

H. R. A. to B. M.

Aug. 27 1803

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(reverse)

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Sir

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I have delay'd thus long an answer
to the Letter which Your Majesty did me the honor to
write, from a wish to refer to a former Correspondence
which took place between us in the year 1798. Those
Letters were mislaid, & some days elaps'd before I could
discover them. They have since been found ^{allow}
~~me~~ then Sir, ~~allow me~~ to recall to Your Majesty the expressions
~~of my gratitude and respect~~ ^{which I feel to be the duty of my heart} ~~to which I feel to be the duty of my heart~~
you were graciously pleas'd to use, when I solicited ^{for the library of my own} ~~for the library of my own~~
~~the privilege of a residence in the city~~ ^{to which I feel to be the duty of my heart} ~~to which I feel to be the duty of my heart~~
by not copying into the Library; they were Sir, that Your Majesty, did not then
~~see the opportunity for it, but that if any thing was to be done~~ ^{that I might be} ~~that I might be~~
~~expressed with the same respect and reverence~~ ^{ought to} ~~ought to~~
First & Foremost. There cannot be a stronger
expression in the English Language, or one more
consonant to the feelings which animate my Heart
In this, I agree perfectly with Your Majesty. I

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to be first, & foremost. It is the Place which my
Birth assigns me. Which Europe, Which the
English Nation expect me to fill; and which the
former Assurances of Your Majesty might naturally
have led me to hope I should occupy. After such
a Declaration, I could hardly expect to be told that
my Place was at the Head of a Regiment of
Dragoons. I understand that it is ^{from your Majesty} the Intention
^{Sir} of Your Majesty, in pursuance of that Noble Example
which you have ever shewn, during the Course of
your Reign, to place Yourself at the Head of the
People of England. My next Brother, the D. of York
Commands the Army. The Younger Branches of the
Royal Family are ^{either} Generals, or Lieut. Generals, and
I, who am Prince of Wales, am to remain Colonel
of Dragoons. There is something so humiliating in
the Contrast, that those who are at a Distance,
would

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either doubt the Reality or suppose that to be my
Fault, which ^{is} ~~was~~ only my Misfortune. Who
could imagine that I who am the Oldest Colonel
in the Service had ask'd for the Rank of a General
Officer, in the Army of the King my Father, &
that it had been refused me. I am sorry,
much more than sorry to be oblig'd to break in
upon your Leisure, & to trespass thus a second time
on the Attention of Your Majesty, but I have
an interest in my Character more valuable to me
than the Throne, and dearer far dearer to me
than Life. I am call'd upon by that Interest to
persevere, and I pledge myself never to desist
till I receive that Satisfaction which the Justice of
my Claim leads me to expect. In these unhappy
Times, the World (^{is} examines the Conduct of Princes
with a jealous, a scrutinizing, a malignant Eye.
No Man is more aware than I am of the Existence

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of such a Disposition, and no Man is therefore more
determined to Place himself above All Suspicion.
In Desiring to be Placed in a forward Situation, I
have perform'd One Duty to The People of England
I must now perform Another, I humbly supplicate
Your Majesty to Assign those Reasons which have
induced you to Refuse A Request which appears
to me, & to the World, so reasonable & so Rational.

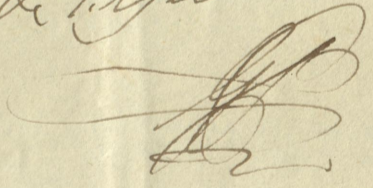
I must again Repeat my Concern that I am Obliged
to continue a Correspondence, which I fear is not
so Grateful to Your Majesty as I could wish. I have
exammit my own Heart. I am Convinced of the
Justice of my Cause, of the Purity of my Intention
^{Reason & Honor forbid me to}
~~excuse~~ ~~excuse~~ ~~excuse~~ - Where no Reason is
alleged, I am justified in the Conclusion that
none can be Given. In this candid Exposition
of the feelings which have agitated & deprest my
wounded Mind, I hope no Expression has escaped me
which can be construed to mean the slightest
disrespect.

HRH to HM

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to Your Majesty. I ^{most} solemnly Disavow any
 such Intention, But the Circumstances of the
 Times; the Danger of Invarion, the appeal which
 has been made to all your Subjects oblige me to
 recollect what I owe to my own Honor & Character
 and to state to Your Majesty with Plainness
 truth & Candour, but with all the Submission of
 a Subject, & the Duty of an affectionate Son,
 the Injuries under which I labour which it is
 in the Power of Your Majesty ^{at any moment} alone to redress.
 I have the honor to subscribe myself with the
 sentiments of the ^{most} profound veneration & respect, Sir, your Majesty's

most dutiful & most affectionate
 Son & Subject.



Brighton
 Aug. 27.
 1803.

