

Ed. Carlisle to H. H.

Oct. - 1820

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Sir

As a Peer of Parliament, As a Privy Counsellor,
& in addition, as an individual under the strongest
senses of gratitude for many marks of your Majesty's
condescension & indulgence, I venture with all humility
to approach you.

It is too late, Sir, to indulge vain lamentation over the
erroneous & disastrous measures lately adopted in Parl^t,
& which have so agitated almost every class of your Majesty's
subjects, cementing the well intentioned with the worst disposed,
in the most unnatural union. It is also too late to deplore,
that when the two strict & simple paths, of charging High
Treason, or proceeding by Impeachment, were deemed
impracticable, that a third, so unsatisfactory & objectionable,
should have been resorted to: a path so little leading to
the relief of your Majesty as an injured individual,
to the maintenance of the Monarchical character, or to
abate

the raging fever in the public, at the paroxysm of which I fear we are not arrived.

There is, Sir, no duty in this awful moment, more difficult for an honest man to dispense with, than that of aiding, feeble as his endeavours may be held, the general cause, the universal safety, which now seems to be so rudely shaken.

Two, & I may also say, equal dangers, are at our doors; the one springing from the defeat & rejection of the Bill, pregnant with all the mischiefs of a Radical triumph; the other, perhaps not the least, the consequence of forcing it thro' both Houses with small majorities, increasing the present too general sourness & discontent.

Your Majesty will observe that the ground of objection, taken, will not be affected even by the proof of guilt, for it solely, applies to the mode of inquiring into that criminality - now, Sir, this tide runs too strong for easy resistance, & hurries away with it many that the Country regards with esteem & respect. - Supposing a Vote for the Bill should be obtained in the H^o of Lords, against a large minority, partly of this description, I would submit to your Majesty, whether that moment might not most seasonably be laid hold of for the

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intervention of your Royal prerogative of proroging the Parl^t
manifesting thro your Ministers the motive which induced
this step, your Majesty's observance of that ^{want of} unanimity, which
in a judicial proceeding is so particularly to be desired.

This, Sir, I humbly conceive may best tend to baffle the excess
of exultation, arising out of a positive rejection of the Bill: It
may tranquillize the general irritated state of the public mind;
recall to their senses the well disposed, the misled; & dissolve
the preposterous union, between them & the most wicked &
seditious.

Devoid of all apology for this intrusion, if purity of intention
& sincerity of heart afford me none.

I am Sir

Your Majesty's
most devoted servant
& Subject

Castle Howard

Oct^r
1820

Carlisle.

Lord Carleton
Oct. 1020.