

Ld. Hastings 68. P.H.

A.A. No. 765

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Calcutta
March 10th 1819.

Sir

Kind & beneficent acti-
-ons are so much the habit of your Royal
Highness that your doing them will never ex-
-cite surprise: But the gratitude which they
ought to command is not, at least in my case,

appeared by their seeming to flow necessarily
 from your nature. There is a grace in the favor
 which your Royal Highness has deigned to be-
 -stow upon me by honoring me with the distinc-
 -tion of the Bath which gives it a peculiar
 claim to my sensibility. Still, another view
 of that dignified Beauty impresses me even
 more strongly. The glowing magnanimity of
 your Royal Highness in condescending to mark
 my humble exertions before all the results
 were ascertained is strikingly contrasted with

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22281

the cold caution which I have experienced in
 other quarters. My procedures might not have
 been judicious; yet I could at all events
 pretend to the manifestation of Zeal in
 circumstances which made some kind of ef-
 fort necessary for the Public Interest. An op-
 prehension, nevertheless, that the first tide of
 Success might suffer a change, or that in the
 issue our advantages might be found to have
 entailed pecuniary embarrassment, has prevent-
 ed my receiving the slightest expression of satis-

10 Nov 1701

-faction from those who have the guidance of the
Company's affairs. When such a doubt of my manage-
-ment is implied, I must be most anxious that
Your royal Highness should find you have not
been misled by the generous partiality which
prompted the testimony of your gracious
approbation. I thence venture to lay before
Your royal Highness certain facts involving
inesistible conclusions. The lively solicitude
which Your royal Highness feels for British
Character & Prosperity in every line assumes

the pirates, tho' they relate to a distant portion
of your Dominion, form big altogether un-
-teresting.

We have succeeded in foiling a
conspiracy of uncommon extent. Bajee Rao,
as we now know, was at work before 1814,
the Marathas being encouraged in
their aggressions upon us by the confidence
that, should they be assailed, their secretly
pledged allies the Mahrattas would instant-
-ly take the field against us. The Mahrattas,
-tas, waiting with a view to let us exhaust

ourselves in the mountains, suffered the efforts
 - ability to pass; and the plan was for the time
 disconcerted by the sudden subjugation of
 the Gurkhas.

The Project, which was nothing
 less than the reestablishment of the Mahratta
 Empire & the Expulsion of the British from
 India, was vigorously renewed towards the
 close of 1815. The Murder of the Goyekwan's
 Minister, as Timbuckjee Saingha was, had
 no other motive than his devotion to us, where
 it was feared that if he got back he would

22283

keep his Sovereign from yielding to the insti-
-gations for taking part against the British
Government. The Manipulose were again sedu-
-ced into engagements: Ranjeet Sing was the
-mostly eyed, nor did he divulge the appli-
-cations tho' he met them reservedly: had the
King of Coa adopted the suggested enterprise
of invading Bengal. His deep & vast Ambition
-tion has been dissipated thro' our activity
in anticipating its' maturity. Instead of the
continuance of such a danger, the whole
of India is professedly dependent on British

Protection. Such a position is the real wish
of most of the States; but, were it otherwise,
there does not exist in India a Power which
can raise a Standard against your Royal
Highness's flag.

The condition of an
immense Population between the Chambal &
the Indus has been changed from absolute mis-
-ery into Comfort. The benefit so bestowed is
worthy of the British name, & the warm grate-
-tude manifested for it affords the surest hope
for our permanent ascendancy. Such is the
confidence in us, that throughout Rajpootana

the Governor General's Agents have been sponta-
-neously entreated by both Parties to be arbiters
in an arrangement of rights between the
Sovereigns & the People of the several States.

This improvement of our Political
Situation may nevertheless have been attained
by an imprudent waste of the Company's means.
It is therefore essential to leave nothing doubt-
-ful on that head.

I should be un pardonable
were I to trespass on your Royal Highness
with any variety of financial Statements:

Therefore I will endeavor to rest the question
 upon one irrefragable Prop. Our years of be-
 -count, or official years, commence on the first
 of May. In that point of view, my Administra-
 -tion is to be considered as setting out on the
 first of May 1814. The four succeeding years
 comprised a period of either war or active
 preparation for war; yet in those four years
 I contributed to the Company from Indian
 resources more in the proportion of nine
 to five than they had received in the twenty
 preceding years. During those twenty years

22285

there was Debt incurred to the amount of / per
an average of a Crore annually. In my last
years, the Debt incurred is under the Quarter
of a Crore annually; and this would appear so
Debt at all were the excess of our Cash balance
[being actually in the Treasury] on the first
of May 1910 beyond the average of the Cash
Balances in the twenty years to be taken
into measurement. This, Sir, is a fact esta-
-blished by the statements in the last Finan-
-cial Letter of the Accountant General
to the Court of Directors. As it admits so doable

