

Carlton House, Oct. 5th 1806.

My Dear Lord Grenville.

Since my arrival in Town for the purpose of giving the last Testimony in my power of that ardent Regard and Affection which thro' life I have borne to Mr. Fox, both as a public Man, and as a private Friend, a Doubt has been intimated to me that my Attendance at the Funeral might not appear to His Majesty in the same unexceptionable light in point of propriety with reference to my station in the Country, as it certainly did to me when in the Moment of Affliction and regret, I adopted the Idea. I adopted it also in consequence of the most affecting Application from his Family; to whom, conceiving no impediment at the Time, I gave my promise to attend.

However gratifying the performance of the melancholy Duty I had prescribed to myself would be to my feelings, I am sensible that I ought not to give way to them, if, in His^{Majesty's} contemplation there exists a real objection to my doing so. I am anxious only for more certainty of His Majesty's Wishes, or Opinion on this Subject; to which, as on every other occasion where I am honoured with a clear Opportunity of knowing His pleasure, it will be my Duty to conform. I confess, My Dear Lord, that in the present instance I may have been led to imagine that any attention on the part of The King's Family

to the Remains of His departed Minister, and Servant, might have proved the more acceptable by the reflection, that the object of that Minister's unceasing and most anxious Interest to his dying Hour, was the recovery of the Hereditary Dominions of my Father and Sovereign, unfortunately left an unprotected prey to Foreign Ambition, and perfidy. This Consideration I own is very near to my heart and embraces the high Respect I have for the political Virtues of my lamented Friend.

perhaps it may not be improper here to mention, that at the Funeral of Sir William Fawcett, I, and all my Brothers (the Duke of Sussex excepted, who was then not in England) attended, and the Duke of York and myself walking as Chief Mourners. I am not aware that our Conduct on that occasion was considered as objectionable. Sure I am that the Motives on my part were to shew respect to an Officer so long and so highly esteemed by His Majesty, but for whom, thro' my regard & Friendship for him, was most sincere, I cannot be supposed to have felt in any respect the same degree of affection and attachment which so long filled my mind for Mr. Fox.

After that public Tribute on my part to the Memory of Sir William Fawcett, my absence from the Funeral of Mr. Fox would be more difficultly referred to Etiquette and might be open to incidious Comments. Still however no Wishes of mine on

this Melancholy Circumstance shall for a Moment stand in the way of His Majesty's better Judgment, if, on submitting the little I have said to His Consideration the Matter appears in the same light as I understand His Majesty first to have viewed it in. Other opportunities will be afforded to me, of shewing the Sentiments I have felt for my Friend, while living, and my unalterable reverence for his Memory after Death.

I have only to add, My Dear Lord, that I do not intend upon you, on the present Occasion, any expressions of the sincere Regard, Confidence, and Friendship I feel for you, as this is to be considered more as a Communication to The Minister, than as a Letter to Lord Grenville.

I am,

My Dear Lord

Yc. Yc. Yc.

(A true Copy)

J. M. Mahon

(Signed) G. P.

1897

The Prince of Wales

Lord Grenville

Dec. 10th 1896