

See also 38348-9

38381

Tuesday 3 o'clock

I wrote you, this morning, in a kind of half sleep: But notwithstanding ^{that} I did not dream. The troops of the Enemy, through management, have been induced to swear allegiance for a limited time — that is they were individually questioned and ^{they} promised to go, ^{through} ~~with~~ the Restrictions... Their courage has been kept up, in two ways. D^r W...s was certainly to recover the Sh., if not the Restrictions were to be made so bitter — that the P. would not swallow them! This latter is still their great hope... for some did not scruple to whisper each other, last night, that the giving the Household to the Q. would be, probably, followed, by the R...y.

If they find themselves disappointed, in this last hope, a great number, in the course of next week will either go over to the opposite camp, or desert into the Country. Notwithstanding their repeated Victories, they are low-spirited: and nothing but perseverance is necessary to turn completely the fortune of the War... Why will not men compare

See also

1888

compare the present to past times. During the
 recess of 1783—84, when the new Ministry had time
 given them to be re-chosen to Parliament: Every engine
 was set to work to gain votes, in the House of Commons.
 ... a L^d. of the Benchamber told me, at the end of three
 weeks, with exultation of Joy, that thirteen Members
 had been gained over, in that time: I found upon inquiry
 it was ^{not} only one third of that ^{no: only:} Number: Yet the
 King, the H. of Lords, the Ministry, the people were
 of one side. Don't attribute this, to the steady princi-
 ples of Members: They had sword allegiance, for
 a limited time, as at present: And they were assured,
 that a steady opposition, in the House, would overset
 the Ministry, in three weeks. ... Week followed week
 without producing the desired effect.... Some became
 sick, ^{several} ~~many~~ went to the Country... a few, very conscientious:
 ly owned — they had gone too far — and they measured
 back their steps, to the other side. In the first week
 of March 1784, just three months after the India Bill
 was rejected, by the Lords, the Ministry, through the
 means mentioned, in the preceding Sentence, came
 within a few Votes of their opponents. But, not withstand-
 ing, the prospect of their getting ahead... they were ad-
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advised to take advantage of the temper of the People, and to get a new House of Commons.

In the present times, only patience and a little management are necessary. The Restrictions, especially the Household, are deemed severe, even by many who voted for them, in their plenitude, last night. Give a little time, to the nation and it will see them, in as abominable a light, as it was induced to look upon the India Bill. The current, be assured, will turn, in a few months: there are strong principles ^{for} Monarchy, in this Country. This double State and influence, which P. M. has chosen to create, will be seen, as separating, what is indivisible: and the double expence will fighten away that ~~idea~~, which is impressed, upon the minds of unexamining weak men.

F. & hinted... and the sentiment met with universal applause that the Regent should not put the nation to any additional expence. If he had mentioned and explained that the State of the Regent should be supported, by savings, from the Household of the King, P. M. would not have an inch of ground to stand upon... Were it possible, for the Regent... to ask for nothing.. the Contrast between him and the Mock-state kept up by

1838
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by Pitt would open the eyes of the world, in an in-
stant... The nation would call out "Shame", upon
such a face; and the Pensioners of the House hold would
be hoisted off the stage. Believe me, slow as mankind
are, in their comprehension... The appropriating, below
two and three hundred thousand pounds a year, to
the idle State of a person, not sensible of it, will not
hold water, for three months. Indeed Pitt seems
to think so, ~~sensible of that~~, ^{so,} ~~as~~ the only argument he made use of,
was the shortness of the time, the arrangement would
continue.

I am still of opinion, that by proper amendments, on
the Bill, when it comes in, the dangerous parts of this same
Household may be frittered away. Men vote propositions
by the Lump... But I have frequently seen the most re-
solute give up the substance of the preliminary resolution
in the Committee upon Bills... Let no discontent be
shown, though it cannot but be felt... by the Prince.
To this discontent, the Enemy looks, with avidity: for it
is, on the forlorn hope, of his being disgusted, they
feed and support their party... Let him take the Gov-
... Every thing else will follow... the harder the Resric-
tions, the sooner they will break... Had the limitations been
milder, they would be more dangerous - as they might
perhaps, last forever... Patience and firmness will ~~last~~
T. Pitt on his back! and that very soon indeed

Polle shot his bolt, in the end of the business, with re-
spect to a certain Lady. He says, he has pledged
himself to his Country, to bring forward that business.
... Let him, when he will, he can make nothing of it.
He was trimmed handsomely by P.N....

By the by, I was once of opinion, that the Ch...
would not venture to put the G. Seal, to the Act of Govern-
ment. I was ^{glad} of it, at the time: But I have now altered
my opinion completely. The party are already, on as
hollow a piece of ground, as their worst enemies could
wish them to be: Let them go on this other ^{great}
Step; and they are undone forever. Let them
use the Seal: it will vitiate the whole of the Restric-
tions!... They must come, for an indemnity... then will
be the time, to throw off the fellows. I again repeat the
Sentiment, that the harder the restrictions are the better
... as they will the sooner be got rid of: I would
certainly oppose them, in all their stages - but I would
neither waste many words on them, nor at all divide
upon them in the Lump... but try, only, what can be
taken from the Household, by judicious amendments,
in the Committee. ... Let me implore the P...ce's party
to say

say little and do less against the Great Seal business.
They will have their opponents, in a noose, and
they ^{may} draw the Cord, as tight as they please. ~~This~~

I was much pleased, with the Conduct of our party
last night. They were able, cool and moderate. Lord
N. spoke well and Mr. Fox very ably and unanswer-
ably. The light and noisy troops were kept, as
much as was possible, in the rear of the line. This
must always be done, till a good footing is obtained.