74110-12
H.P.

[?July 5 1751]

Sir

I find by Your Letter that you have not understood the meaning of Such a Commission, for it is in general for the good regulation of the Family, & as to the Auditor his part is of another Nature, but I am Sure when you know that every year there is always a Commission very different from this for passing the Accounts, which I will have the honour to shew you, & which was practis'd as well in His Late Royal Highnesses Family, as in every Branch of publick business, & of which you will see Copies in the offices every year, I dare say you will see how little foundation there is for what you are pleased to think; the enclosed paper was delivered me by Her Royal Highness & was given Her by a Person who had long been in services & employments of this Nature, & has been Treasurer thereof, I was ordered to draw up a Commission, but as I had not the late Queens by me, had no direct precedent,

32.1.a+b.

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& as I would do nothing but I would first consult
you, I cannot see how it could be wrong to the
interpretation I find it has met with. as to the
annual Commission that is a thing of Course, what
I take to be meant by the Commission which I sent you
a Copy of by which Sir Benjamin Bathurst then
Treasurer to the Duke of Glocester, as well as to
PRH. the Prince of Denmark & the Princess of Denmark
& the others named you may see was a Commission
directed by King William himself & Countersigned
by the Secretary Vernon then Secretary of State
& upon the same model as the Household of their
Royal Highnesses the Prince & Princess of Denmark
was governed, so that none of the persons then
interested in their different Branches made any kind
objection as the Books of those Establishments shew.
I never saw the paper I enclosed to you till this
morning, but I have seen those of ye some seven years
in the Books I have by one of the Establishments

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of the other Royal Thresholds, so that all I shall observe
is, that it was not considered formerly by those Officers,
nor by the Crown, or the Princes, who signed such
Commissions as derogatory to the Officers in any Branch,
but as to my self I have no other part, nor ever
shall have but to obey Commands I receive, nor give
any opinion, but when I am asked, & then I shall
I hope always give it fairly to the best of my Judgment,
& more no man Can answer for, the wisest men
may be mistaken. It is ~~the~~ Royal Highness had certain
Persons who by their Employments made a Council,
& where there is none, ~~by wor~~ virtue of those
Employments, I apprehend these sorts of Commissions
are intended to be apply'd to them. The Copy I sent was
taken from the original King William signed for the
Establishment of the Duke of Glocester's family, but be
all these things as they may, it will be best now the
Royal Highness is so near the time to my poor speaking
to her upon the subject, & letting it sleep till she is safe
I hope in God she will soon be happily delivered, & in
good health to settle what will appear best to her
in her wisdom, & I am apt to believe indeed from

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certain Indications it can not hold above a day or two,
before the Event happens, & there be business of any
kind, both in decency & Prudence may be respended;
But I must beg leave to observe that I see you
have taken up one Idea viz that no body has
any thing to do with the overlooking accounts but
the Auditor, which is in part right, But not in
toto, for annually in all ~~Treasury Accounts~~ you
will find a Commission Granted in which both
the Treasurer & Auditor are left out, because
the very nature of that Commission requires it,
In ~~the~~ Queen Carolines Household & in the late Prince
of Wales It was under the Great Seal, as there
was a Chancellour, but the Treasurer accounts could
not be ~~otherwise~~ settled, Mr Selwyn can shew you
this as well as the Books I have now before me demon-
strate, but this was only ~~as aforesaid~~ Commission annually
& I only mention it to convince you sir that whether the
Commission, or something in the nature of yt I sent you be
executed, or not, there always is, & must be a Commission
annually to settle ye yearly accounts, The Power of
the Auditor General it to allow such payments as come
properly vouched by orders signed or allowed by the Royal
Highness as the all warrants men, & I explain this

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Because I think it necessary that you may be acquainted that there is an annually a Commission which I see you think is an Innovation, & I will to morrow morning send you the Book & mark where you may see it without giving your self the trouble to look further, or I think your Letter implys that no Person but the Auditor can overlook accounts, whereas you will find, that upon proper occasions they must be overlooked in order to the Treasurers own Safety, & discharge. But I entirely do agree with you Sir that before such a Commission is granted as that of which I sent you the Copy it will be proper to have a meeting, & I was so far from thinking otherwise that I would not have drawn up seven of I had by me the Copy of the Late Queens Commission without ~~your~~ communicating it first to you. & therefore I sent you that which H.R.H. did me the honour to give me this morning. I send the Book with a paper marking the page where the Annual Commission is that you may at leisure read it. I shall wait upon you when you are at leisure, & am alway

Sir

Your most obedient
& most humble Servant
J Russell

Monday 9 a Clock.

[? July 5 1751]

32.1.6.

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