

Sir
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Sir George Perinham to the King

July 1721

Sir,

I had hoped that I should have been enabled to vince my dutiful and devoted attachment to your Majesty's Person, by attending in my place as Baron of Stafford at your Majesty's coronation, but the decision on my long pending claim before the House of Lords being still protracted, I am precluded from the enjoyment of that distinguished honour:—

I had in a more particular manner flattered myself, that at such a season of special grace as that of the solemnization of your Majesty's coronation, the only presumed ground for delay in determining on my claim would have been removed, and that my humble Petition, which

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it pleased your Majesty so graciously to receive in the month of July last through the hands of Viscount Sidmouth, for your Majesty's allowance to bring a bill into Parliament for reversing the attainder of my ancestor Sir William Howard Viscount Stafford who was executed in the year 1680, would have been proceeded on, agreeably to the reference made by order of your Majesty to the attorney general;— a similar bill of reversal having been passed by the House of Lords with the allowance of King James the second, in the year 1685, in favour of Henry, son to the said Viscount.

Under circumstances of such severe, and reiterated disappointment, it would be a considerable alleviation to my feelings, were I permitted the honour of offering to your Majesty, to be used in the ceremonial of your Majesty's coronation, the original Staff of office of the Lord High Constable of England, which has come into my possession as lineal heir to Edward Stafford Duke of Buckingham, the last hereditary high Constable of England, and

to his Predecessors the Bohuns Earls of Hereford.

By these my Ancestors, this staff was used in the fulfillment of their high office, and were it not for the attainder of my said Ancestor Stafford Duke of Buckingham in the reign of King Henry the eighth, it would have fallen to my lot to have attended at your Majesty's coronation, as Earl of Hereford, and Stafford, and High Constable of England.

I should your Majesty graciously condescend to comply with my humble request, the possession of this Symbol of my Ancestral honours will acquire a far higher value in the eyes of myself and my descendants, in having been made instrumental to so august a Solemnity, as that of your Majesty's Coronation:

I have the Honour to be

Sire

with the most profound respect
your Majesty's most devoted Subject and servant
George Jennings.

For George Cornwallis

undated
about July 1821