

Hu. Augustus Dorius b. H. P. A.

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Brown Street Oct. 12. 1807

May it please Your Royal Highness

In the most humble manner, I venture to trespass on one leisure moment of Your Royal Highness' Time, with the fervent Hope, that my presumption however it may merit may not meet your displeasure. Men in desperate situations will commit rash acts, and I trust my present Circumstances will plead for this Intrusion. I need not inform Your Royal Highness of the prominent Character I unfortunately performed in the late Westminster Elections, I say unfortunately for the result has proved it so. Yet I feel proud in having given my exertions in behalf of a Man who alone I think entitled to be the Representation of such a City. I was not aware Sir that in the hurry & bustle of such a Contest, that I made myself responsible for the claims which are daily pressing in upon me, and as Mr. Sheridan was brought in by Public Subscription, I have no Person whatever to look to, upon whom I can make a Demand for Payment - Your Royal Highness I hope will pardon my saying before you a short sketch of my forlorn Case. I have paid considerably above three hundred Pounds from my own Pocket more than the Subscriptions (raised by me) amounted to - I have been compelled to suffer the Disgrace of

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being arrested and actions brought against me for above Five hundred Pounds more, and was on Saturday last only. I was drag'd from my Bed by a Sheriffs Officer and confin'd, for a Debt of Fifty Pounds and upwards said to be due to a Man for furnishing Refreshments & Votes at the Election, of which I have not the least knowledge whatever. I have been compelled to resort to the most obstructive and degrading means of raising money, to pay Executions that would have come into my house on the Election account. However extravagant it may appear I doubt not that Judgment Your Royal Highness is so well known to possess, will acquit me of here stating any Circumstance, but what I can prove upon the most substantial Facts - 'Tis now, I entreat Your Royal Highness' attention, to that Abyss, in which the Electioning Votes has overwhelm'd me. In the different Clases of Society Character and situations are the constant Conversations and the Natural discussions among those, with whom you have connection. certainly the frequent disgraces I have of late suffer'd, could not pass unnoticed by my own Creditors who I thank God are but few; but yet those few anxious for their right & forgetful of my former favours, look only to my present means of satisfying them, and behold with an Iudicial eye that which I have ever endeavour'd to sustain, the Character of an upright and honest Tradesman; Thus with a temporary loss of Credit and what must follow the loss of that Rank which I trust I have hitherto held thro' Expensive yet honorably among my fellow Citizens in Arms. With all the Anxiety and distress of my Family & incontinence - What is my prospect, the dreadful confines of a Prison; for

Hu. Augustus Downes bth R.A.

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without the Means of defending those unjust Demands in the
beginning of the Approaching Month. I must surrender myself.

I will not encroach now upon Your Royal Highness
Goodness and Patience but with the most humble Prayer of
forgiveness for this unavoidable Liberty. I throw myself
on your Mercy — And am

With every sentiment of Respect & Loyal feeling
Your Royal Highness

Most devoted & very Humble Servant
William Aug^r Downes

To Hth The Prince of Wales
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W. S. D. D. D.
Dec 12. 1807.