

Sir Joseph Youze

Feb. 4 1766

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Sire,

Your Majesty's gracious Letters of the 28th & 31st Janry arrived on the 7th & 3rd Inst, and without tiring Your Majesty with the effect Your unbounded Goodness has upon my mind, I shall endeavor to obey Your orders to the utmost of my power.

As Your Majesty is pleased to approve of what has hitherto past upon the affair in question, it is needless to explain any thing further about it just now, especially as what I have already humbly submitted to Your Majesty's Consideration, has convinced Your Majesty of the impossibility of opening it at present to the Prince of Orange himself. For some months I have never been able to see him alone, his Guardian being always present at all Audiences, & nobody but himself being able to approach him single; He sees him for about two hours every Morning alone, after which he is kept in a crowd of Young people or Servants of his family till he goes to bed; He has never any Company at home, nor has he past above three evenings at his Sister's during the winter, & even there Foreign Ministers & the greater sort of people are excluded.

Thus

Thus opportunities are wanting & all impressions must & do come thro' one & the
same person, every body else is kept at a distance. With one as young and
unexperienced as this Prince it would be flattering oneself too much to suppose
one had weight, that must be the effect of Time, & after repeated proofs of good
advice & attachment; as far as any body can be well with him, who is not
allow'd to frequent him, I can flatter myself to be so, from a very long habit
of seeing me, from the Confidence he saw me in with the late Prince's his Mother
& from I hope an irreproachable Conduct in 14. Years Residence, when he was
Younger too I was allow'd to see him often & alone, & he owns that to me only
he owes the having preserved any tincture of the English Language, which
was the first he talk'd. I am oblig'd therefore to be upon the watch, as well as
every person in this Country, to discover when & how it will be possible to
approach him, when he is of age it will depend upon himself if he has a
will of his own, who & how he will see people, & properly one of the functions
he is to fulfill is to treat with the Foreign Ministers, we shall therefore soon
see whether he will venture to appear by himself, or whether he will think
it prudent or necessary to continue some time upon his present footing. In
the main I honestly think he improves in Body & Mind, & has an appearance
of taking the Lead, but one must not expect too much at once, & this Spring
must go over his head, before we can be sure whether his health will maintain
itself, as it is in that Season that his late Complaint is subject to return.

If it had not been for an Article in Your Majesty's letter of the 28.th past,
I should not perhaps have ventured to intrude myself again ^{so} but have
waited to see how things turned, but I was too much struck with the
contrast of what Your Majesty is informed about the Duke of Brunswick's
way of writing concerning Prince Lewis, & what the latter told me positively
7 or 8 days ago about his Brother, to be silent. Prince Lewis told me that the
Reigning Duke had wrote to him, that however agreeable to his wishes it might

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to marry his Daughter to the Prince of Orange, yet as the King of Prussia was so bent upon that Match for his Niece, it would ruin his family if he attempted it, as that Monarch would not fail to make them feel his resentment; that he Prince Lewis, foresaw so many disagreeable Consequences in a Prussian Match, that he was puzzled for the sake of his Ward, that people here would not like it; that if by a turn of things in Europe, Great Britain renew'd its friendship with Austria, the Prince of Orange would be terribly tormented and embarrass'd; that he had never therefore shew'd him even the Prince of Prussia's picture, & besides the Prince had it strongly in his head not to determine without having first seen the Prince who might be proposed to him. — It is true a Prince's Royal greatly facilitates the Prince of Orange's Etiquette at his Court, for the Court of France is perpetually endeavouring to lessen his Dignity, & in such a Country as this that is a little awkward, they don't even give him the title of Orange, the policy of that Court being always to sell such trifles very dear, if they find Princes weak enough to lay 'em upon them, which they were very near effectuating with the late Stadtholder. Your Majesty judges rightly that a Prussian Match would not be agreeable to the generality of the Dutch, they are on the contrary afraid of it, but Prince Lewis has a dislike to a Danish one & has set the Stadtholder against it, tho' if there is no objection to the Prince, it is indisputably a much more harmful Match than the Prussian one. As to any of the Leading Men here being in the secret, I will venture to assure Your Majesty they are not, for the reasons given above, we shall see in the Course of this Year whether any of them venture to come forward. If Your Majesty has any particular wish concerning this point, pardon me if I most humbly presume to add, that thro' the Channels of the Hereditary Prince & the Prince, Your Majesty's sentiments might be convey'd round by Drumsick here, without carrying with them the appearance of openly interfering, which you would not perhaps

Chuse

chuse unless applied to, & yet it is of some consequence even for your Majesty's future influence in this Country, to give some attention & that in time to this Circumstance, for if once they are prepossess'd we shall not easily bring them back again, & they want perhaps to be prest for a thing, they at the bottom desire more strongly than any others. — after all I don't know how to combine what the Duke of Brunswick says with regard to Prince Lewis, with the latter's manifest inclination for Austria, nor can a wise Dutchman wish to heighten the animosity of Austria combined with Bourbon, against the Republick, for the sake of the King of Prussia whom they both disliked & fear. — after what Your Majesty has been pleased to confide to me, I shall pay all attention to that & every other object of Your orders, & continue to convey them, as your Majesty vouchsafes to permit.

I beg leave to subscribe myself with the most profound humility and Veneration,

Sire,

Your Majesty's

Most humble,

Most Faithful, &

Most Dutiful

Subject & Servant.

Joseph Yorke.

Hague. Feby 14th 1766.