

H. Pearce [a Clerk at the Admiralty] to?
(re Gainsborough picture to be presented to H.P.H.)

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Admiralty Office }
18. Feb. 1799 }

My Dear Sir

In the uncertainty that your
stay at Bath, would not have been
lengthened beyond a week or ten
days, I forbore troubling you with
a letter expressing my sense of the
very friendly conduct of Colonel
Mr. Mahon :- upon his speaking to
the Prince, His Royal Highness
desired him to inform Miss Gainsborough,
which he did in a very handsome manner,

that he should keep one of the Pictures
to shew his regard for the Memory
of honest Gainsborough, and that to
serve her more essentially he would
recommend the Duke of Bedford to
purchase the other two. —

This proceeding in his Royal Highness
has fully justified the opinion
you have ever zealously professed
of his steady & generous attachments.

The point upon which I am
induced again to resort to ~~the~~ you

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interference, is that the Duke's decision may be obtained. - I do most solemnly assure you that the whole of those Pictures would have been purchased long since - (Two for Mr. Beckford & one by Mr. Harrington) had not it been Miss Gainsborough's Pride in accordance to her Father's wish that the Prince should have one of his best Landscapes in his possession. - Pray I can do what you can on this subject. -

I am sorry to say that poor Miss Wood died this morning - Pearce

M. Pearce
10. July 1799

Relates to
Caingborough's pictures