

hd. Chancellor to H.R.H.

A. A. No. 757

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Lord Chamberlain to the Prince Regent, Sunday 22. Nov 1818

Sir

The hope, which, at one period of the last week, I had entertained with some confidence, that I should have been able, on this day, personally, to have offered my humble Duty to your Royal Highness, is disappointed by the present state of the Court, as I cannot get move without assistance from one part of my Room to another. Allow me, therefore, Sir, in this mode to express my anxious wishes that your Royal Highness may be enabled by a kind Providence to sustain

yourself under your present Afflictions, and
that your Royal Highness's health may
not suffer under the Pressure of them.

The Close of our Law Term, Sir, is
now approaching, and, tho' it grieves me
to give your Royal Highness, at present,
any Trouble on any Subject, I know not
how to avoid taking some Steps towards
filling the vacant Seats on the Bench.
What is thought most adviseable, upon the
whole, to propose for your Royal Highness's
approbation, is, that Mr Ser^t Best, quitting
Chester, should go to the King's Bench, if

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it should be found that he is willing to make that Exchange — that Mr. Richardson should be offered the Seat in the Common Pleas — and that the Chief Justiceship of Chester should be offered to Mr. Ser^t Copley.

To the appointment of Mr. Ser^t Boff to the Kings Bench there may be some Objections: but the firmness, which he displayed at Chester, constitutes considerable Merit: and, as your Royal Highness's Servants seem to think it of Importance to advance Mr. Ser^t Copley, the Vacancy of Chester might be useful in that Respect, especially as the Offices of Attorney & Solicitor General may probably be long filled by the present Holders of these Offices, the former induced not to remove higher in consequence of his Deafness, the latter not likely so to remove soon on account of his Youth. Ser^t Copley would

make the best Judge, but there would be no
chance of his accepting that Situation.

Mr Richardson was educated at Harrow, &
afterwards at Oxford, where he greatly distinguished
himself. In his principles as to State & Church
I believe him to be perfectly sound: as a Lawyer
I think I am well informed when he is represented
to be as exceedingly learned in the Law.
He is, as the Times require, firm. He has
not quite the size and Bulk of Person, & Strength
of Voice, which Lord Coke would have required
in a Judge.

All this is very humbly submitted to
your Royal Highness's wisdom. The Changes upon the
Bench will, of course, lead to the laying before your
Royal Highness the Names of some Gentlemen for the
Rank of Silk Gowns. But that may be postponed till
your Royal Highness's Pleasure is known as to the
appointment of Judges. I am, with every Sentiment of
duty & Attachment, Your Royal Highness's Most grateful
Loyal Servant

John Bull

Lord Chancellor

22^d Nov. 1818.

During the night