

Mr Day to Lord.

Shelburne

May 17. 1782

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My Lord

I had the honour a few days ago to pay my respects at your Lordship's door upon my arrival from Ireland. And I not receive some marks heretofore of personal condescension from your Lordship, that I should have thought it my duty, having recently arrived from that Country & knowing as I do the present sentiments of the people, to have taken an opportunity of stating frankly those sentiments to a Great Minister, the undoubted friend of both Countries. & as I only just now understand that the important Subject your Lordship did last Wednesday give the House notice of for this day is to be the Irish business, I trust your Lordship will pardon my taking this the only mode which now remains to me of submitting, however hastily & crudely, to your Lordship what occurs to me.

The people of Ireland conceive they ask only for Right - Exclusive Legislature & Exclusive Judicature are their rights, & they will not consent to pay for them, or to negotiate upon them. They can not put in a train of Treaty, what is already Decided in both their Houses of Parliament, & what the Nation has pledged itself to stand by; - a Question which they conceive to be already carried. The 16th April 1782 is styled in Ireland the Day of ^{its} redemption.

we wait only to thank England for an immediate unsuspecting
Repeal of the 6 Geo. 1st, & not to negotiate - such a proposition
I have not a doubt would end in nothing but disappointment.

Your Lordship must be aware that the powers Legislative &
Jurisdiction of this Kingdom over Ireland are become Impracticable.
No English Law or Judgment or Decree can be executed without
the concurrence & consent of the Officers of the Irish Courts - they
will never consent - they dare not consent, because they in
common with the rest of the Nation even to his Majesty's Attorney
General are Covenanted to stop & resist the execution of such
things. All then we ask of England (for we have of ourselves
accomplished every thing else) is that she will withdraw a
Parren Claim; a Claim which now takes away our
Confidence, but can not affect our Liberty.

The Claim then being unproductive to England, Ireland will not
Pay to get clear of it. - But another very strong argument occurs
against negotiation, that we have nothing to yield in
negotiation. We can't negotiate away the freedom of our Trade
or of our Constitution. as to Trade, That is a fluctuating
Subject, & must be governed, not by perpetual regulation, but
occasional Laws. We can't give Revenue to England for our
rights, for we have it not - the Irish Parliam^t have for

Mr Day to Lord.

Stelburne

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eight or ten years past regularly made unsuccessful efforts towards equalizing the National revenues & expences - every New Tax has fallen short infinitely of the Estimate, & there is no question that the Commerce of Ireland in it's present infant & young State is not a Subject of further Taxation. - As to a Land-tax, your Lordship knows too well how obnoxious at all times such a Proposition would be to that Country, but certainly very justly obnoxious if demanded in retribution for withdrawing a Claim which can not be Enforced.

In truth the Enormous Expences of England would derive but little aid from such an Irish Subsidy as would stop the growth, enflame the passion, & totally banish that glow of affection with which Ireland impatiently waits to embrace Great Britain for ever.

We can give nothing but Affection - which is more Valuable to England than any stinted reluctant Revenue wrong from a Country who asks for nothing but her Right, & must be in the exercise of that right for some time before she can be in the possession of affluence. If we are unable to pay for the recovery of that Right, it is because we have been so long deprived of it.

I have heard it ask'd with some triumph what Resources Ireland hath in case England should put our Right in a Train

of Negotiation. But your Lordship certainly has contemplated the subject with peculiar advantages, with equal knowledge of both Countries, & therefore must easily see the error of such Reasoners. We have only to retire within ourselves - preserving the most entire allegiance to the Crown, as annexed to England, & in perfect obedience to all the Laws of Ireland; but we don't execute English Laws or English Judgments, we keep to our Covenants & Associations, consume our own Manufactures; keep on terms of amity with England under the Law, but with that diffidence which an impotent claim, pointed however against our Liberty, must necessarily inspire. All this is consistent with the Law of the Land, tho' not with the Interest of England nor with the Cordiality of both Countries.

Your Lordship I trust will see through the freedom I have presumed to exercise in this address a very honest object. My Object is to put an end to, or rather prevent that painful state of mind & alienated sentiment w^{ch} a Negative, or even a Negotiation founded on the ultimate requisition of Ireland, would inspire. As a friend of Ireland I wish to eradicate for ever all jealousies disputes & Subjects of Settlement with the British Nation - I wish above all things, next to the Liberty of my own Country, not to accustom the Irish mind to a diffident suspicious habit with regard to Great Britain. I know that Ireland

will not Negotiate upon Rights to which she is now
 Committed, & I know she has nothing expected to
 Give except Affection. I do therefore with infinite humility
 but the most ardent conviction submit to your Lordship that the
 unqualified, unconditional Repeal of the Declaratory Act
 is the only wise & brilliant measure which can be adopted;
 & I confess, entertaining as I do no less Zeal for your Lordship's
 Personal Interests than reverence for your great Public Virtues,
 I can not help feeling the most anxious wish that the Measure
 may proceed in the first instance from your Lordship.

I have the honour to be with infinite respect

My Lord your Lordship's

most faithful
 & obedient Servant

Robt Day

N^o 7 Chancery-Street
 17 May 1782

