

A.A.No.

784

27th Nov. 1819

Lord Melville

To

22365-6

Admiralty
27th November 1819

Lord Melville presents his humble
Duty to Your Royal Highness & in treats
Your indulgence in venturing again to
submit for Your Royal Highness's consider-
ation the apprehension which he enter-
tains of the effect likely to be produced
in His Majesty's Naval Service by the
intended addition to the number of
Grand Crosses of the Order of the Bath,
& more especially the mode in which
it is proposed to carry that measure
into effect. No such addition is at
present looked for or expected, & though
it may satisfy the few individuals on

Should the favor will be bestowed, Lord
Melville has reason to believe that it
will create much Dissatisfaction where
none at present exists, & where some
that did exist appears to have subsided.
He can have no hesitation however
in submitting to Your Royal Highness
that if the measure of conferring the
Order on a certain extra number of
Officers, who would not otherwise be
eligible to it, is deemed necessary or
expedient in the Army, it ought undoubtedly
to be extended to the Navy; considering
however the great Disproportion between

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Lord Melville
to
The Prince Regent

Extension of the Order
of the Bath.

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The number of General Officers in the one
service & Flag Officers in the other, the number
of Extra Grand Crosses need not be the
same for each.

But Lord Melville feels it his Duty
most earnestly to solicit Your Royal
Highness's re-consideration of the whole
measure, & particularly of the intended
insertion of the names of two Officers
who are already Knights Commanders
of the Bath, & whose nomination
therefore would be a marked departure
from the principle on which the others
are selected. He cannot undertake
to say what effect such an exception

may have on such of the General Officers
in the Army as are Knights Commanders
& who would therefore appear to be passed
over when Naval Officers in the same
circumstances are promoted; but he
is confident that this Distinction will
be attended with injurious consequences
in the Naval Service, & he ventures
most humbly to submit, in addition to
every other consideration, whether it may
not be desirable at the present moment
to avoid any measure which would
be likely to excite public clamour,
particularly in the Army & Navy.

Lord

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Lord Melville has the honor herewith to submit for Your Royal Highness's information a list of Admirals (but exclusive of Vice or Rear Admirals) who are either Knights Commanders of the Bath, or who are not included in the order at all, from whence Your Royal Highness will perceive that in addition to the four Officers whose names he ventured to lay before Your Royal Highness, there are two, Sir Charles Knowles & Admiral Darby, who have been honored with Medals for their services, & who on such an occasion could not without injustice be omitted for the sake of inserting the other two

Officers who are already Knights Commanders
