

Joseph Childe bH.R.H.

40168-9

London 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1704

Your Royal Highness will not I trust be displeas'd  
at the receipt of this letter nor attribute to any  
improper motive an application dictated by cir-  
cumstances of the most trying necessity. The question  
which has lately been agitated respecting the right of  
election for the Borough of Liskeard has unexpectedly been  
decided contrary to the wishes of those who <sup>have</sup> an in-  
terest in vesting to the Duchy of Cornwall that patronage  
to which it is naturally entitled and of which it has  
been for some time past so unwarrantably deprived  
I need not observe to your Royal Highness that decisions  
of this kind do not always depend on the intrinsic  
merits of the case, and in the present instance our Council  
will bear witness that the contest was not enter'd upon  
without every reason to hope for success and that on  
my part nothing was wanting to obtain that favorable  
issue which we were well intitled to expect, and  
which we must still obtain if the question be  
brought in its proper shape before a Judge and jury  
Cal.

at the Apories. The cause of the inhabitants of Sitkewat had  
been previously espoused by a gentleman and his friends who  
had engaged to supply the means of carrying it on thro  
all its stages - How it happened that matters were afterwards  
differently arranged and that I was afraid of being other  
wise indemnified Mr Sheridan will have the goodness to ex-  
plain for me, if such an explanation be now necessary.  
I feel much indebted to Mr Sheridans friendship and am  
perfectly satisfied that he has never made me a promise  
without the most honorable intentions: the multiplicity of  
his other more important engagements has, <sup>however</sup> deprived me of  
those attentions from him, on the punctual execution of  
which I have most implicitly relied. As being a young  
man entirely dependant on the exercise of my profession  
I am not in a situation to make pecuniary advances  
to any considerable amount and as this was well under-  
stood between Mr Sheridan and myself I was satisfied  
with the assurance I had received that every necessary  
expence <sup>should</sup> be duly provided for and little foreseeing  
the disappointments which have since arisen I not only  
paid out all the money in my hands, whether belonging  
to myself or to my clients, but have accepted bills  
to a considerable amount in full confidence that  
I should be provided furnished with the means of  
providing for them when due. I have now been in London  
six weeks and during the greater part of the time have  
had 15 witnesses living at the Coffee house with me on

Joseph Childs bH.R.H.

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my credit, many of whom might have been sent away  
more than a fortnight ago had not the means been  
wanting - Ever since my arrival I have entertained daily  
expectations of seeing my embarrassments removed but un-  
felicately for me they have been but daily increasing  
and I have <sup>not</sup> ~~never~~ been furnished with any assistance whatever  
I am now involved in responsibilities to the amount of £2000  
and can never again return into Cornwall unless I am im-  
mediately supplied with the means of discharging myself from  
them - Our adversaries are aware of my situation and are taking  
every possible advantage of a circumstance so easily perceived  
to discredit our cause and all those who have any concern  
in it. I have struggled with all these difficulties as long  
as it has been possible, flattering myself that I might have  
found relief without thus troubling your Royal Highness, but  
since there is now no alternative left me betwixt my own  
immediate ruin and an appeal to that bounty which I trust  
will not be solicited in vain, I am satisfied that my having  
thus made known my situation will not be attributed to  
me as an unbecoming liberty and that if (as I hope I  
may be allowed to do) I should wait on Col M'Mahon  
to morrow I may then be favoured with your Royal Highness's  
pleasure on the subject. I have the honor to subscribe  
myself with the greatest respect Your Royal Highness's

very grateful and obedient

humble subject & servant

Joseph Childs

1810

*[Faint, mirrored handwriting from the reverse side of the paper, appearing as bleed-through.]*

Joseph Smith,  
23 May 1844