government, which last naturally
 wished to get every thing at the least pos-
 sible cost, or sacrifice. The authority of
 the Military Chiefs & particularly of His
 Grace the Duke of Wellington, being in fact
 in all points that could relate to the
 general defence superior to that of the
 Regency, as well under the Sovereign's
 orders, as from a Cause scarcely less strong,
 the great & deserved reputation of that

Illustrations

8105
Illustrious Person, the Regency were when he
thought fit, under the necessity of sub-
mitting to his judgement. This in our
not liberal or of sound judgements, naturally
created irritation, & in Persons not a little
used to Hypocrisy, tho' they found it con-
venient because necessary for the moment
to dissemble their feelings, it was almost
as natural & at all times they appear to
have determined to seize the first oppor-
tunity to show their resentment. There is
to add to those General ^{Causes} of ill will on the part
of the Governors of the Kingdom towards those
then at the head of the military concerns,
that from the wild whims of the Principal
Suzer, which was also extremely mischiev-
ous, the Duke of Wellington found it ne-
cessary to desire his dismissal from the
Regency, & that whilst his Brother D. Ro-
drigo, Count of Linhares was first Minister
to the Sovereign, & another Brother D. Jo-
seph Count of Funchal Ambassador at
your Royal Majesty's Court. The Family
of Souza had been ever in the British
Interest

Interest, and we may even say Partisans in that Cause, as in fact the Conde de Linhares remained till his death, tho' in this instance he naturally protected his Brother, and I believe the Count of Brencchal remains still strongly for the British Connection and the Principal was as strongly so as any of his Family till the Period alluded to, but from that time he has been a decided Opposer of British Interest & Connection.

The Marquis of Borba another member of the Regency after being there placed and at the head of the Treasury by the Duke of Wellington & Sir C. Stuart, was afterwards from his Incapacity endeavoured by them to be removed from the latter & this not only obliterated the former obligation, but assured his Inmunity to all that was British & he was therefore a sure ally to his Uncle the Principal.

D. Miguel Pereira Forjaz nominally the Secretary to the local Government, but in fact the Chief Minister for the Foreign

220
Foreign & military departments, and a Lt-
Colonel in the Army, & who ought to have
been the strongest friend to the British
nation, as by its officers he was personally
served from destruction. However on an-
tegrity & the nature of the Principal Surgeon,
and was well maintained in this situation
against an express order of the Sovereign,
procured by the Count of Linhares at the
instigation of his Brother. But D. Miguel
P. Forjaz's political education has been
under those most adverse to English con-
servation. He was besides afraid of the in-
fluence of the Principal when he was
deprived of the support of the Duke of
Wellington & when the course of events
no longer gave the same sway to the Ca-
binet of his Sovereign, & he was also
ambitious of & had some hopes to be the
Commander in Chief, if he was destroyed.
He is besides not very remarkable for
consistency or Gratitude, and having
in truth a strong dislike to every thing
English

English, all these Causes induced him the
 moment the War ceased to join the party
 that had turned their Personal Feelings
 into national Hostilities, and I became
 their to all that there was of feeling or
 of rancour whether General or particular
 against my Country, and as soon as I
 returned here at that Period from England
 their united efforts were all concentrated
 and directed against me, both for my own
 sake & on account of my Country, and
 it was curious at that Period to observe
 that the feelings of the Government was
 in direct opposition to those of the
 nation.

I had immediately on the conclusion
 of the War left the Army and gone to Eng-
 land, and your Royal Highness will
 no doubt know that there were some
 doubts of the Policy or necessity of my
 returning to assume the Command of
 this Army, & that it was by your Royal
 Highness's Ministers at length decided
 that

that I should. I had no sooner arrived than
my friends here informed me of all the
plans laid for disquieting me & obliging
me to resign my situation, which tho' most
certainly I should have been very far
from having any objection to, had such
a measure been proposed and adjusted
in a suitable & decorous manner, I was
decided not to yield to so unworthy a
mode of proceeding as that adopted by
their Excellencies the Governors of the
Kingdom & I was the more determined
that I had from having returned to this
Country by the sanction of your Royal
Highness's Government, & by orders having
come from the Court of the Brazil of the
most honorable & flattering nature for me

However the Governors notwithstanding
the recent orders of their Sovereign to concei-
tate me by all means, persisting in their
object & consequent line of conduct, made
my situation very unpleasant, which I
was determined to bear whilst the efforts
were merely personal to me, until the
Sovereign

Sovereign who had been appealed to should finally settle the question. Things stood in this situation when the return of Bonaparte from the Island of Elba took place & when war consequently began the short French war of 1815.

at the time of this occurrence I had little or no influence with His Government & was not indeed in the habit of any personal communication with them Individually, or even with D. M^{rs} Perceval for the War Minister. But when they refused to send a Corps to Flanders to join the Duke of Wellington, or even the alternative offered by your Royal Highness's Government that of sending one to Bordeaux, I found I could no longer serve here with Honor & I immediately determined to go to the Rio de Janeiro post then thinking the war would be so speedy at an end / to influence in what I could, and at all events to assure myself

J

22
if this army or any part of it was to join the
allies, & this I communicated to Mr. Canning
then here & to the Duke of Wellington with
my assurance that if I could not bring him
a Portuguese reinforcement for the next
Campaign, I would resign my situation &
solicit your Royal Highness to be employed
with him as a British Officer. The glorious
Battle of Waterloo put an end to the war
previously to my departure, but having deter-
mined & communicated my intentions to
your Royal Highness's Ministers, I persevered
in my resolutions to bring to issue the ge-
neral Question between the Government and
me. Your Royal Highness will have been
informed of the Result & of the Honour and
Honor with which His Majesty the King
there treated me, & that He was pleased to
decide every Thing in the most flattering
manner for me. I can most truly assure
your Royal Highness that the Cause which
I here brought on me the Liberty of the Go-
vernors, was that which chiefly procured
me

me the consideration & favour of the King,
 that of being a British officer & subject &
 to this more than to any little services
 I had performed to His Majesty, I plainly saw
 I was to attribute the Honorable reception
 & treatment I received there. This appa-
 rent or indeed real victory over them, on
 my return to Portugal served only to irri-
 tate more the Governors of the Kingdom
 against me, & tho' I can really say I did every
 thing in my power to conciliate them, all
 was useless, & they now began to intrigue to
 bring the Public opinion to change respect-
 ing me & to demand for the first time in
 Portugal the expression of that opinion,
 whilst they thought they could turn it
 against the Kings Commander in Chief.
 I personally & by letter then warned them
 of what would be the result of that line
 of conduct, that they were sharpening a
 weapon which would be used against
 them & in that I predicted to them ex-
 actly what has occurred. They however both
 privately & openly continued their machi-
 nations

machinations, & there was no Intreigue, & there
was no falsehood left unpracticed that could
irritate the Public against one, all Letters
which they wrote to one & that they considered
likely to gain them the Public voice were
given to the Public, & so soon as the new
military plans which the King had ordered
were known, they gave out that the military
would absorb the whole revenues of the King
down & that no other Clafs, would be paid,
and even the Public Creditors & they went
so far as to shut up the Treasury & refuse
all payments, alledging they had not money
to pay the military on the new system,
Now! the first effect of that Plan must
have been to diminish the military
expences & they had besides determined
not to comply with it in any point, this
also for the first time showing the
example of a direct disobedience to the
Kings orders. The natural result of such a
conduct on the Part of the Government
was to create a very general discontent
and

and a spirit of a bad nature & which went to
criticize & find fault with all Public Mea-
sures and authorities from the King down-
ward & least of all sparing them, and thus
tho' certainly there are many causes here
existing to cause dissatisfaction, & chiefly
that of the Kings absence, the Governours
have themselves been in a considerable
degree a cause of what has occurred.
I had had reason for a very consider-
able time to suspect there was some
plot or conspiracy going on, but I thought
it one connected with Spanish Intrigues,
and for the annexation of this Kingdom
with Spain, an intrigue which I am still
convinced was on foot, and I diligently ex-
erted myself to get a clue to this plot,
but I was not successfull & had nearly
despaired of getting any information that
would satisfy my mind either that there
was nothing, or what it was that was going
on, when my researches brought me to the
knowledge of that which has recently
caused

By an oversight I have omitted to
write on this side of the sheet, & which
as I have not time to copy this
letter before the sailing of the Packet,
I trust your Royal Highness will
be pleased to excuse.

caused the arrests in this Kingdom. I am
 still of opinion that at present it does not
 formally appear that this has a connexion
 with the Spanish concern, and perhaps
 we may yet come at this. It was on the
 17 of April that I first got insight into
 the nature of this conspiracy, and I traced
 it till the 23 of May without communicating
 with any body but those necessary to be
 employed, and I procured all their Papers,
 with full proofs against two entire soci-
 ties of them, but as I was obliged to guard
 against the Police or even the Government
 knowing any thing of this matter, knowing
 that from the moment they were informed
 there would be no longer any secret of it,
 I found myself too much restricted & as
 the conspirators declared they were ready
 for the explosion, I found the neces-
 sity too heavy, with some danger to
 the Public & I therefore then laid the
 whole before the Government, with the
 offer at the same time that if they thought
 the secret could be kept, & that the danger
 was

was not eminent, if they would give me 10 or
14 days longer, I had the means to discover
the full extent of this conspiracy & would be
able to point out to them who were out, as
well as those that really were in this Plot.
They were alarmed, indeed very much so &
they determined upon the immediate
arrest of those professedly known to be con-
spirators, as well as of those who were stated
by the former to be of the Party & which had
been corroborated by other circumstances.
In the latter class must be included the
Lt. Genl. James Frise, & the Baron Stern,
whom I mention because no doubt your
Royal Highness will be anxious to hear
something of him. It is certain that the
conspirators in general uniformly stated
that Baron Stern was of their Party, but
beyond this statement & the suspicious cir-
cumstances of his being near with Lt. Genl.
James Frise, & living entirely with those
suspected, there was no proof, and when
I considered his circumstances I could
not possibly believe he would enter into
such

such a concern & I know not yet that
there are any proofs against him, tho'
certainly there were many presumptive
& suspicious circumstances against him.
I know little of what has passed since
I gave the business into the hands of
the Government, or consequently what
additional Proofs may have appeared, but
if I may judge from what falls from the
Governour, they do not judge the Baron
to have been ignorant of what was
going on, but quite the contrary & they
appear to think that of some of this
Papers corroborates his knowledge
of the transaction. I can not myself
give any favourable report to your
Royal Highness of Baron Muns, I have
had no reason to be satisfied with his
conduct independently of this concern,
& he appears to me to be a man that
cannot lie without intriguing & in fact
I believe him to be a Person that
for his own Private Interest will
side,

side with or against any body, and it
was exactly because I could not discover
what he could gain by entering into
such a business, that I doubted that he
had, & if he has, it must have been from
a pure spirit of Intrigue, or from a very
weak judgment. The Duke of Wellington
& Sir Charles Stuart are fully acquainted
with the Character of Baron Stein.

In respect to the Plot, &c! it appears
that M^r. Gen^l. James Freize is implicated
in it, at least so the Magistrates say who
have the investigation of this business.
I am myself convinced that we have
not yet arrived at the Principal Per-
sonages concerned, and I have many reasons
for thinking there were none of higher
consequence than the M^r. General, &c! he
is a Person of considerable Rank here
The Plan was to assassinate me in the
first place, to which however some ob-
jections, but were answered, that to make

me

some Prisoners, as they proposed arresting the
 military Chiefs in General & particularly the
 British Officers, would be too great a risk,
 as the army whilst I remained alive
 would most probably rescue me and con-
 sequently upset their Scheme. D. Miguel
 Pereira Forjas was likewise to have been
 assassinated & only one more Person as an
 immediate sacrifice, but it is too ob-
 vious that many more must have fallen
 they proposed in the first instance to
 proclaim the Duke of Cadaval, King,
 to gain the Popular feelings, because
 the House of Cadaval has been ever
 a most favourite Family with the
 nation & particularly with the People
 of Lisbon, & is nearly related to the
 Royal Family & the young Duke had
 just returned from the Brazils. This
 was however merely to gain time &
 avoid an immediate opposition from
 the Populace, who are in fact most
 Loyal & have a very enthusiastic
 affection

ES 109
affection for the House of Bragança, & the danger in this Country does not lie with the People, but they are like all other People and may be surprised into what they would not deliberately entertain for a moment, & they may finally be worked upon by those who are ever watching occasions & seizing every opportunity to irritate their Passions, in fact your Majesty's Highness may rest assured, that the only certain security for the tranquillity of this Kingdom & the Crown of it remaining with the Present Family is the return of the King, to Portugal, as his stay in the Brazil affords too many real & just Causes of complaint & dissatisfaction, not finally to have the effect which the disaffected design & are working at. I think the present discovery will considerably delay any thing of this kind, but if this nation are once fully persuaded that the King will not return to it, their Loyalty would probably take a violent opposite course

Course & at all points very few efforts
would be required to draw them to the
disaffected side. The consequence of
this discovery has been favourable to me
personally, as it has at least layed for some
time the opposition of the Government
to me & to the military measures I had
proposed, it has brought us on the very
best footing & most intimate terms, and
those who wished by all means to get rid
of me, would on no account now listen
to my proposal of leaving the Kingdom
for a week & it is with difficulty that I
can procure leave for three weeks to go
to the Baths of Caldas, at about 50 miles
from here, and the Government now see
the errors they have committed in ap-
proving the military Plans which His Ma-
jesty had approved of, & are willing to trace
back their Steps, tho' it is extremely diffi-
cult, in fact Sir, they are in a very extreme
alarm, more so than in truth the case
deserves now that it is known, & I think
they

they are scarcely less so than when I first
 placed the Papers before them. It is also
 singular that it has certainly turned
 their Opinions respecting Great Britain
 & they & particularly D. Miguel Pereira
 Forjas talk ~~the~~ me in a very different
 manner respecting the concession of Trade
 with England than before this Court. I will
 not pretend to say, if or not these Sentiments
 will outlive the Cause which has brought
 them forth, but I think it likely they may
 continue at least very much softened
 to what they were. ^{tho'} I can not persuade
 myself that any thing can ever bring D.
 M^r. Pereira Forjas to be a Friend to Great
 Britain. The Governors have however
 during the strongest part of their alarm,
 wrote most strongly to His Majesty, urging
 the absolute necessity of His return here,
 & pointing out the extreme risk of His
 delaying that Court & the same Cause
 existing they remain at present equally
 anxious for the Royal Family's return.

Your Royal Highness will have heard before this can reach you, of the return of Pernambuco to its allegiance, but the King had sent against it almost all the Troops he had at the Rio de Janeiro & at Bahia, and in consequence has made a fresh Demand on Portugal for more Troops, tho' the number is few, about 2500. and in the thin Circumstances, they were most absolutely necessary, as His Majesty did not know of the surrender of Pernambuco.

The mode in which His Majesty has conducted this is the most singular Part of the concern. His only Minister is the Count de Barca, & he has neither consulted or informed him on the subject, so that he knows not what the Marquis de Tago, who is sent here by His Majesty on this arrangement is come for. He was dispatched in two Hours notice, & all the orders are in His Majesty's writing, the Marquis is His Majesty's Chamberlain & was my Aid de Camp for some years, & it is a very high sort of Compliment to me this being sent with discretionary Powers, as one that will

Lord Bunsford

will abide by my advice or recommendation
& His Majesty wrote one short letter to the Regent
& did me the honor of writing one to me
on the subject. It would appear that this
has led the retirement of the Count de Barca
or at least that His Majesty in His nomi-
nation of new Ministers, which can not be
much delayed, would call upon those of an
opposite way of thinking from the Count.
It is obvious that the Brazilian Party is
fast losing ground with the King.

only your Royal Highness's orders could
have induced me to address by letter your
Royal Highness & I must apologize for
the extreme length of the present, and
have the honor with the most unfeigned
respect to subscribe myself

In your Royal Highness's
most humble, most obliged
& most devoted servant

Bunsford