

Ld. Loughborough to R.B. Sheridan

38242 - 3

? Nov 1788

Dear Sheridan

Some Intelligence that Lord Stormont has received coincides so exactly with the tone of the Chancellor's conversation that on comparing them we are clearly of opinion that a Project is seriously entertained to deny the R.'s right & to form a government either under his name as an elected Regent w<sup>th</sup> limitations, or in the King's name by issuing Commissions & orders by authority delegated from the two Houses - Such Projects not perfectly digested have been broached to <sup>several</sup> individuals to try their sentiments & applications I know have been made to several Bishops, some of whom & those such as the R. would least doubt have lent a very favorable

Ear to them -

I am satisfied that by a temperate  
 but at the same time an active resistance it  
 will not be difficult to defeat these schemes, but  
 I think it will be absolutely necessary (while  
 the P. appears to take no concern in any matter  
 beyond his attention to the Kings health) that  
 such Person or Persons as He pleases should have  
 express authority to talk to Peers & Members in his  
 name, with a declaration that He will not submit  
 to any encroachment of his just rights, that He fully  
 understands & will assert them whenever the  
 publick Service makes it necessary for Him to act.

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From vague professions of duty he can rely on as support, the Questions are short what he shall be excluded from the government; restrained by circumstances so as to have merely the name without the substance of authority; or established & recognized in the full & temporary exercise of it — the last the Ministers do not mean, but I am certain that it is impossible for them without the utmost imprudence & negligence on the part of the P. & his real friends to carry either w<sup>th</sup> the public or the parlt. an approbation of this Mahratta Government they wish to set up.

I am extremely anxious that you should take an early opportunity of receiving his commands & laying before him the present situation the w<sup>th</sup>

dangerous state of things - the strictest Caution  
must immediately be made in all quarters, but  
without some general direction & some degree of  
countenance from Him that Caution will be very  
imperfect - Before the adjournment expires It will be  
necessary to have a large Meeting & perhaps It might  
be proper for His P. to step forward, but It is certainly  
advisable that He should wait to receive some  
proposition from the Ministers, which He wd take care  
to have in writing, I can hardly think they will  
avoid this step; tho if they have taken the Measure  
they did today without opening any plan to Him,  
their disrespect already shewn makes it possible they  
may pursue the same conduct in their future  
proceeding -

I set out to look for you this evening

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I was told by Mr. Townshend that you had  
gone home in disorder & I have rather chosen  
to trouble you w<sup>th</sup> this letter in the morning because  
I am afraid I shall be very much engaged in  
the course of the day, & I am very desirous  
that you sh<sup>d</sup>. lose no time in seeing Mr. H. -

Mr. Rowden comes to me tomorrow morning by  
his own appointment, he seems very well disposed,  
but I am afraid of his asking questions that I  
have no right to answer - I am Mr. J. Sheridan,

Thursday night

Yours ever

Loughborough

And afterwards  
to Hericlan

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This Majesty's own  
indisposition, & the  
supposed necessity  
for a Regency