

Ld. Commralls to H.R.A.

38247-8

Duplicate

Calcutta Nov: 1st 1788

Your Royal Highness's most kind letter of the 16th of September 1787, which I received in May, gave me on every account the greatest satisfaction.

I felt the most sensible pleasure at being assured, not only that I still had a place in your recollection, but that the good disposition which you had always so graciously shewn towards me was not altered. It was likewise a most agreeable circumstance to me, to find that I had already anticipated your Royal Highness's wishes, for in the late arrangement of the Residency at Lucknow, I had an opportunity of placing M^r Johnson in the best and most eligible situation that his rank and standing in the service permitted him to hold.

In July I received your commands of the 12th of March

in regard to M^r Treves; Col. Lake will have long
since informed your Royal Highness, that I had convinced
that he should not be removed from Benares, which was
very agreeable to him; He is I believe convinced of my
desire to shew him every kindness in my power, and I
can with pleasure say that he now behaves very well, and
is attentive to his business, but his income must for a
considerable time be very limited, and I suspect that at
his first settling out the contracted incumbrances that
will be long distressing to him.

The times for making rapid fortunes in India are
past, and it will now be only by the industry and economy
of a course of years, that a Servant of the Company who
conducts himself like a man of honor, will be enabled
to return with a competency to his native Country.

The Command which your Royal Highness has
been pleased to lay upon me to write to you, is very
flattering, but I fear that I could not make the business

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of this country interesting, or indeed intelligible to you, without entering into so long a detail that the opening of my letters would become an object of real terror.

I will only without going into particulars request of your Royal Highness to be guarded against prejudices, and to believe that, notwithstanding all you may have heard about Indian delinquency, there are amongst the Company's servants on the Bengal establishment, many men of ability, strict integrity, and truly liberal sentiments. A government therefore which has the power and inclination to select the best instruments, may do a great deal; But it is by an attention to this point alone that the national honor and interest can be promoted.

I should apprehend that many of my best friends and nearest connexions would complain that I have not attended to their recommendations, if I did not feel that the example of your Royal Highness, and the goodness with which you heard and admitted my objections to a proposal, which had the powerful support of your

good wishes, must defend me from all attacks and
suffer the most unreasonable complaints.

Our finances, as I believe your Royal Highness knows,
are a little deranged here, as well as in other places, and
the Company's European force is wretched beyond description
but the Native Troops are very fine, and I can with pleasure
bear witness of the good appearance and discipline of the
only two of his Majesty's regiments which I have seen
since I have been in India, the 7th and 73rd.

Nothing in my opinion will be more likely to insure
peace to us in this Country, than our having a respectable
Corps of European Troops, and I really hope and believe
that a few years of peace and tolerable management will
restore our possessions in Bengal to their former
flourishing condition. I am

Your Royal Highness's

most Faithful

and most devoted servant

Cornwallis

Lord Cornwallis
Calcutta 1782.
Nov. 1.