

from
Lord Loughborough
& me at Windsor

(to Capt.
Payne)

His Majesty's serious
Indisposition

38237-8

My Dear Sir,

I can with great truth assure you that my attention has never deviated to any other affair than the subject of our conversation from the moment I received last Thursday an order to turn my thoughts to St. I should feel an equal pride & happiness if it were in my power to contribute in the smallest degree by any possible exertion of Zeal to the ease & tranquillity of H. H. H. in so trying a situation as providence has prepared for Him. I consider that there are but three possible events in immediate expectation - an ambiguous State of the H.'s disorder, an evidently decided State, or a sudden termination which can be looked for only in one way, for an entire & speedy recovery seems to be beyond the reach of any reasonable Hope.

In the two first cases It is the result of my most deliberate judgement that the Administration of the Government is as directly cast upon the H.'s apparent

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as the right to the Crown is in the last case, All are
alike the act of God & the Law of England knows no
interval in which there can be an interregnum. But
holding as I do the principle of right to be as distinct &
plain in the extraordinary, as it unquestionably is in the
ordinary case of a demise; It must be allowed that
there would be some material difference in effect -
no Precedent can be found except one little known &
in times where both the frame of the government & the
manners of the age were so little similar to what
they now are, that it could ~~have~~ ^{be of small} ~~little~~ authority.
In a case supposed therefore to be new, there would for a
moment be uncertainty by what rule they were to be
guided; and upon the supposition of an ambitious
State of the disorder, great Industry would be used
to prolong that State of suspense; every appearance of
favorable intervals would be magnified, & the
apprehension of a change would be studiously quieted
to prevent the public opinion attaching itself to the

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apparent getting Power. To oppose this, great Spirit
& Steadiness would be necessary, but I have no doubt
that the only measure would be to assert that
authority which no other Person had a right to assume,
& which with an united royal family no opposition
would be long able to thwart - whenever any incident
occurs in which a declaration of the King's Pleasure is
necessary, that declaration must be made by the only
Person who can legally be presumed to be authorized
to make it.

The case of an evidently decided disorder
is attended with very little embarrassment. There
would be no expectation of change to encourage & rear
up an opposition to the full acknowledgment of the
right to the administration of Government. It would
be declared to the Nation by Parlt. without restriction
for any partition of Authority I hold to be totally
inconsistent with the frame of our Government, which
has provided a sufficient Tribunal in the Parlt., and

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admits of no intermediate & secondary controuls. I doubt not but some wishes might be entertained for the purpose of private ambition to create Councils, & to devise restrictions; but they would terminate for the most part in the confusion of those who had the presumption to propose them.

The third Case is not new. There are known forms to be observed which should be carefully inspected & prepared. The most essential is a declaration to be made & entered at the first meeting of Council, the substance of which should be well considered & digested, because it would be taken for an indication of the Spirit of the future government. It should be short, general & at the same time satisfactory to the Publick on the great Lines of Policy -

I have not the least apprehension of any mischief or even inconvenience that can arise to H. H. H. but from his own virtues; It may sound

harsh & you will with some reason impute it
to the coldness of age when I say that the
duties of public life in the highest state of human
greatness may often require, not dissimulation (for I hold
that unworthy maxim that it is necessary for government to
be equally false & foolish) but a certain reserve & guard
upon the frankness of that amiable disposition which
is the ornament & delight of society -

I should be compleatly the old Man
tiresome & impertinent if I were to permit myself
to run on farther; you will excuse & I am sure you
will not expose any suggestions of too forward Deal,
from, My Dear Bague,

Adm^r W. B. B. /

Y^r most faithfull &
affectionate servant

Loughborough

