

Ld.
Buck-
ingham
Shire

Sir
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May 4th 1742

It is with extreme reluctance that my own feelings are indulg'd in claiming one moment of Your Royal attention.

Nothing is more distant from my thoughts than the soliciting, at a Juncture similar to the present, any immediate testimony of your favor, I am only solicitous to submit to the recollection of your Leisure the Outlines of my publick situation.

It is now twenty six years since my first appointment to the Privy Council, of which I am one of the very oldest Members.

I was nearly three years Ambassador in Russia, a Court upon the which the
eyes

eyes of Europe were, at that time, fixed, and I think it may be asserted that my conduct was not deemed any where to have disgrac'd my Country, or her interests, in any instance, to have been neglected. You must remember, Sir, the Negotiations of that period, and the unconditional tender of Naval assistance which I was authoris'd to make immediately from the Empress to your Majesty.

Those who were the most competest to judge of the political transactions during my Mission did not think me totally undeserving of that approbation by which it was your gracious pleasure to distinguish me. I have since been honor'd with the important Government of Ireland, where, during four years, I experienc'd as much anxiety as human Nature could support. In difficulties such as, during that period, occur'd, it would be

would be presumptuous, even to insinuate that my endeavors for your service might have been always judiciously executed, yet your Majesty's Enemies (as my Foreign Correspondents assure me) gave me some little credit for disappointing their sanguine expectations in maintaining the tranquillity of that Kingdom. Seven years is no small proportion of human life, such an absence cannot but have a most disagreeable operation upon any Man's connections and private affairs, mine certainly have, in some instances been inconveniently affected. It has not often happen'd to Persons who have pass'd through similar situations to sink into retirement without any mark of distinction whatsoever, nor will it, perhaps, be deem'd presumptuous to suggest, that such pretensions are, at least, equal with those of Men whose walk has been confin'd to Offices of emolument render'd by far more desirable from conveying the honor of approaching your Royal Person, divested
also

also from every species of trouble or responsibility.

Any mark of your approbation will be receiv'd with the highest gratitude, tho' such would be the most valuable as could least be considered as lucrative objects. Permit me, Sir, further to mention, that if at any time my support was withdrawn from your Majesty's Ministers, a sense of obligation to Mr Grenville and an esteem and veneration contracted from my earliest youth must plead my excuse.

Nor did my Opposition, one or two instances excepted, extend beyond American Questions.

Should you have condescended to notice my conduct you must have distinguished that I have never been drag'd into any disrespectful fractious Flippancy, but through all the various, peculiar, and delicate circumstances of the times, uniformly study'd to prove that attentive deference with which I have the honor to be

Sir
Your Majesty's
most Dutifull
and most Devoted
Subject and Servant

Buckingham

Lord Buckingham

Aug 1. 1702