

It will be necessary to mention that two successive days previous to the commencement of this correspondence I had called in the morning at the Duke of Sussex's apartments to receive His Royal Highness's commands the first day the servant told me H. R. H. could not see me the second day he mentioned that he had H. R. H.'s commands if I called to say he would not see me. I then from motives of delicacy waited upon the Duke of Kent to request H. R. H. would do me the favour to see the Duke of Sussex & communicate what will appear in the following letter.

Kensington Palace
Aug. 9th 1810

Sir,

On parting with Your Royal Highness this morning from the interview you did me the honor to grant, I took the liberty of suggesting that it would be better to commit to paper the heads of the conversation before Your Royal Highness was pleased to communicate the same to the Duke of Sussex. Being aware of the affection that has ever subsisted between Your Royal Brother and yourself, I thought it advisable to state to Your Royal Highness that I have observed for some time past that the general conduct of the Duke of Sussex towards me has been materially changed and has induced me to believe that my services may be dispensed with. This remark has likewise been made & communicated to me by a friend and as my pride and peace of mind are too sacred to be trifled with, I would under this impression humbly request that Your Royal Highness would communicate these my sentiments to the Duke of Sussex at the same time assuring His Royal Highness that if his mind has been poisoned by any false representation or calumny my own conscience in those particulars perfectly acquits me. In retiring from the duties I have hitherto had the honor of performing for H. R. H.

I do not wish to do it but with the utmost respect & friendship still retaining the appointment of Honorary Equerry as I leave the Pension H. R. H. may be pleased to grant entirely to him and if H. R. H. should at any time require any services, I shall always be happy to obey his commands

H. R. H.
Duke of Kent

I have the honor & the
J. Freeth
Lt Colonel

The Duke of Kent waited upon the Duke of Sussex when H. R. H. observed that, He did not wish just then to give an answer. About 10 o'clock in the evening of the same day it received the following note from Sir John Douglas

" Sir John Douglas presents his compliments to Lt Col. Freeth and has it in command from H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex to desire he will be at Her Royal Highness's Apartments to morrow morning at 11 o'clock to meet Sir John on particular business.

St Allan's Street
Aug. 9th 1810

At 11 o'clock the following day I met Sir John Douglas according to his appointment when he told me that he had H. R. H. commands to say, He had observed for some time past that I had not placed any confidence in him and of course he had ceased to place any in me that there were many other circumstances in my conduct that he highly disapproved particularly of my not informing of having seen improper things written upon the Benches in Kensington

Gardens about Mr. Bellington but that I had pointed out the same to Baron Eben & Co. He should expect that I sent my Resignation in the following and if I refused so doing He (Sir John) had orders to give Directions that the Stables were taken from me and I must leave the Horse (I at present occupied) with all convenient speed to make room for the new Equerry! He had no orders about any Pension but all other Money matters would be settled by A. R. H. sub Treasurer (Mr. Powell) and his Solicitor. He had further to say that H. R. H. could not accede to my proposal of being Honorary Equerry but he wished to part good friends!

Sir John then took his leave and in the course of that day I forwarded to him the letter as under

Windsor Palace

Aug 10th 1810

Sir

I beg to acquaint you that His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent yesterday did me the honor to deliver my Resignation as Equerry to the Duke of Sussex into His Royal Highness's hands but if that was not sufficiently explanatory, I request H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex will do me the favor to consider this on that point if need

I have the honor to be

Sir John Douglas

S. J. Freeth
Lt Colonel

The next day I received the letter on the other side from Sir John Douglas at Greenwich acknowledging the above

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St. James Hill, Greenwich
Aug. 11th 1810

Sir,

I had the honor of receiving your letter of yesterday's date and have transmitted it to H. R. H. The Duke of Sussex at Windsor by this days Post

I feel under a necessity of reminding you, that the message I was commanded to deliver to you, respecting your removal from H. R. H. family was determined upon by H. R. H. The Duke of Sussex some days previous to his having any communication with H. R. H. The Duke of Kent upon the subject

I have the honor to be
S^r Y^r O^bd^t S^r

St. Col. Freeth

John Douglas

Room of the Privy Chamber
to H. R. H. The Duke of Sussex

On the 13th August I received the following note from Sir John Douglas intended that I should conceive it to have been written at The Duke of Sussex's apartments

Sir John Douglas's Compliments to St. Colonel Freeth, and is commanded by H. R. H. The Duke of Sussex to desire he will meet him immediately

Kensington Palace

Monday Aug 13. 1810

I sent my compliments to Sir J^o Douglas that I was at home and ready to receive him upon which he waited upon me and delivered this message

from the Royal Highness The Duke of Sussex
 That H. R. H. was not satisfied with
 my last letter it not being considered
 respectful and that he would not re-
 -ceive any communication but through
 his own Gentlemen, that he could manage
 his own family; If I did not give him
 the Resignation he wished: He should be
 obliged to go to extremities and on my
 asking Sir John for an explanation of
 what he meant by extremities, Sir John
 said he was commanded to assemble the
Stable Servants and say: I had offended
H. R. H. and He had dismissed me! He
 had also the Duke's commands to receive
 from me my deal of Office as Equerry
 I asked Sir John Douglas if the Duke
 of Sussex felt aggrieved at the Duke
 of Kent's interference as my only notice
 for requesting it to go through H. R. H.
 hands was to show my respect towards
 the Duke of Sussex and which I mentioned
 in the first instance to the Duke of Kent
 as H. R. H. had refused to see me
 I had no other means of respectfully
 offering my Resignation - Sir John
 replied that he thought the Duke of Kent's
 interference was not agreeable to the Duke
 of Sussex - I then wrote the following letter

Kensington Palace

Aug. 13th 1810

Sir

I have the honor to send you herewith
 my deal of Office as Equerry to H. R. H.
 the Duke of Sussex and to beg H. R. H.
 will accept my Resignation of that
 Appointment which was given in on
 the 9th inst

I have the honor to be

Sir John Douglas

S. Freese
 Lt Colonel

Still keeping to the same date but leaving out the names of H. R. H. The Duke of Kent, I thought the Duke of Sussex would then be satisfied - On the 16th I received the following note from Sir John Douglas

Sir John Douglas presents his compliments to Lt Col. Freeth and commands by H. R. H. The Duke of Sussex to desire he will meet Sir John at H. R. H.'s apartments tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock.
Chaise Hill

Greenwich

Aug. 15th 1810

At the appointed time Sir John arrived and sent word he was waiting for me at the Duke of Sussex's apartments where I declined meeting and sent him the following note

Lt Col. Freeth presents his compliments to Sir John Douglas and begs he will be pleased to commit to Paper any commands he may have from H. R. H. The Duke of Sussex

Cheshington Palace

Aug. 16th 1810

In about a quarter of an hour the reply of Sir John was sent to me as follows -

Sir,

Aug. 16. 1810

I have only to read you a letter from
H. R. H. The Duke of Sussex

I am, Your most

Obedient servant

Lt Col Freett

John Douglas

I then wrote the following letter to Sir
John

Kensington Palace

Aug 16. 1810

2 o'clock P.M.

Sir,

As I have not now the honor to
belong to His Duke of Sussex's family
having sent my Resignation and
delivered my Seal of Office into your
hands, I cannot think of going to
H. R. H.'s Apartments but for the
honour of an interview with His
Royal Highness which I am particularly
anxious for

I have the honor to

Sir John Douglas

C. Freett

Lt Colonel

Sir John then waited upon me at
my own Apartments and read a
letter from H. R. H. The Duke of
Sussex the substance of which was
as follows viz

That as Lt Col. Freett still per-
sisted in referring to the letter of
Resignation dated the 9th instant
H. R. H. was under the necessity of
stating "That Lt Col. Freett's conduct
towards him had not been as a

Faithful servant ought to be loving
the Royal Family, that he had
neglected his interests, he had
therefore no further occasion for
his services, that he ought not
to have addressed his letter of
Resignation to The Duke of Kent
but to himself, as his Master.

Understanding His Royal Highness
The Duke of Sussex was to return
the next morning from Windsor
I addressed the following letter to
H. R. H.

Kensington Palace

Sir,

Aug. 17 - 1810

I was yesterday acquainted through
Sir John Douglas with the contents
of Your Royal Highness's letter to him
in which I am so nearly concerned.

And under the circumstances of
the same I conceive it necessary to
my Character as an Officer & Gentleman
and one who has served Your Royal
Highness most faithfully on all
occasions for so many years to beg
that Your Royal Highness will have
the goodness to grant me an interview
and explicitly acquaint me with the
particular instances of my infidelity
and negligence in order that I
may remove that unjust stigma
from my character as a Man of
Honour which might otherwise

attach itself. This I am convinced in
 common justice to any feelings Your
 Royal Highness will not deny and
 at the same time I should hope (if
 such has been the case) that Your
 Royal Highness would be induced to
 give up the name of any base calumnious
 wiles has dared to injure & undermine
 my reputation that I may be enabled
 to obtain reparation for so great and
 serious an injury

I have the honour to be
 With Profound Respect

H. R. H.
 Duke of Sussex

S. Freeth
 Lt Colonel

My letter was returned to me unopened
 enclosed within the following notes
 from Sir John Douglas

Sir John Douglas presents his
 compliments to Lt Col. Freeth and is
 commanded by H.R.H. The Duke of
 Sussex to return his letter, and to
 say H.R.H. can have no communication
 with Lt Col. F. but thro' Sir John D.

Sir John D. begs likewise
 to remind Lt Col. F. that he communicated
 those commands to him at a former
 meeting. & Sir J. can deliver no
 letter to H.R.H. until he knows its
 contents.

Kennington Palace

17th Aug. 1810

1/2 past One

I then enclosed to Sir John the letter
H. R. H. had returned with the
following note

Lt Col Freeth presents his
compliments to Sir John Douglas
and begs he will communicate
the enclosed contents to H. R. H.
The Duke of Sussex

Kensington Palace

Aug. 17th 1810

2 o'clock P.M.

Reply

Sir John Douglas presents his respects
to Lt Col. Freeth and has communicated
to H. R. H. The Duke of Sussex Lt Colonel
Freeth's letter, who has been pleased
to return for answer that if Lt Col.
Freeth had requested his Resignation
in the way which had been pointed
out to him on three successive occasions
H. R. H. would not have sent the
Declaration which was communicated
to him through Sir John Douglas
the day before yesterday; That therefore
H. R. H. feels himself not called
upon to give any further explanation.

Kensington Palace

17 Aug. 1810 - 2 o'clock

I wrote the following answer to this
note

St. Col. Freeth presents his Compl^{ts} to
 Sir John Douglas and begs he will
 impress upon A. R. H. the Duke of
 Sussex's mind the immediate
 necessity of an explanation as the
 manner of St. Colonel Freeth's resign-
 -ation can have no possible connexion
 with the serious charges A. R. H.
 has alledged against his Honour
 and Character

Kensington Palace

Aug 17. 1810

³/₄ past 2 P.M.

Reply

Sir J^o Douglas presents his Compl^{ts}
 to St. Col. Freeth and begs to inform
 him that he cannot deliver the message
 he requests him to A. R. H. as he
 thinks it incompatible with his
 situation he holds in A. R. H. family

Kensington Palace

17 Aug. 3 o'clock

It then addressed the following to Sir John

St. Col. Freeth presents his Compl^{ts} to Sir
 John Douglas and as he informed him
 by note this morning that all communications
 were to go thro' his hands to A. R. H.

He cannot conceive why he should not
 deem it incompatible with his situation
 in A. R. H. family to withhold his last
 communication so essential to the point
 in question. St. Col. F. has now to
 request that Sir J. D. will inform him to
 whom his future communications are
 to be addressed or whether an interview
 will be allowed him as St. Col. F. is
 firmly determined to retrieve his Honour
 by an explanation with A. R. H.

Aug. 17. 1810 ¹/₂ past 3 P. M.

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Sir John Douglas and Mr Powell
(the Sub Treasurer) immediately
waited upon me with the following
note

Sir John Douglas presents his
compliments to Lt Col. Freeth
he did not deem it proper to
deliver a message to A.R.H. The
Duke of Sussex which he conceived
of a nature by far too violent to
take the liberty and couched in
language which he could not presume
to address to A.R.H.'s

Sir John is now commanded
by A.R.H. to say that he will
neither grant an interview nor
have any further communications
with Lt Colonel Freeth.

Kensington Palace

Aug 17 1810 4 o'clock

Lt Col. Freeth

1810.

Papers

Freeth &