

39119 - 20

Sir

Altho I am fully persuaded
I shall find every excuse in your Roy:
Highness's accustomed indulgence, in
any apparent remissions in not
obeying your commands to deliver up
the papers your goodness was pleased
to confide to me; yet I am unwilling
that even chance should subject me
to the imputation of shewing less
diligence in the present instance, than
has ever excited my zeal on all former
occasions of my life, in the obedience

to Your Royal Highness's highest wish.

The time since I received the first notice, has not been employ'd in sorting the papers; but in withdrawing them from the various parcels of other papers and books; both naval as well as Parliamentary, and others relating to the Dutchy, with which they were indiscriminately mix'd. — The reason of this confusion was my ill state of health, at the time they were last remov'd from Carlton House, when I could not attend to arrange them in the same method, in which they were plac'd in the different articles of Your Royal Highness's furniture, from whence they were taken: and as I then

39120

understood, that your Royal Highness had
allotted a small House, by way of Office,
in which such things might be deposited
I waited till that time, before I attempted
to regulate them. I have had a Person
at Portsmouth above a week past to
get my Boxes from the Ship, without
being able to get any communication
for that purpose, from the continued
bad weather that has prevailed. As I
have never had any communication
with that Ship, since I left her in Turkey
I had then only an opportunity of
bringing with me a small Portmanteau
every thing else has remained there
till the present moment since I left her.

Every paper that I have found, as far

as my search has extended, I have put
into a Box, which contains all the
correspondence with The King, Her
Majestys Letters together with many
letters from the Royal family.

There is a separate parcel containing
the letters I got from Mrs. Crouch,
which I meant to have propos'd to
Your Royal Highness to destroy; as I
kept them only to repel some threats
that were formerly made of publication
& which I guess'd would be spurious,
but as I understand she is now satisfied
in her demand, they are no longer an
object of preservation: as fast as I get
as the papers belonging to Your Royal
Highness, I shall take the liberty of

addressing them to Your Royal Highness; & those
I have particulariz'd, will be sent directly
to Carlton House. I cannot help here adding
that Your Royal Highness may be
assur'd, that no copy has ever been
taken of any paper in my possession, nor
has any person whatsoever been gratified
in the sight of any paper in my charge,
as I have always thought such a desire
could proceed from nothing but a
criminal curiosity, whatever have been
the professions of the times, as my
past experience has furnish'd me with
instances enough of the mischief resulting
from rumours spread, or suggestions
grounded upon partial inspection of
such materials. Your R^{ty} I trust will

39
be indulgent to any observation that
escapes me, of affectionate zeal, which
never fails to animate my mind, on
every subject connected with your
Royal Highness's Interest. I have observ'd
the same reserve even to myself, & can
assure your Roy^{ty} Highness upon my honor
that there are many papers, which I
receiv'd from you, that I have never
inspected, & particularly the packet
I propos'd to destroy.

I cannot omit seizing this occasion
to express my sincerest congratulations
on the late happy event that has
taken place in your Royal Highness's
family, and if I say less than others,
I can with truth aver, that no one

39122

feels more sympathy than such an
occasion can inspire than He who
is with the dutiful affection your

Royal Highness faithful

and most obedt.

W. W. W.

Barnumpton

Feb. 1st. 96

Col^l Martin Payne

to

The Prince of Wales

July 1. 1796

On petition from
His Royal Highness's
Service, & attending
wth Papers