

R.B. Sheridan to Col. McKee

40959 - 60

Richmond  
Sunday evening

My Dear Friend

I have been reflecting  
 as I came in my chair to this Place  
 on what Jeremy said and you so  
 properly gave me answer to but  
 that you would bear testimony that  
 he had so said, and I think I was  
<sup>deficient in</sup> attention not to have offered the  
 proposition I now make. He said  
 "if there a friend of the Prince who  
 will pay 4000 for a seat I will  
 "conjure it to him?" Now I think I  
 ought to have proposed this. I have  
 relied on a positive engagement with  
 our late excellent friend Fox that  
 I should have a seat free of expense.  
 The Prince took this obligation off  
 the hands of Government, and in fact  
 of fact I was returned by Henry Fox Bedford,

at my last re-election without the  
 smallest assistance from or obligation to  
 Government. I understood both from  
 Mr Tierney & Mr Calcraft that  
 Mr Christopher Hawker's reserve of  
one seat for an unmentioned  
candidate was considered by them  
 as the reserve for Shelly and  
 that certainly alone accounts for  
 Mr Calcraft's telling you & me  
 that Mr John Shelly's business was  
 settled without the interference  
 of the Treasury. what I propose  
 is this. The Prince I think will  
 not ~~submit~~ submit with temper  
 to the scandalous breach of Faith  
 on the part of Mr Christopher Hawker;  
 & Mr Shelly will have every thing  
 to complain of if his agreement with

R. B. Sheridan to Col. McKeanow.

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Mr. Fox is not fulfill'd. I am  
 desirous to waive the assistance  
 which Mr. Fox thought it most  
 proper that I should derive from  
 the Transaction - and I will  
 sustain the expence of my son's  
 election at Stafford, that is of  
 the seat I was promised free of  
expence - and let Mr. John Shelly's  
 money which I answer for his  
 making up 3000 go to the  
 purchase of his seat. The other  
 1000 will remain a matter of  
 consideration as to the mode of  
 obtaining it - however embarrassing  
 this arrangement might prove to me  
 I see no other mode of avoiding  
 what I am sure the Prince will consider  
 as ill-treatment of him, and what  
 unquestionably Shelly will have great right  
 to complain of. - you have any free  
 authority to communicate this to Shelly & Shelly's  
 letter. but have the latter been  
 R. B. Sheridan

P.S. I read this by Downes who will  
be in town to night. your  
friendship will lead you to  
think that the arrangement I  
propose is hard on me, but  
I see no other course. I shall  
at least get time from the  
Hafford Electors who will  
in me, unless for the first  
time this Treasury misundersstands  
of the Parsons employ'd in the  
election arrangement, may have  
lost my son a seat he was  
otherwise sure of. - you will  
see that these my sentiments ought  
to be immediately communicated  
to those who take the lead in  
these matters

Downes has been at Windsor  
concerning the Hafford nomination for my son  
Maurice Phillips having by these blessed misundersstands  
2 delays two days start of them at Hafford

(R.B. Sheridan)