

Edward Arthropus Seymour, 9th  
Duke of Somerset.

Duke of Somerset  
January 23. 1782

To<sup>r</sup> Hd.  
Berthford  
4416

D. of Somerset

My Dear Lord,

I should much earlier have acknowledg'd  
Your Lordship's favor of last Month, had I not flatter'd  
myself I should have been able to have done it in Person, next  
Month; but as I am inform'd, the small pox is almost in every  
Village, & Town, in my way to London; and probably the  
very Bed I should lay in on the Road, might be occupied  
the Night before, by a Person either in, or just out from  
Inoculation; and the first Person I met with in Town  
have the Disorder about him; so prevalent are the times  
for Inoculation; that it is dangerous for a Person, in my  
Situation (not to mention my Age and Ill Health) that I  
must postpone it till the present Taste, is somewhat abated,  
which in a short time must cure itself; as there will not  
be Subjects to Inoculate; except new born Children.

I should be much concern'd, if I thought His Majesty's Business  
would be in the least obstructed, by my Absence: But if I had  
ventur'd to Town; I should only pay my Duty to the King at St James's  
from thence to the House to the House to take up my Proxy, & solicited  
Your Lordship's Acceptance of it; and the next Morning set out  
for Bradley. My best Respects attend Your Lordship, &  
Family; and believe me to be, in great Truth,

My Dear Lord,

M Bradley  
Jan: 23. 1782.

Your Lordship's affectionate Cousin,  
Faithful Friend & Servant

Somerset

*[Faint, mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is illegible due to fading and mirroring.]*