

M. Fox to HRH

10. July 1709.

From M. Fox.

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Sir

The Condescension with which your
Royal Highness has always treated me, together
with my most sincere zeal & attachment has long
habituated me to speak & write to your Royal
Highness with a freedom which if I were capable
of abusing, I should be indeed unpardonable;
and I trust to your Royal Highness's accustomed
candour that you will acquit me of that
imputation in the present instance, though I am
certainly taking a liberty to which nothing but
your Royal Highness's Partiality can entitle me.

It has long been matter of serious concern
to me that his Majesty should have been led to
consider me (as I fear he has done) as a Man less
devoted to his service and less inclined ~~to~~
~~to~~ than many others whom
he has employed as Ministers to render his reign
easy to him and to make his situation as
splendid as it ought to be.

Your Royal Highness who knows me,
knows that not only I am incapable of any
personal disrespect to his Majesty, but that my
political principles are strong in favour of
keeping up the Royal Power entire, undivided,

and full of vigour; and I should feel myself
very much lightened of what I have for years felt
as a considerable burthen, if your Royal Highness
would take some favourable occasion of laying me at
the King's feet and of assuring his Majesty that, if
ever it should suit the conveniency of his Majesty's
affairs to make use of so humble an instrument as
I am, and to repose any confidence in me, I shall be
as ready as any other of his Subjects to do all that is
in my power to evince my attachment to his
Majesty, and to serve him in the way he may
most approve. To obey his Majesty's commands, and
even, when I knew them, to anticipate his wishes
would always be my greatest pride as far as is
consistent with my duty, and beyond the limits of
of my duty I am sure his Majesty is as incapable
of commanding as I should be of obeying. I should
feel myself very happy to have these sentiments
laid before his Majesty (however unimportant at
this juncture any sentiments of mine may appear)
because I think it a duty every Man owes to himself
to endeavour at least to do away the bad impressions
which have ^{been} given of him without foundation.

At the same time I will freely confess to your
Royal Highness that there are circumstances in the
present times which appear to me to be favourable
to such an explanation as I would humbly beseech

Mr. Fox to HRH

10. July 1789.

From Mr. Fox.

your Royal Highness to make of my sentiments, 38481
The circumstances which I allude to are the
system and conduct of the present Minister who seems
to reduce into practise all that I ever was accused of
intending by means of my India Bill. The accusations
against me (for the falshood of which I appeal to your
Royal Highness's knowledge of my political character
and principles) were that I intended to form an
Administration of my own so strong as to be
independent of the King's Will. That this is the
spirit of the present system, and that it is no
longer intended to be concealed must be evident
to every common Observer not only from the
appointments of Lord Chatham, Mr. Grenville
&c but from the repeated declarations of the
Chancellor (who is looked upon generally as the
Person most fully possessed of the King's confidence)
that He is not consulted even in their most
important measures. And I am sure I need not
point out to your Royal Highness's sagacity, that
Mr. Pitt is much nearer to that independent and
unconstitutional situation which I was falsely
accused of aiming at, than the India Bill even
supposing it to have all those tendencies which it's
Enemies imputed to it, could ever have placed me.
Your Royal Highness will be so good as
to consider these latter observations as meant for

your Royal Highness only, and that all I wish
most humbly to convey to his Majesty are my own
sentiments without any tribute upon the conduct of
others. Perhaps if his Majesty should condescend to
hear ~~my~~ ^{these} sentiments, He may think them deserving
some attention as coming from a Person who may say
that he has, through a long political life, been so
fortunate as never even to have been accused of
deceiving any Individual with whom he has acted.
I trust to your Royal Highness's goodness to pardon
the vanity of this assertion; but it is a true one, and I
am convinced his Majesty's good sense will point out
to him that never to have betrayed his Equals is the
best earnest a Man can give of fidelity and gratitude
to his Superiors.

If I may be allowed in a letter principally
filled with my own concerns to mix any thing of so
much higher importance as your Royal Highness's
conduct, I would humbly entreat your Royal Highness
to postpone laying before the King at present the
complete justification of your past measures. I
know how uneasy your Royal Highness has felt
ever since you had a hint that they were disapproved
by his Majesty, but there are so many delicate points
to be touched upon in a full discussion of what has
passed, that perhaps his Majesty's Ease may be
best consulted by waving at present any other
justification than a declaration of the purity

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of the motives upon which your Royal Highness
and the Duke of York both acted, for which I have
no doubt but his Majesty's Goodness will give
you complete credit.

I know of no apology sufficient for the
liberties I have taken in this letter, but I am
satisfied your Royal Highness's kindness is such
that they need none. My best justification upon
this and all other similar occasions is the
sincere attachment and perfect fidelity with
which I am, Sir,

your Royal Highness's

most dutiful servant

C. J. Fox

St Anne, Hill

10. July 1709.

I hope it will not be long before I have
the honour of paying my duty to your
Royal Highness at B rightkelmsen.

