

Ed. Cresswell to H. M. Pitt.

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Copy -

8th May 1804

My Dear Pitt -

I have already apprised you that all the persons, to whom, at your desire, I communicated what passed between us, yesterday, agree with me in the decided opinion, that we ought not to engage in the administration which you are now employed in forming -

We should be sincerely sorry, if by declining this proposal, we should appear less desirous than we must always be, of rendering to His Majesty, to the utmost of our power, every service, of which he may be graciously pleased to think us capable. - No consideration of personal ease or comfort; no apprehension of responsibility, nor reluctance to meet the real situation into which the country has been brought, have any weight in this decision. Nor are we fettered by any engagements on the subject, either expressed or implied; we rest our determination solely on our strong sense of the impropriety of our becoming parties to a system of government, which is to be formed at such a moment as the present, on a Principle of Exclusion. -

It is unnecessary to dwell on the mischiefs which have

already resulted from placing the great Offices of Government in weak & incapable hands. We see no hope of any effectual remedy for these mischiefs, but by uniting in the Public Service "as large a proportion as possible of the weight, Talents & Character, to be found in Public Men of all Descriptions and without any exception." - This Opinion I have already had occasion to express to you in the same words, & we have for some time past been publicly acting in conformity to it; nor can we, while we remain impressed with that persuasion, concur in defeating an object for which the Circumstances of the present times, afford at once so strong an inducement and so favourable an occasion.

An opportunity now offers, such as this Country has seldom seen, for giving to its Government in a moment of peculiar Difficulty, the full benefit of the Services of all those, who by the Public Voice and Sentiment, are judged most Capable of contributing to its Prosperity & Safety. The wishes of the public on this subject are completely in union with its Interests, and the advantages, which not this Country alone, ^{but} all Europe, and the whole civilized World might derive from the establishment of such an administration, at such a crisis, would probably have exceeded the most sanguine expectations.

We are certainly not ignorant of the Difficulties which might

Ld. Grenville to Mr. Pitt.

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I have obstructed the final accomplishment of such an object however earnestly pursued. But when in the very first instance all trial of it is precluded, and when this denial is made the condition of all subsequent arrangements, we cannot but feel, that, there are no motives of whatever description, which could justify our taking an active part in the establishment of a system, so adverse to our deliberate and declared opinions -

Believe me ever

My Dear Pitt

Most affectionately Yours

[Signed] Grenville

Lord Gowerville to
Mr Pitt

11 May 1704

Pitt