

Sir Robert Barclay to Col. McMahon

40841-2

Private

Joy Cottage Fulham

25 November 1806

My Dear Friend

Ever anxious to prevent my intruding myself
on your time, & more important avocations, I
have thought 't most proper, to digest on Paper,
briefly, what I might have wish'd personally
to have stated to you private, (& I may truly say)
distinguished friendship for Mr. Ginn; to have
deserv'd so many marks of your Favor &
Kindness, I should indeed have been proud,
but my gratitude to you my Dear Sir, can
only end with life: My desire has been
for some time, that you, my friend, should be
made thoroughly acquainted with my political
situation, & pretensions to the notice of Lord
Greenwich
Colonel McMahon &c &c &c

with a view of receiving your Advice: Copy of
my Letter inclosed No. 1, & his Lordships im-
mediate answer (favorable I think) No. 2, will
inform you how I stand in his Lordships
estimation at this Moment: I believe,
that I have often hinted to you my Claims
to his Lordships private friendship, at the time
he was Secretary of State for the foreign
department, my services were such then, as
could only be known ^{but} to his Lordships breast;
his repeated expressions of regard to me then
were; "that he held it as his bounden Duty
to serve me whenever it was in his Power;" &
when out of office (on my return to England,) I
my steady attachment to his Lordships views in
Parliament he has done me the Honour to say,

Sir Robert Barclay to Col. McKean

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to say,

In several interviews lately, I was very gratifying
to Him. Could I then ^{take} a more favorable occasion
than I have done? or have I been too presumptuous
in so doing? occurrences often ripen the Moment
to remind at least, if not to ask a Favor from
his Lordship's hands, particularly so, if it is,
(if my feeling on the Subject be correct) the reward
of Services well performed, sometimes at the
risk of Life & Fortune. My views his Lordship
is well acquainted (as a family Man, are moderate
& not sought for, but to be returned by Labour
& diligence, & I am sure, I am not too confident
when I state to You, that his Lordship will
feel much gratified to meet my wishes; The
"propriety" of doing so, will naturally be much
augmented, if, the hint was improved, that by

~~My dear Sir~~

^{Lord High}
His

so doing, it would afford Satisfaction
to those distinguished Friends I draw not Name

Thus My Dear Sir, is my Situation past
and present, give it a Moments thought, if
you think I am Correct towards myself
& Family, but do so, when your Mind is
at perfect Leisure; nor suffer yourself
to take the smallest trouble to answer
this Letter. Leave the rest to time
the favorable Moments of friendly converse.

Accept my warmest gratitude &
Respect. Believe me, My Dear Sir,

Your faithful & devoted
Humble servant
Robert Barclay

Robert Barclay
30th March 1726