Dow. Countess of Buffboe

Dec. 27 1791

6898

Sir

je supplie votre Magesté de vouloir bien en prendre
pet la liberté que je prens de maddresser directement a
elle, et me permettre de lui faire quelques traits qui me fournissent
la comparaison pour nos malheurs et la triste singularité
des circonstances dans lesquelles nous sommes, me servira
d'excuse, si je commets quelque faute contre les reglements ordinaires.
m. Barthelemy Sire est forcé de quitter votre pelouse, ou
il a receu les temoignages les plus honorables de votre bienveillance

Dow. Countess of Bouffleurs

Dec. 27 1791

6898 (2)

-veillance, et où il a acquis bientôt generale. les Gentilhommes dont la loyauté est pas douteuse, sont accompagnés d'une prudence qui prévient toutes les difficultés que le moment pourroit produire. les François fidelles et malheureux, éprouvent une porte ouverte pour son départ, et sont assurés sans cesse aux mauvais offices de ses accusateurs. Mr Barthelemy lui même, dont la plus grande résignation dans sa nouvelle carriere, on peut le regarder comme un homme perdu, par l'impossibilité de refuser l'emploi qui lui est offert, et celle de faire accorder les ordres qui recevra avec ses devoirs reels et sa fidelité. Votre protection Sire peut seule le tirer du precipice où il est près de tomber, si Votre Majesté daignant, la lui accorde, et s'interesser après à son sort pour vouloir demander au Roi de France de le garder auprès Elle. du plus malheureux des hommes, il deviendroit le plus heureux. Dans d'autres circonstances Sire la premiere ambassade de l'univers, auroit pu être considérée comme une place trop desirée, pour qu'il pût l'obtenir. mais assuré de votre faveur et de votre bienveillance, étant déjà nommé ambassadeur, il n'y a rien qu'il ne puisse espérer et obtenir d'un Roy respecté de toute la terre lui étant lié de tous les titres.

Mr Barthelemy ignore Sire la demarche que j'ose faire auprès de Votre Majesté, j'avois craint que sa prudence ou sa modestie n'empêchât toute prise d'étonner, je l'ai vu hier à la retour de Windsor il étoit penétré de l'accueil gracieux qu'il avoit reçu de Votre Majesté et du regret de n'être plus à portée de lui faire sa cour et j'avoue que je n'ai pu manquer de le blamer de n'avoir pas profité d'une audience si favorable pour vous faire connoître Sire tout le malheur de sa situation, mais il n'a pas osé se prévaloir de vos bontés, peut-être Sire une familiarité vous en paroîtra plus coupable, je me flatte cependant que Votre Majesté daignera n'en accorder le pardon et me garder le secret, j'ai une demande que je n'ai commencée à personne.

Je suis avec un très profond respect de Votre Majesté Sire

le 27 Decembre 91

Votre humble et très obéissante servante la Comtesse douairière de Bouffleurs

Dowager Countess of Bouffleurs

27th Decr. 1791.

Henry Dundas

6899

Nimbleden. 1/2 past 6 P. M
Sunday.

Mr Dundas with his humble duty forwards the accompanying letters from Birmingham for His Majesty's Information.

Mr Dundas,

Wimbledon —

Sir William Hamilton during his last Visit in England encouraged Me to chalk out some Improvements of his Estate in Pembroke=shire, so far as removal of natural Obstacles, or the obtaining artificial advantages, could tend to induce Individuals to settle on a Situation at Milford Haven, favor'd by many natural Advantages —

In the Year 1784 The Post went no further than to Haverfordwest; At present the Mail ~~Coaches~~ & Packets to Ireland, arrive & depart every day from Hubberston Pill — The Market Town of Milford & legal quays have been establish'd on the East side of Hubberstone Pill, & a New Turn=pike road from thence to Haverfordwest is soliciting this Sessions, which will complete a Situation peculiarly suited to import from America & to distant Fisheries.

If a system of Corn Law should ever be adopted by the Legislature, which open'd our Ports for exportation on bounties proportion'd to the Average of Market prices, & at all times, for importation on proportion'd duties, I should not doubt of seeing Milford, one of the great depôts of Corn for Europe.

The Establishing the Southern Fishery is part of a system already adopted — The means of extending it by engrafting in this Island a Colony of Nantucketers, has been subject of my serious examin=ation —

In 1785 We met Mr. Rotch on his tour in the West of England, searching for a situation for his Nantucket Brethren — All our conversations convinced Me that Milford would best suit Him — Government at this time took up

their case with great Economy, & I thought did not give sufficient weight to their claims on the humanity of G:Britain. I sent in a paper to the Privy Council; the Offers which were then made, & have been renew'd by different Acts, have not induced one Family to remove with their Ships to G:Britain – but 12 sail removed last summer to Dunkirk –

I stated last spring to Govern.t that I had reason to believe that it was not too late to get a colony of Nantucketers, & desired to know if the door was to be kept shut to them – The Committee of P.y Council came to a resolution that it would be expedient to renew the invitation, on information being received, that the measure would be attended with success. I obtained letters of introduction from the Secretary of State for Mr. Stokes, to the Governors & Consuls in America, & he was furnish'd with a copy of the Resolution, by Order of the President of the Committee of Council – He sailed a few days afterwards, & went from the Southern to the Northern States to Nantucket, & to Nova Scotia – He is now return'd, & has laid the state of that People, & of the Fishery before L.d Hawkesbury – He has ascertained that the People, are still a connected people, to the number of 4500, & that they have 56 sail in the Whale Fishery; that those who went to France had gone reluctantly, & that they all wished to settle in G:Britain if their removal could be effected with any depreciation of property, short of absolute incapacity of continuing their outfit – On his arrival at Halifax Mr. Stokes communicated the Resolution of Privy Council to the Emigrants from Nantucket, who had settled there before Gov.r Parr had been instructed that the Whale Fishery was to be encouraged from G:B: in preference to the Colonies – They admitted the wisdom & policy of such encouragement, & desired Gov.r Parr to certify the Allegations of their petition, to be included in a removal to G:Britain –

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They also sent a memorial to Sir Wm. Hamilton to know his terms, & settle them at Milford; the natural & artificial advantages of which they profess themselves acquainted — The Question is now once more before the Privy Council — The declared opinion of the Emigrants, as to the situation & the conditions of their removal are explicit — The present prospect of a Colony is as follows —

30 Families on an average 7 in a family — 210
19 Ships whose complement of Seamen is - - - 285
Their Tonnage - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 1800 Ton
Fitted for a Whale Voyage valued at £ 11.11.
pr. Ton will employ on float a capital of
£ 21.000 —

This foundation of Nantucketers being established, the Foreigners then will be better enabled to remove, & avail themselves of the invitation of G Britain — 40 Sail, the number already stated in former Acts, will probably be the Number of Foreign Ships; Their Complement 600, which added to 19 belonging to the Nantucket Emigrants of Dartmouth, make 59 Sail, which I flatter Myself I shall see within three Years after if Government shall patronise a Colony in Milford, by acceding to the proposals before them —

The Drawing annex'd to the plan of the road between Milford and Haverford West, shews the plan on which the Town of Milford & Port is to increase, & to shew how much natural situation will do, I need only tell You, that if I had £ 6000 to lay out on those two Pills or Creeks I could make docks, which at Portsmouth or Plymouth would be cheap to Govt. at £ 100,000, & which no Expence can obtain — The tide in Milford being from 25 to 35 feet perpendicular, I could make a dock for a first rate, for little more expence than for a 50 Gun Ship — Will all the expence incurr'd at Portsmouth, they have only one Dock for a first rate, & that cannot be supplied with depth of Water to float —

Her in – Judge of the expence of Tackle, Ropes, Blocks, & purchase equal to pull a first rate four feet out of Water – of the risk of its oversetting & of the repetition of labor to pull it into the Water – If We had sent our Fleet against the Spaniards, & brought to Port one of their largest first rates, it might have proved a Victory to Milford, as no Port in the Channel could provide a Dock for Her –

Admiral Gardner
Respecting the Fleet.
Received 1 September 1791

State of Mr Herbert's Case.

May your Majesty be graciously pleased to observe that the injustice which Mr Herbert has suffered & which is in this case with all humility laid before your Majesty is that He has been refused promotion in the course of his professional Employment, by the rigid application of rules which have been partially relaxed in favour of others; that it is a manifest breach of Justice, as well as detrimental to the Service, that rules laid down to prevent Collusive appointments, shd serve as a pretence to deprive of Professional advantages those, who are not amongst the favourites or dependants of Ministers; whilst they are relaxed under the most frivolous distinctions to give promotion to those, who are personally attached to them. That this, besides its immediate injustice, tends to produce a System of revenge & retaliation which cannot but be detrimental to the Service. The Particular Case, which it is presumed to solicit your Majesty notice is that Admiral Milbanke commanding on the Newfoundland Station, was joined last Summer by the Fly Sloop, which had one Lieut.t short of her Complement; Whether the Capt.n of the Fly was guilty of a Breach of Duty, or not, in permitting a dying Man to quit his Station, it is not presumed to assert, it rests with him, who alone is to answer for it if wrong; that he has never been questioned for it, is a strong presumption that he acted right; but the Admiral who had no share in the merit or demerit of that Vacancy was bound in Duty to supply it, & if he had failed to do so, he would have been guilty of a high breach of Duty in permitting your Majesties Ship to remain without the number of Officers deemed necessary for her Strength & Safety & that at a time when your Maj.ties Ports were filled with armed Preparations & the trade of Britain

alarmed at the dangers of an impending war with Russia; under these circumstances the Admiral appointed Mr Gilbert of the Placentia armed Sloop to fill the Vacancy in the Fly, & placed Mr Herbert, vice Mr Gilbert, in the Placentia, he has remained all the Winter at Newfoundland, & still remains there in the command of that Sloop, & is denied the Confirmation of that Rank to which he has been appointed. Numberless instances exactly similar to this appointment have very frequently occurred in Various Stations; not to cite a long list of remote instances, they arise no further than the appointments of Commodore Cornwallis, which since the beginning of his Station furnish many; with this difference, that they have been confirmed & Mr Herbert has been rejected; particularly a very recent instance which will not admitt of a Shade of distinction; The Thames Frigate accompanying Capt Blankett from England to China, sailed from St Helens with one Lieut short of her Number, one of her Lieut.s being disabled by illness from joining; She arrived under Commodore Cornwallis's temporary command on her passage, being no part of his Squadron; He thought himself bound in duty to fill the Vacancy, as Admiral Milbanke had done that in the Fly, & it was confirmed without hesitation, tho' Mr Herbert was refused; Various reasons & pretences have been urged as making a distinction; The Vacancy in the Fly has been sometimes stated as an invalide Vacancy, tho not in reputability a collusive one, for the Admiral, who was called upon in duty to fill it, did not make the Vacancy; but the Vacancy in the Thames & several of Commodore Cornwallis's other appointments were liable to the same objection, it was also ob=-jected that Commodore Cornwallis was considered as engaged in a War in 1789. but that Naval War having never yet been heard of, & as the very assertion gave force to Mr Herbert's claim who was appointed during the Russian Armament, it was not long relied upon, & a new & as groundless an assertion took its place, that the promotions in the East Indies were subject to different rules, it would be sufficient to observe upon this that The Thames was no

part of the East India Squadron, but the fact upon which the
assertion rests is not founded, for the Instructions given to Com=
-modore Cornwallis respecting promotions, & those given to Adm.
Milbanke are precisely the same, & consequently cannot give
occasion to a different treatment to Mr Herbert & to the Lieut.s of
the Thames, if any peculiar circumstance in the case could make
a distinction; Mr Herbert, who has been left the whole Winter in a
miserable & deserted station & who must find his way home
as he can, dismissed from his Profession at Newfoundland,
above a twelve months after his appointment, is in a situa=
-tion which must have more equitable claims than a
Lieut.t appointed in the East Indies & sailing strait home to meet
a decision on his appointment; Similar instances are to
be found on the same Station in the very same Ship & under the
same Admiral; The Salisbury in 1789 sailed with one Lieut.t
short of her Compliment, when no War nor rumour of War
prevailed, when she arrived at her Station Admiral Milbanke
appointed Mr Legge to fill that Vacancy; the Ship returned &
Mr Legge was confirmed; the Year following another of the Lieut.s
of the Salisbury from sickness or other Cause did not sail
with her, & the Salisbury again arrived at her Station with one Lieut.t
short of her number the Admiral appointed Mr Weekley to fill
the Vacancy, this was likewise confirmed; the Year following
the Fly Sloop joined the Admiral in the same manner
with one Lieut.t short of her number, the Admiral in the same
manner appointed & Mr Herbert is refused the common ad=
-vantages of his Profession, given to others in situations exactly
similar. It has been objected as a difficulty in this case that Adm.l
Milbanke had not given a Commission but an acting order, which is
said not to be the proper subject of a confirmation; the Adm.l in that con=
-formed strictly to his orders, whoever has acted otherwise has disobeyed them
& cannot by that breach increase the equitable claim of the Person appointed
& in fact if the equity of Mr Herbert's claim is admitted, there can be no

difficulty in conveying to him the Rank, especially as the Date of the Commission is at this time a Matter of very little importance

Duke of Hamilton's Case

Henry Dundas

6902

Whitehall 4th Jan. 1792

	6560:3:7 3/4.	3000.	14.369:2:7.
		4000	10.000:0:0
Feb.	5000:0:0:0.	3000	4.369:2:7
March	5000	10.000	~~17.476:10:4~~
April	5000		
	21.560:3:7 3/7		

270 6
1620

Mr Dundas humbly transmits the accompanying Letter for His Majesty's Perusal. Mr Dundas was desirous of saving His Majesty from the trouble of receiving in form a Petition on such a Subject, but

Mr Ossulston
January 4th 1762

as they persist in the
Request, He has intimated
to them that His Majes-
ty will receive them
this day at the Levee.