Several months have now elapsed since your Majesty encouraged me to hope, that you would relieve me from my present very unpleasant situation by having expressed a wish that an account of my debts should be submitted to your consideration; which would have taken effect much earlier, had it ~~not been impossible for me to have made an sufficiently accurate list~~ been in my power to have obtained a sufficiently accurate ~~account~~ of them. Your Majesty may conceive how sensibly I regret the largeness of the sum, but I trust hope that you may consider that the chief part of the debt I have contracted has been in objects which many people have received liberally, and which from their nature cannot be again repeated. I mean of course the expences I have been at in making my house more adapted for the residence of a Prince of Wales. I hope your Majesty will do me

the justice to believe that I shall feel the obligation of any relief from your hands, as gratefully, and as naturally as I ought to do. I hope your Majesty will not be offended, at the mode I have taken of laying this matter before you, and that you will allow me to mention the honor of subscribing myself

with all possible respect

Your Majesty's dutiful

and obedient son

and subject &c

My Dear Son, The very open manner in which You yesterday stated to me the unwise step You had been drawn into of Voting on Tuesday morning in the House of Lords makes me wish Your hour from myself receive the Account that things are so situated that I mean to change the present Administration; as soon as I have finally fixed the new one I shall communicate their names to You as I shall ever wish to shew You that I am

My Dear Son
Your most Affectionate Father
George R.

Queen's House
Dec. 28th 1783.

The Kings letter on
meaning to change the
administration

The Prince of Wales if not Void of every degree of reflection and of those feelings which a good heart must experience, need not be told the unpleasant sensations the letter Lord Southampton delivered from him on Wednesday has occasioned, in addition to what I constantly suffer from his reprehensible conduct, which has grown every Year more so, and in a more glaring manner since his removal to Carlton House.

To be more explicit the Prince of Wales must remember that after voting in the House of Lords in a manner that He felt must be displeasing to Me, He came and voluntarily declared his resolution of not opposing any persons I might at any time judge right to employ; that if I did not trust to his heart He hoped I did not think Him such a fool as not to know his interests was inseperable with mine; He is certainly a judge whether his behaviour has coincided with this declaration.

After assuring Me when his Establishment was settled, a large sum allowed for furnishing the House I have given him the use of, and for purchasing other necessaries, and an equal sum for paying of the Debts He had contracted, that He would be careful to avoid getting again into difficulties; I owned I had hopes He was sincere, as on my going to Carlton House He proposed the only Painting it and putting handsome furniture

where

where necessary; but in very few Weeks this was forgot and large additional buildings were made, and least that should not waste money enough the most expensive Fêtes given, and at this hour considerable additional buildings are again begun; yet the Prince of Wales chuses to term his difficulties as occasioned by necessary Expences; when I am sensible that the income he receives and the large sum granted him at selling out last Year, might have afforded him every reasonable Elegance and enabled him to live with Magnificence; but then Sense not every frivolous and irregular passion must have directed his conduct.

If he has deranged his Affairs he ought to take a manly resolution to diminish his Expences and thus establish a sinking fund by degrees to clear those Debts, which would in some degree palliate with the Public for an Extravagance which every one but his flatterers have universally blamed. The Prince of Wales ought to know that every step he takes is of consequence, that if once he loses the good opinion of this Nation it is not to be regained.

I have found myself under the disagreable necessity of shewing the Prince of Wales's letter to the Queen, who is as much hurt as I, and coincides in opinion that if this improper plan was put into execution, his Character would be forever blasted in this Country and also in all Europe.

J

I therefore insist on His giving up a measure that would be a public breach with Me, to save him has been my only reason for putting up with many unpleasant things; but if He is resolved to ruin His Character at least I will not bear the blame, and My People shall know that this shameful flight is in defiance of My express prohibition both as King and Father; but if this representation brings the Prince of Wales to a recollection, and makes Him take the honorable path I have proposed, when I see that by an uniformity of conduct it is acted up to, and that a certain sum is employed annually to pay off His incumberances and fresh ones not made; then I will see whether I can contribute towards getting it sooner effected; for which reason except the Queen I have only mentioned the strange plan to Lord Southampton. I am certain if the Prince of Wales will consult the different Gentlemen of His Establishment on their particular branches, that they can form a Plan, and that He like a rational being will conform to it, that things will be easier arranged than He may at present imagine; but if He acts otherwise, He must remember these last Words of a much distressed Parent. He will in every sense be ruined and lose the Affection and Protection of Him who as yet remains

His very Affectionate Father

George R.

Aug.t 27th 1782.

A.A.

31858

Sir,

It is with the utmost reluctance I now sit down to communicate any thing to Your Majesty, wh. may in the smallest degree tend to any thing like uneasiness either to yourself, or the Queen, whose mutual good opinions & approbation I shd ever think the most flattering sanction, to any measure I should judge fit to adopt, I therefore feel it my duty to inform Your Majesty of a resolution I have been induced to take, from the peculiar & very embarrassed situation of my affairs, arising from the necessary expenses I incurred during the course of the last

year. I mean the putting in full practice a system of economy, by immediately going abroad, & wh. nothing but my absenting myself from this Country for a certain time can ever thoroughly effectuate, the unwillingness I naturally & sincerely feel to inconvenience your Majesty especially at the present moment upon my account, can be equalled only by that wh you yourself expressed to me some time since at the idea of attaining that object by laying any additional burden upon the Country. I therefore beg leave to repeat that I think it incumbent upon me, to give your Majesty the earliest information of an event wh. it is absolutely necessary to put in immediate practice. I have the honor to subscribe myself, with all possible respect, Sir, Your Majesty's — &c. &c. &c.

Copy of ~~a Letter~~ Bill to the King.

31859

An open breach with Me is but ~~one~~ among the many and still greater mischiefs which the step the Prince of Wales seems misled enough to take probably leads to. The precipitation with which He has been advised to preclude all Communication with Me on the subject of His leaving this Kingdom, or of the circumstance and manner of doing it, and the abrupt and offensive Manner which has been recommended to Him of announcing His Purpose, could not fail in the first Instance of procuring that effect. The consideration of the farther evils which I foresee from the Prince of Wales executing His design makes me think it necessary as His Father and His Sovereign strictly to charge and command Him by His Paper not to leave the ~~Realm~~ without having obtained my particular Leave

Queens House
Sept. 2d. 1784.

George R.

Sir,

I am more shocked than I can possibly express at the contents of your Majesty's Letter as I am fearful yt. you have misunderstood both my conduct & intentions. With regard to any retrenchment that wd. be of ~~any~~ material service in point of effectually lessening the incumbrances alluded to by your Majesty's Letter, I find yt. by staying in England that object is perfectly ~~[illegible]~~ unattainable & yt. nothing but my going abroad can possibly put me in the situation I should wish.

Your Majesty may easily conceive how truly ~~hurt~~ I must naturally be at ye idea of a public breach with you; I therefore hope that ~~as~~ your Majesty will be convinced that my view in going abroad is to relieve myself from embarrassing difficulties, ~~&~~ not to incur the censure of acting with the smallest disrespect towards your Majesty, ~~for~~ they you will perceive ~~not~~ be induced to bring this affair to so cruel or so harmful an issue, as that of another mutiny, ~~with Your Majesty~~, or think of placing me in so injurious & so unjust a light, as that of being guilty of a shameful flight, while I have taken every possible & respectful means of previously acquainting Your Majesty with my intention.

31861

I therefore think it my duty to inform your Majesty of it. I have an idea of residing for some time at Brunswick. I hope it will meet with your Majesty's approbation, as I see no fresh reasons for altering my resolution of travelling, ~~which was~~ a resolution formed upon ye. most mature deliberation, & upon ye. thoroughest conviction of the necessity of its taking place.

I have ye honor of subscribing myself with all possible respect, Sir

Your Majesty's

most dutiful & obedient

Son & Subject

G.P.

Copy of the second Letter to
the King.

Sir,

I am more shocked than I can possibly express at the contents of your Majesty's Letter, as I am fearful that you have misunderstood both my conduct & intentions.

With regard to any retrenchments that could be of material service in point of effectually lessening the incumberances alluded to by your Majesty in your Letter, I find that by staying in England that object is perfectly unattainable, & that nothing but my going abroad can possibly put me in the situation I should wish. Your Majesty may easily conceive

how truly hurt I must naturally be at the idea of a public break with you. I therefore hope that as your Majesty must be convinced that my view in going abroad is to relieve myself from embarrassing difficulties, not to incur the censure of acting with the smallest disrespect towards you, that you will for these reasons not be induced to bring this affair to so cruel or so pompous an issue, as that of an open rupture, or think of placing me in so ingenious & so unjust a Light, as yet of being guilty of a shameful flight, while I have taken every possible & respectful means of previously acquainting Your Majesty with my intention. I therefore think it my duty

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to inform your Majesty that I have an idea of residing for some time at Brunswick, wh. I hope will meet with your Majesty's approbation, as I see no fresh reasons for altering my resolution of travelling, a resolution formed upon the most mature deliberation, & upon the thoroughest conviction of the necessity of its taking place. I have the honor of subscribing myself with all possible respect. Sir

Your Majesty's

most dutiful & obedient

Son & Subject.

G P

Copy of a Letter to the King.

On the 25th Augt last the Prince of Wales gave Me notice of His resolution to leave the Kingdom, driven to it as He suggested by His necessities. A project so replete with mischief and disgrace, of course drew from Me a peremptory command, that He should not quit the Kingdom without my express Leave, together with a Recommendation of some Plan for Retrenchment and Payment of His Debts, by a Reserve out of His Revenue.

On understanding afterwards that the Prince considered what had passed as an implied Application to Me for the Payment of His Debts, and that although He thought such a Request made to Me directly would lay Him under no obligation to any other Person, He would not make it, but rather persist in His resolution; I sent Him word, that if He had any Application to make on account of His Debts, He ought to state the Amount for my consideration, and the security against future excesses, without which it would be impossible for Me to engage at all in the business.

On the 17th Sept. the Prince of Wales ordered Colonel Hotham to make out as near a state as He could of His Debts to be transmitted to Me, and said He should postpone His Departure till He was acquainted with my Intentions. At the End of four months or the 5th Jan. I received from the Prince the following Note (Sum total of My Debts £150,000.) and to this moment I have received no farther particulars, nor any sort of explanation. This which He calls a state of His Debts was enclosed in a letter where He refers the chief part of that Sum to my sitting Carlton

House

House, for which purpose as well as enabling Him to begin His Establishment and to discharge such Debts as He had then contracted the Sum of £ 60,000. was allowed Him. He had at the same time an annual Income assigned Him of £ 50,000. together with the Dutchy of Cornwall. This was more than any of His Predecessors unmarried had ever enjoyed; yet His expences appear to have been nearly four times His Income.

Upon this I forbear to make any Reflection. The impossibility of continuing such Profusion will strike his own good Sense; and the impropriety of extorting such Supplies if that were possible, from the good will of an Affectionate Country, will equally strike His generosity. In the confidence that these must be His feelings, I should anxiously adopt His wishes to be delivered by any practicable Mode from a situation so mortifying to Himself and so distressing to the Honorable Support due to His Rank.

But whether I can take any Measures for this purpose consistent with His Credit and My own, or what those Measures could be, cannot be decided without the fullest Examination into the Source and Extent of the Evil. An Exact Statement of His Expenditure, and the Management under which it has issued is the ground on which any Plan must be conceived for establishing a stricter Oeconomy, and for creating a Security, fit to be relied on against future excesses. without these the payment of this present Debt would be of little avail, instead of satisfying His Honour it would only compromise it with other parties, and involve Him deeper by

raising

raising a new credit liable to be abused in the same manner.

Such a Statement is equally necessary for examining the Nature and Extent of the Prince of Wales's Engagements, for it would be an unpromising Commencement of Reform, if Debts supposed to be contracted in a state of Mismanagement and Dissipation beyond any visible fund of payment or any probable expectation of such a fund, should be taken on general Suggestion only, without full Investigation.

This Examination is also necessary to distinguish the Preference and Priority of Payment, which may be due to them; as after every Reduction which may be effected, their Amount must probably require on any possible Supposition some tract of time to discharge them.

Queen's House
March 13th 1785.

George R.

Sir,

I seize the earliest opportunity of returning Yr. Majesty my most grateful thanks for yr. gracious Letter, & have desired Lord Southampton to wait upon Your Majesty with the particulars of the Estimate I had the honor of sending Yr. Majesty some time ago, & wh. I shd. already have done, had I not understood that it was the Amount only Yr. Mty. wished to receive. I have yr. honor to subscribe myself with all possible respect, Yr. Mty.

Carlton House.
March 14th.
1785

Most dutiful & obedient
Son & Subject
GP

Copy of my answer to the King's Letter requiring the particular Estimates of the Amount of my Debts

The Estimate delivered to the Prince of Wales by Colonel Hotham 27th October 1784. by no means answers what the Paper delivered by Lord Southampton on the 10th of March 1785. from the King to the Prince of Wales requires. Indeed it shews there are Debts, but no ways points out that the Works at Carlton House have been conducted with Oeconomy, that what is still to be compleated is void of profuseness, nor is it any explanation of the Sums borrowed and for what purposes. Besides there is no Plan for reduction of Expences, to avoid future embarassments, and to establish a Reserve for gradually clearing the inordinate Debts that have been permitted to exceed every reasonable hope of being discharged

Queens House
March 21st 1785.

George P.

Sir,

As I still continue apprehensive that Yr. M— has throughout this business misunderstood both my conduct & intentions I again presume to trouble Yr. M— upon ye. subject of my intended plan. I have already informed Yr. Majesty yt. my reason for going abroad arises from ye. impossibility of remaining here thus as I am. With respect to Yr. M—s proposal wh. I understand from Dr. S— & as well as from yr. own Letter, you did not think I had taken sufficient notice of, I beg only

to request Yr. M— to refer to ye. Letter I had
last ye. Lener of writing to you, in wh. I mentioned
to Yr. Majesty ye. impossibility of such
retrenchments being made out of my income
as wd. effectually tend to relieve me, & wh.
I had flattered myself wd have appeared to
Yr. M. as a sufficient answer to what
You had recommended, as well as an
adequate reason for my ~~prolonged~~ absenting
myself abroad for some time. Yr. M— therefore
I hope must be convinced yt. it is necessity
alone yt. drives me abroad, & by no mean
an inclination to act in contradiction
to ~~Yr~~ Yr. M— wishes. I mean so, with the recollection
of ~~yr~~ Letter ~~wh Yr.~~ Yr. M— wrote to Ch. Stuart
& wh. I saw at Yr. immediate desire, Your

Majesty may receive of. I did not presume to do more, than humbly & simply to represent my situation, as well as the only means I have of extricating myself from my difficulties. I have the honor to subscribe myself with the profoundest respect. Sir

Your Majesty's
Most dutiful & obedient
Sord Subject

Copy of my third Letter to
the King

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The Prince of Wales is sufficiently aware that His letter of the 14th of March is not deemed by Me a satisfactory or suitable answer to My proposal of the 13th.

It contains a Paper dated the 27th of October 1784. entitled an Estimate of Debts and Engagements; the first being Debts already Contracted amounting to £58.443. The second of Debts He is still resolved to Contract amounting to £63.850. in all £122.293. This Paper it should seem was drawn out in consequence of the Prince's Order to Colonel Hotham of the 17th of September; of which He gave Me notice by Lord Southampton on that day.

On the 5th of January the Prince of Wales had represented the gross amount of His Debts to be £150.000. without further explanation.

By way of further explanation the above mentioned paper is sent to Me, with a Note subjoined to it of Money borrowed on the 22. of December 1784. amounting to £25.000. which added to the former sums make £147.293.

The Paper does not purport an Account of the present Debts, nor even mention the names of the Creditors, the conditions of Loan, or other particulars respecting the nature of His Engagements, for which in the last Article of £15.000. Colonel Hotham makes this apology, that He B. H. has not yet been pleased to inform him thereof. In short it corresponds so little with the avowed object of My enquiry that these particulars would not be worth observing, if they did not derive some importance from an opertion in the

Prince

Prince of Wales's letter of the 23d of March that every thing which either He or Colonel Lotham knows concerning every Debt has already been submitted to Me.

That letter proceeds to insist on the impossibility of making any abatement of His Income, as it is with the greatest difficulty that He is able to go on with it at present, and infers from My having stated to Him the necessity of His adopting some Plan of Retrenchment, that I find Myself unable to assist Him so far as I could wish; and thereupon declines all farther communication upon this business, and concludes with a Menace to run away from His Situation, in direct defiance of the solemn Injunction I have laid upon Him not to leave the Realm without My Express Permission.

The immediate consequences of executing such a threat if that Step were really taken both to the Prince Himself and to any Person who might bear a part in it make it of some Importance that whatever has passed in this Correspondence should be rightly understood.

I have hitherto said nothing either of My Power or Intention to assist in delivering the Prince of Wales from the Embarrassments into which He is daily drawing Himself; nor of the proportion in which His present means ought to be applied to that End: but I have frequently said, and I now repeat that My Concurrence in any plan for that purpose, must depend on its being formed with sufficient regard both to His honour and Mine. It is in my judgement essential to both that considerable Expence should

not

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not either now or hereafter be entailed on the Public on this Account; that some scheme of Oeconomy should be settled for reducing his expence within a certain measure; and that the Observance of it should be secured as far as the Nature of the Occasion will permit.

To reform the profusion of his present Expenditure, that expenditure and the management under which it has issued must be examined, the excesses in the one must be retrenched, the abuses in the other corrected, and a settled Application of his Income must be made to a measured rate of necessary Expence. This must be further secured by making his Servants responsible in their several Departments for their Diligence and Fidelity in the observance of it. To this End their Accounts should be submitted to due Examination from time to time. That no future Debts may be Contracted, the Examination and Payment of the present Debts should be ordered, as to cut off all temptation to borrow, or lend in an improper manner.

This or some other Plan equally adapted to the avowed Principles upon which alone I can ever interpose, must be adopted; for it is extremely obvious that to advance £150.000. and leave things as they are, would only occasion the same situation a year or two hence, with additional reproach to the Wisdom and Honour of all Parties concerned.

To look into the detail of Pocket Expences is no part of this object, on the other hand it is plain that no Articles material to the avowed principles of this enquiry, can be buried under loose denominations, without defeating altogether the object proposed.

Windsor
March 29th 1785.

George

Sir

I am very much concerned yt. Yr. M. ~~still~~ continues to persists in wishing me to adopt a plan wh. ~~it is impossible~~ I have all along thought, & think yt I will ever, from having reflected upon it longer, be perfectly impracticable, I mean the reducing my expenses while my residence is in England. As to the particulars of the account wh. I had the honor of transmitting to Yr. M. I still must beg with submission to repeat yt. I have delivered not only every item yt.

I knew of, but yet they have been made out in the most explicit manner I was able. The part of the statement I conceive Ld. Yp. M. principally means to allude to, is to yt. of the £5000 I borrowed, it was impossible for me to convince to Colonel Hotham or any body, the names of the people who advanced me this money, & feeling the obligations I am under towards ~~me~~, ~~it is impossible for me to~~ I can not abuse ye. confidence they have placed in me, by exposing their names with this or any ~~other~~ pecuniary transaction ~~of this~~ before I conclude

I beg leave to assure Ld. M. yt. ye. plan I have now laid down to my self has not been formed with ~~any~~ view of gratifying any

desire I might have of paying Foreign Countries
but simply & honorably to clear myself from
the confined, embarrassing, & truly improper
situation I at present feel myself in. I
have the honor of subscribing myself, Sir
Your Mty's

most dutiful & obedient
Son & Subject