

La. Hastings (late Beira) to H.R.H. A.A. No. 680

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*[Faint, illegible handwriting]*

Calcutta  
May 12, 1817.

Sir

As no official ac-  
-count of your royal Highness's bounty  
to me has yet arrived, a London Paper  
has reached Calcutta detailing from  
the Gazette the advancement in the  
Peerage which your royal Highness had

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deigned to bestow upon me. I do trust it  
most towards your Royal Highness be quite  
unnecessary for me to attempt (with the  
certainty to fall miserably short of my  
endeavour) the portraying all I have  
felt on the occasion. It will be suffi-  
-ent to say that, as no Heart could  
glow to your Royal Highness with more  
earnest Devotion than mine has uncea-  
-singly done during this absence, so none  
could be more alive to the generosity &

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it elevated kindness which dictated the  
write procedure. Yet, a unanimous senti-  
the -ment was not enough for your Royal  
by Highness; you could not be contented with-  
out making the mark of your own hand  
all that delicate address to Private  
Feelings which is a Grace so precious  
-worthily your own. I have a letter from  
Lady Londonderry, written before the pro-  
-mulgation in the Gazette, informing  
me of your gracious affability in con-

-descending to consult her as to the Titles.  
She felt your goodness, Sir, as she ought,  
& she felt it so from knowing how I  
should estimate it. In truth, nothing could  
touch me more nearly than such benevo-  
-lent amenity, either as reflection  
refers to him who exercised it or to  
her who was honored with the distinct  
-ion. Accept, Sir, the thanks of an over-  
-flowing soul. The simple & humble  
aspiration of my gratitude would, I know,

be enough for your Royal Highness: But  
I have the comfort to think that I can  
lay at your feet a Statement which  
your Royal Highness's anxiety respecting  
every branch of the Public Weal will re-  
-der a more worthy return. Our official  
year closed on the 30<sup>th</sup> of last month,  
without any demand impending which  
will not be far overbalanced by current  
receipts, we have in our Treasury here a  
much larger surplus remaining than was  
ever before known. This has occurred altho'

I have been obliged to keep up within the Terri-  
 -tories of this Presidency a Military Establish-  
 -ment greatly beyond what I regard as  
 its regular Provision, and altho' we have suf-  
 -ficed from our hands the deficiencies of be-  
 -ware in other parts of India. There ap-  
 -pears to me every ground for hope that  
 I shall be able to secure this Prosperity  
 permanently. I am aware that there  
 must seem something almost ludicrous  
 in my talking with confidence of the be-  
 -nefit which the Company's Dividends may

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receive from my superintendence. The practical distinction, however, is this, that I have felt a solemn obligation of exerting over the Company's Pecuniary Concerns a vigilance which unfortunately ever presented itself as incumbent on me relative to my own. That obligation referred not only to my immediate Employers but to your Royal Highness who had said you gave me as a boon to them. Let me only implore you, Sir, to judge how the Pride of vindicating such a Pledge

most stimulated & exalted by your  
recent Beneficence.

With the most affectionate as  
well as most respectful & devoted  
-tion, I remain Sir,

Your loyal & obedient

Ever grateful &  
Devoted servant

Hastings

The Prince Regent.

of Hastings  
May 12<sup>th</sup> 1817