

AA

Ed. Daruley 6 H. P. H.

40106-7

Berkley Square  
Tuesday March 13  
1804

Sir

After the conversation with his  
Your Royal Highness has lately known me,  
I think it my Duty to inform you that I can  
state from undoubted authority that Mr Pitt  
neither has, nor (as I firmly believe) ever  
will, enter into any compromise or cooperation  
with His Majesty's present Ministers, of which  
the hostile Motion which he is about to bring  
forward in Parliament on the subject of the  
Army, and which I know he intends to support  
with all his strength, affords additional proof.

Having enter'd upon this subject, I  
trust to Your Royal Highness's usual con-  
descension when I venture to pursue it a

little farther, and to state the opinions in writing which induced me on a late occasion humbly to offer to your Royal Highness a suggestion which your better judgment has induced you to reject -

The first point, on which I wish to ground all subsequent argument, and which my zeal for your Royal Highness with whom the welfare of the Country is inseparably connected has induced me so frequently and so urgently to press upon your notice is this - That of all men existing Mr Pitt is beyond comparison the person most capable of rendering essential service to both - On this point I beg leave to take all the credit I may possess with your Royal Highness in opposition to any thing you may hear to the contrary from other quarters - Independent of all other considerations which may induce the public to look up to him at the present moment, the circumstance of the concerted amicability of Government on the one hand, and the national honor with the manifest sacrifice of every

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principle to emulation excites in the minds of men, and which the late coalition appears to present in such glaring colours on the other, place him in a situation of eminence which neither his splendid talents nor his former services, without such a concurrence of circumstances could ever have entitled him to reach.

But your Royal Highness appears to think that he is your enemy, and that <sup>he</sup> having been before guilty in that respect and deference which is due to your Royal Highness, and to your exalted station, it would not become your dignity to take any step which might by possibility be construed into seeking or wanting the assistance of a Person from the unworthy notion of mere self-interest, or the still more unworthy impulse of fear.

In the first place permit me to state to your Royal Highness that he is not your enemy to my certain knowledge, and that I have every reason to believe that he might easily be converted into a firm & certainly

a most useful friend. But this in the first  
instance depends on your Royal Highness, for  
whom any overture must necessarily come.  
On a late occasion it struck me very forcibly  
that an opportunity occurred in which without  
committing the dignity of high station, without  
deviating from those exemplary rules of conduct  
which have with so much wisdom been adopted  
without appearing either to court or to fear your  
Royal Highness might, if you had thought fit  
have oblig'd the man, who (if I am right) is  
most capable of doing it, to do you justice.  
For that was the situation in which your Royal  
Highness then stood, & may perhaps now stand.  
The subject is a delicate one, and nothing but  
my zeal & anxiety for your Royal Highness  
should induce me to enter into it. — The  
Chancellor had in the most solemn manner  
pledg'd himself & his colleagues to the assertion  
that the Royal functions were not suspended.  
They had even gone so far as to act upon  
this assertion, and to induce His Majesty  
to give the Royal assent to acts of

[ Parliament ]

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Parliament: on the very Day after this business  
had taken place one of the Physicians steadily  
expressed your Royal Highness that the King  
was actually at that moment in a state  
which notoriously incapacitates all Men  
from doing any act of discretion whatever.  
The inference drawn by your Royal Highness  
and expressed on this occasion was irresistible.  
Either the Physicians deceived your Royal  
Highness, or the Ministers the Parliament and  
the Nation - In either case your Royal  
Highness was materially interested, but in the  
latter, the Rights of the Crown, of which your  
Royal Highness was then the Federal and the  
only guardian were evaded - Under such  
circumstances it appeared to me that  
something ought to be done, & thinking as I  
do of Mr Pitt, I earnestly wished that your  
Royal Highness should under it impossible  
for him to plead ignorance of the real  
state of the case hereafter, and even  
supposing (which I could not believe) that

He was sitting with the Ministers, or likely  
to sit with them in such an usurpation,  
that he should at least know that your Royal  
Majesty was in possession of proofs against  
him and them. Besides, setting aside  
for a moment all the circumstances of  
his situation which appeared to render him  
the person best able to afford your Royal  
Majesty advice & assistance, a habeas  
corpus plea which was presented itself for  
sending for him in preference to any other  
man, and thereby deviating from the rule  
which had so very properly been laid down.  
He had been the King's Minister during  
a large proportion of His Majesty's reign,  
and during the periods of the two former  
recessions of the Royal Authority -  
I firmly believe he would have given the  
best, the most upright, and even the most  
friendly advice - But supposing the  
contrary - How could he, if he would, have  
denied the evidence of facts which your

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Royal Highness had ready for him, who  
could he have avoided pledging himself to  
Your Royal Highness to maintain your just  
rights, & those of the Crown? He must  
have known that if he had done after  
such an interview to act a false or  
double part, your Royal Highness had in  
your hand the means of convicting him.  
But supposing that I believe, your  
Royal Highness would have yielded  
to your interest the but & not effu-  
piced you can possess - Besides, as  
it strikes me, the point of etiquette would  
have been compromised, no pledge of  
fidelity from you would have been given.  
But the man who was able not officia-  
ciously to serve your Royal Highness  
would have been held fast to your  
interest by the united operation of the  
two most powerful Springs of human action  
Hope and Fear - In his Heart, your

Royal Highness would have deposited  
a dignified protest against any invasion  
of the rights of the Crown, and if you  
own interests as connected with them and  
you would have left them without excuse  
if he had not strenuously and anxiously  
supported them -

I forbear to adduce many other  
arguments which present themselves on  
this subject having already perhaps  
presented on your Royal Highness; for  
which I must trust to your  
goodness to pardon -

I am Sir

Your Royal Highness =

most faithful

and devoted servant

John Stanley  
Dorset

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