

W.P. to H.R.H.

Dec. 30 1788

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30 Dec 1788

Sir,

The Proceedings in Parliament being now brought to a Point which will render it necessary to propose to the House of Commons the particular Measures to be taken for supplying the Defect of the Personal Exercise of the Royal Authority during the present Interval, and your Royal Highness having some Time since signified your Pleasure that any Communication on this Subject should be in writing I take the Liberty of respectfully entreating

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Your Royal Highness's Permission to submit
to your Consideration the Outlines of the Plan
which His Majesty's Confidential Servants
humbly conceive (according to the best Judgment
which they are able to form) to be proper to be
proposed in the present Circumstances.

It is their humble Opinion that Your Royal
Highness should be empowered to exercise the
Royal Authority in the Name and on the
Behalf of His Majesty, during His Majesty's
Illness, and to do all Acts which might legally
be done by His Majesty; with Provisions
nevertheless, that the Care of His Majesty's
Royal Person, and the Management of His
Majesty's Household, and the Direction and
Appointment of the Officers and Servants
therein should be in the Queen, under such

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Regulations, as may be thought necessary; that the Power to be exercised by Your Royal Highness should not extend, to the Granting the Real or Personal Property of the King (except as far as relates to the Renewal of Leases) — to the Granting any Office in Reversion, or to the Granting, for any other Term than during His Majesty's Pleasure, any Pension, or any Office whatever, except such as must by Law be granted for Life or during Good Behaviour, — nor to the Granting any Rank or Dignity of the Degree of this Realm, to any Person, except His Majesty's Royal Issue who shall have attained the Age of Twenty One Years. These are the chief Points which have occurred to His Majesty's Servants. I beg Leave to add that

them I dare are formed on the supposition
that His Majesty's Illness is only temporary
and may be of no long duration. It may
be difficult to fix beforehand, the precise
period for which these Provisions ought to
last, but if unfortunately His Majesty's
Recovery should be protracted to a more distant
period than there is at present reason to ima-
-gine, it will be open hereafter to the Wisdom
of Parliament to reconsider these Provisions
whenever the Circumstances appear to call
for it.

If your Royal Highness should
be pleased to require any further explanation
on the Subject, and should condescend to
signify your orders that I should have
the Honor of attending your Royal Highness,
for that Purpose, or to intimate any other

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mode, in which your Royal Highness may
wish to receive such explanation, I shall
respectfully wait your Royal Highness's
commands.

I have the honor to be
with the utmost deference and submission

Sir,

Your Royal Highness's
most dutiful
and devoted servant

W. P. H.

Downing Street.

Tuesday night Feb^r 30th 1788

