

Sir J. Sinclair to Capt. Payne

Sep. 20 1789

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Dear Sir

I sit down, almost within sight of John & Goats House, to trouble you with a few lines. Though situated above 700 miles from London, I can assure you that this is a part of the world, to which our present immaculate minister is not inattentive, and I beg that you will take an early opportunity of requesting his Royal Highness the Prince's attention, to the circumstances I am about to mention.

The County of Caithness, you must know, alternately with that of Bute, sends a representative to Parliament. Its choice takes place at the
evening

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knowing General Election. As I have about a fourth of the County in my possession, many relations with considerable property there, and had taken pains to lay every individual of consequence in it, under some obligation or another, I thought that no minister could have ventured to interfere with, or oppose me. The fact however has turned out otherwise. Sir Robert Sinclair, the Duchess of Gordon's son-in-law, and the Brother-in-law, and friend of Col. Lennox, has started against me, and they are carrying on the contest with all the arts, that rage, revenge, and malice can invent. They give it out, and I believe with reason, that a large sum of money has been issued from the Treasury, to carry it on, and that no possible pains or exertion will be wanting to insure their success.

You.

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you may assure the Prince
that I will not forfeit His Royal Highness's
esteem, by yielding to those, who wish to
trample upon every one that ventured to
show, upon a late important occasion, any
marks of respect for, or any confidence in
his Royal Highness. But I trust that
I shall be honoured with the Prince's
countenance and support upon this occasion.
In the present defective state of our Scotch
representation, when everything depends
upon the votes of a few Lairds, or Country
Squires of small property, it is very dif-
ficult to resist the Treasury, who have
it in their power to confer upon them a
variety of small favours; and our elections
very often depend upon the decisions of
the Court of Session in Scotland, where
Dundas has great influence, having nomina-
ted so many of the members. But not-
withstanding all these disadvantages, if

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if favoured with his Royal Highness's support
I am confident of success.

I beg to have the pleasure
of hearing from you as soon as you have it
in your power to mention this matter to
the Prince. Have the goodness to direct
the answer to Edinburgh, where I propose
being in a few days, and believe me to be,

With very great regards,

Your very faithful
humble servant

Thurso Castle
North Britain
20th September. - 89

John Sinclair

20th Sept 89
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Sinclair's