

June 19 1804

AA.
The Prince of Wales has received the Lord Chancellor's letter of the 10th Inst; in answer to that which the Prince sent to His Lordship on the 7th. He has weighed with all the attention which so important a subject requires, that answer, the four Reports of His Majesty's Physicians dated on the 31st of May, the 5th the 9th & the 16th of June, and their answers to the questions put to them when they attended the Prince on the 10th Inst.

It is necessary for the Prince to remark that altho' the Lord Chancellor states in His Letter that "His Majesty's Servants have thus laid before Him the most authentic information upon the State of His Majesty's Health, up to this Time", yet this information is in fact confined to the circumstances which have occurred since the 30th of May last, previous to which no official communication has been

made to the Prince.

From this information the Prince
collects, that the Physicians continued
to think His Majesty "sufficiently
"recovered to be capable of exercising
"His high Functions; but that there
"were still certain symptoms remain-
"ing which made them apprehensive
"of a Relapse unless His Majesty would
"strictly and uniformly exert Himself
"to correct those Ideas which occasio-
"nally shewed themselves in His less
"guarded moments, and that as they
"could not conscientiously pronounce
"His Majesty to be out of danger
"of a Relapse till those Symptoms
"no longer existed, they therefore
"thought it their Duty to express
"Their opinion of the absolute necessi-
"ty of His Majesty's still conforming
"to Medical Guidance, till they could
"have the satisfaction of declaring
"that the Recovery was perfect."

This opinion the Prince observes

to be confirmed by the report of the 5th of June in which the Physicians after stating that certain "deviations from His Majesty's natural manner do still occasionally shew themselves, urge, the necessity of medical attendance, both as a security against Relapse, and as the means of perfecting His Majesty's recovery". To that report the Physicians again refer in their subsequent Reports of the 9th and 16th of June in the last of which they express their hopes of a speedy and perfect recovery - In answer to Questions put to them by the Prince when they attended at Carlton House, on the 10th they informed Him that His Majesty was still "attended by persons introduced into his Service since his Illness by Doctor Symonds, and that those persons had a controul over His Majesty".

The knowledge which the Prince has thus at length obtained, altho' confined to the King's actual State,

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compells Him to desire the Lord Chancel-
lor to express to His Majesty's Ministers
His sense of what has hitherto been
done, and of what is still passing,
on this most delicate and interesting
subject.

It is now not less than five Months
since His Majesty was afflicted with
a return of His former unhappy
Malady. His Recovery, however ad-
vanced, is still imperfect; and His
situation continues to require the
guidance and controul not only of
His Physicians, but also of inferior At-
tendants appointed by D^r Simmons,
of these distressing circumstances no
communication has ever been made
either to His Majesty's Privy-Council,
or to His Parliament. His Ministers
on the contrary have acted from their
own authority; and appear to con-
ceive that "the Trust, which His
Majesty has reposed in them"
for

for very different purposes, empowers them to exercise their own discretion on public interest to which that truth certainly does not extend. Without any communication with the Prince, His Majesty's Medical Treatment has been regulated under their orders alone, even when it became necessary to exclude from His Majesty the whole of His own Family. By their opinions it has been determined at what seasons His Majesty should be importuned with difficult business, and exposed to fatigue, the most likely to obstruct His Recovery, and by their judgment alone it is now decided that under the British Constitution the King's Commands may legally be received on the highest matters of His Government, at the very time when His Person, and all his ordinary Action are subjected to Controul.

Under such circumstances,

The Prince

b.
The Prince can no longer forbear to
express His entire disapprobation
of principles and measures, which
He sees to be full of danger to
the British Monarchy. He cannot
acknowledge in the King's Ministers an
authority which they have assumed, as
He believes, without warrant, and
which is manifestly capable of the worst
abuse. Still less can He recognize
a Practice so injurious to the Consti-
tutional Rights both of the Crown,
and of Parliament, as that, under
which His Majesty's Government
has been administered for the last
five Months, while His Majesty's
Person has been under restraint, and
His Parliament, though sitting, kept
in utter ignorance of His real Situ-
ation. Against the alarming
consequences of such a Precedent
the Prince of Wales feels it His
indispensible Duty to make this
His solemn Protest, as the King's

Son, as the first Subject of His Empire,
and as the Heir apparent of His
Throne. And if the Hopes which
he now anxiously cherishes of the King's
immediate and perfect Recovery,
should unhappily be still disappoint-
ed, He thinks it necessary thus
formally to require, on the behalf
both of the King and of His People,
that all future proceedings in this
momentous business shall henceforth
be strictly regular, warranted by
some authority already known to
the Law, or in cases of unforeseen
difficulty refer'd to Parliamentary
decision.

This explicit declaration of His
sentiments on so solemn an occasion
the Prince has judged to be due to His
Sovereign, to the Country, and to Him-
self. The necessity of expressing
them adds to the pain which he feels
from the afflicting circumstances to
which

which they relate. But He should never cease to reprove Himself if any apparent acquiescence on His Part, could be thought to sanction a course of conduct which both as a dutiful and affectionate Son and as a faithful Subject he has every reason to disapprove.

Carlton House

June 19th 1804.

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