

St George Dallas to Col. Kekahew

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Private.

Written with
my left hand
from a strain
in my right one.

Dawlish, Devon: Nov. 28th 1806.

Dear Colonel.

A few days since my attention was directed to a letter addressed to Lord Folkestone by Mr Paul, and published in Mr Cobbett's weekly Register of coarse scurrility, and vulgar calumny, of the 24th of last month. In this letter, Mr Paul, for the purpose of inflaming the Public mind against Lord Wellesley, and of strengthening his own unjust and malevolent attack on his Lordship, by cloathing it with the more impressive weight of Royal Authority, has published private conferences he states himself to have had with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, from whence he desires the Public to infer that this attack, and the mode of it, were honored with His Royal Highness's previous approbation, and support.

Waving

Waiving any comment,
either on the possible inaccuracy of Mr.
Paul's statement, or on the probability
that he who can betray the confidence
of his Prince may be equally capable of
calumniating the character of his Superior,
yet actuated by a deep conviction that
his Royal Highness's love of justice is
not less conspicuous than his distinguished
talents, and ambitious of bringing the facts
of a case, wherein from his exalted Station
he has so great an interest, dispassionately
to his view without asperity or party
spirit, I beg leave, through You, to present
His Royal Highness with a Work I have
lately published, more in defence of the
genuine interests and rights of the British
nation in India than of Lord Wellesley in
particular, to whom I am personally
a stranger, but with whose general
Administration, and Services to the State,
I am intimately acquainted.

In this Work [the result I
may say of an accurate knowledge of the
facts of the case, blended with the advantage
of

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of having devoted the greater part of my life to the study of Indian Affairs, and of having passed a considerable portion of it in high situations in the Service of the Company in India] I have endeavoured to shew the nature and importance of the services rendered to the nation by Marquis Wellesley, and to vindicate the justice and policy of those wars into which his Lordship, like the present Sovereign of Prussia, was driven to embark [but with a happier result] against a portion of the Marhatta States in defence of the very existence of the British empire in India, and from the fortunate termination of which His Royal Highness may date, for the first time, the attainment of a solid security for the duration of our empire there, and for the continuance of Peace throughout every part of it.

I have no merit from this Production. Facts have been my guide, and to simplify what was intricate my aim. If my Statement be correct, and it never has been, nor ever can be impeached, as far as relates to these facts, it will be for his Royal Highness's great Mind,

if ever he should deign to peruse it, to let it have
the weight in behalf of the great Saviour of India
which in his justice he may deem it to deserve.
It will shew to his Royal Highness, that however
much we may all have to deplore the recent loss
of those great Men whose talents reflected such
lustre on their Country, yet there is at least
[without any disparagement to others] one eminent
tried and "successful" Statesman left to us, whose
unrivalled services in the East are the proudest
pledges of the future support he may give to the
State at home whenever, for the glory of the
nation, it shall please his Sovereign again to
demand the exercise of his splendid and en-
lightened Talents in their proper sphere.

These are not Opinions lightly formed. I have
long been one of the largest Proprietors of East
India Stock, and from the great Stake I hold
in their funds my eye has been constantly fixed
on the management of their Affairs. To local
Knowledge and experience I therefore add
a deep personal interest in the question at
issue, and unless I had discovered how
much our general interests have been strengthened
and improved by his Lordship's most able and
upright

upright administration of the Government of British India I should not have been tardy in exposing any injury we might have sustained at his hands. But deeply impressed as my mind is (from patient and attentive investigation) with a sense of the invaluable services Lord Wellesley has rendered to the Company and the Nation I should regret, if thus intimately acquainted with their nature, I did not hold them to the just estimation and gratitude of his Country, at a moment when prejudice, ignorance, and party spirit, are combining to defame them. This is not my opinion alone: It is the opinion of the most intelligent and enlightened Proprietors who are conversant with the subject, and whose testimonies I can produce. Indeed, I have never yet met with a person, thoroughly and practically acquainted with the system of Administration in British India, and conversant with the general history and policy of the native States, and of the Company, who entertains a different sentiment on Lord Wellesley's conduct than what I have expressed in my Work. If it be
said

Sir Philip Francis is of this description, I deny it. His talents and respectability I admit. His knowledge I impeach. He has published, ^{with the best intentions, but,} "without a adequately understanding the subject, Speeches" against Lord Wellesley's Wars in India, which he avers to be, and said in the House. Mr Fox declared to be, truly "unanswerable." * To refute therefore completely, not only these "unanswerable" speeches of Sir Philip's, but generally, every assailant who either in or out of Parliament has arraigned the conduct of Lord Wellesley, either with respect to his Wars, or to his system for the preservation of Peace throughout India, has been the object of this work of mine; and it is on these grounds, as well as from the use Mr Paul has made of the Prince's name, that I beg leave to present my Work to his Royal Highness as a tribute of duty and respect for him, not less than as an act of justice to one of the greatest Statesman this Country, or any other, ever produced, and who, I am convinced, if it should be his fortune ever to be at the helm of our affairs, will shew himself to be the grandest War Minister of his age. In point of fact, we have seen no
Statesman

* Mr Fox said afterwards, in the House, that he took them to be so, on Francis's statement for that as to himself, he had not for 20 years given his mind to India affairs.

Statesman in this Reign more luminous in talent, more matured by experience, more indefatigable and quick in business, and certainly, none so eminently distinguished for the vastness and depth of his political conceptions, or for the "successful" accomplishment of the boldest and grandest designs. Like Nelson, he communicated to the very army under him, the victorious ardour of his own triumphant mind, and his career in India will form the most brilliant epoch in its annals. Such is Marquis Wellesley, and it is not too much to assure his Royal Highness, that there is not a single State measure, of any moment, of his Lordship's, that cannot be shewn to have originated in a justice as evident as its policy. If he ^{had} doubled the Company's debt, which is a temporary inconvenience, he has also doubled their Revenue, which is a permanent advantage, but whether he has done this or not, he has done more — he has saved, and secured, India for the Parent State!

I beg you will excuse the trouble to which this Letter subjects you, and believe me always, with great Regard,

Dear Colonel,
Yours very Faithfully,
George Dallas.

J. Dallas

Nov 27 1806.