

Ld. Stourmont

4306

St James's Sept. 10. 1791

It made me happy to find that your Majesty approved of my writing to the attorney & Solicitor General for their opinion upon D George Gordon's letters to D North & D Southampton. No answer has yet been received, but there is a point which seems of great consequence and which requires immediate decision.

The point is whether D George Gordon ought to be admitted into your Majesty's presence to present a book so announced.

I presume to lay before your Majesty my ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> sentiments upon this very important subject.

It strikes me that the receiving a book so announced is of the most dangerous consequence

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If this is not refused none ever can,  
The receiving it gives a sanction to  
associations and teaches Mankind to think  
that the King is bound to receive whatever  
is brought to him how exceptionable  
soever. The consequence will be that  
Nation will immediately adopt this  
mode of insult as the most daring  
and most offensive and best calculated  
for the purposes of sedition, and  
the different associations will have  
books written containing <sup>all</sup> these  
extravagant doctrines and have  
them presented to your Majesty.

The receiving this book will also prove  
the treating the Letter to Lord North  
as it may deserve, it will then be  
said can this Letter be so criminal when  
the King after full deliberation and

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Ld. Sturmont

4306 (2)

previous notice gives leave to present an  
actually receives to George Gordon and the  
Book announced by this very letter?  
This must be either as thinking it not  
indecent, or tho' indecent that His Majesty  
is bound to receive them and the Book  
as of right  
on the other hand the taking it up with  
spirit may be a lucky opportunity to  
renew the authority of Govt. as the  
sense of mankind is strongly against  
D. G. Gordon & particularly against this  
letter to D. North. It may give an additional  
check to that dangerous spirit of  
association against which the People  
in general and even the City of London  
have happily taken an alarm.

whether D. G. Gordon ought seriously to be  
prosecuted, there will be time sufficient to  
deliberate, because during the present vacation  
nothing can be done. It is my clear opinion  
that

that he ought not to be taken up by  
and put upon giving Bail. The Sheriff has  
been too long for such a Measure, there is no  
danger of his running away and if he did  
it wd be so much the better. The present  
situation of a Candidate for the City of  
London is a further argument against  
approaching him but supposing it possible  
that this letter to the Sheriff wd not be  
criminal in the eye of the Law <sup>in any other</sup>  
<sup>than as</sup> an Impertinence and Indecency to the  
Crown. That is a sufficient Reason for  
your M<sup>ty</sup> to refuse a Book announced  
by such a letter. & the Nature of the  
thing makes so strong a Case that  
scarcely a word can be said on the other  
side; what is it that is proposed? To  
present a printed & published Historical  
Collection of Proceedings against Popery in  
Scotland when there has been no Step  
taken to repeal any of the Laws against  
Papists in that Part of the Kingdom, and  
if