H. of Lds. Minutes

The Order of the Day being read for the Second Reading of The Bill relative to His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales's Establishment,

The Earl of Cholmondeley informed The House, That He was authorized by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales to say That His Royal Highness acquiesced in what the Wisdom of Parliament may think advisable to recommend:

For the Bill.

1. His Royal Highness The Duke of Clarence.
2. Lord Grenville, who moved that The Bill be committed.
4. The Duke of Clarence to explain.
5. Lord Grenville in reply to Lord Lauderdale.
6. The Duke of Clarence to explain
7. Lord Grenville to explain.
10. Earl of Carnarvon.
16. Lord Grenville to explain.

Ordered to be committed to the Whole House to-morrow

Against.

3. Duke of Bedford: not against its going into a Committee, as The Prince has signified his acquiescence.
4. Earl of Lauderdale to the same effect.
8. Marquess of Buckingham against the Principle of the Bill, and also the Provisions of it.
9. Earl of Guilford to the same effect as The Duke of Bedford.
11. Marquess of Buckingham to explain.
12. Earl of Guilford to explain.
13. Lord Rawdon
14. Earl of Lauderdale to explain.
15. Lord Rawdon to explain

H. of Lords Minutes

The Order of the Day being read for taking into Consideration His Majesty's Most Gracious Speech,

It was Moved, by the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe & Valletort, That an Humble Address be presented to His Majesty, to express the Thanks of this House to His Majesty &c.

For the Address.

1. Lord Walsingham.

Against it.

2. Duke of Bedford who moved the following Amendment viz: To leave out from the Word "Throne" to the End of the Address, and instead thereof to substitute the following Words: viz:

We beg leave humbly to entreat Your Majesty to review the Events of the three last Years, and to compare the Situation and Circumstances of the Belligerent Powers at the Period when Hostilities commenced, and at the present Moment; to consider that a great Majority of the numerous Allies, on whose Co-Operation Your Majesty chiefly relied for Success, have abandoned the common Cause and sought for Security in Peace: While others

have been unfortunately, thrown into Alliance with the Enemy. That our foreign Possessions in the West Indies have in many instances been overrun, pillaged, and destroyed, and the Security of all of them put in imminent Hazard. That the expeditions to the Coast of France have proved either disgraceful or abortive; tending (without any rational prospect of public Benefit) to tarnish the British Name by a shameful Sacrifice of those to whom Your Majesty's Ministers had held out the Hope of Public Protection. That amidst all those adverse and disgraceful Events, there has been an expenditure of Blood and Treasure unparalleled in the History of former Wars.

Such being the Result of the Measures which have been pursued we cannot honestly discharge our Duty to Your Majesty, the Country and ourselves without fervently imploring Your Majesty to reflect upon the evident Impracticability of attaining in the present Contest what have hitherto been considered as the Objects of it.

8068 (2)

We therefore humbly entreat Your Majesty no longer to act upon the Opinion That the Governing Powers of France are incapable of maintaining the accustomed Relation of Peace and Amity. An Opinion formerly proved to be unfounded by the States of America, and of those Nations of Europe who have throughout maintained a safe and dignified Neutrality, and recently by the Conduct & present condition of Prussia and Spain and the Princes of the Empire. But that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to take decided and immediate Measures for bringing about a Negotiation for Peace with France whatever may be the present or future form of her internal Government and look for indemnity where alone Indemnity is to be found, on the Restoration of Industry, Plenty and Tranquility at Home.

While we thus earnestly implore Your Majesty to consider in Your Royal Wisdom how fruitless the pursuit of the War is become, and how idle and imaginary the supposed Obstacle to Peace.

We declare that if the existing Powers in France were to reject a Pacific Negotiation proposed by Your Majesty upon suitable terms and

to persevere in Hostilities for their own Aggrandizement or with a View to the Establishment of their System of Government in other Countries, We most strenuously support a Vigorous Prosecution of the War: Confident that the Spirit of the Nation, when roused in such a Cause, will still be able to accomplish what is just and necessary, however exhausted, and weakened by the ill concerted Projects of those who have directed Your Majesty's Councils.

Against the Amendment.	For it.
1. Lord Grenville.	2. Marquess of Lansdown
3 The Lord President.	6. Duke of Grafton.
4. Lord Clifton, & for the original address upon the whole, the objecting to parts of it.	8. Earl of Lauderdale.
5. Lord Grenville to explain.	10. Earl of Lauderdale to explain.
7. Marquess Townshend.	11. Marquess of Lansdown to explain.
9. Earl Spencer.	16. Duke of Grafton to explain
12. Earl Spencer to explain	18. Duke of Grafton to the point of order.
13. Marquess Townshend.	21 Duke of Norfolk.
14. Lord Hawkesbury.	22. Duke of Bedford, who offered to withdraw his amendment, upon certain Terms.
15. The Lord Chancellor.	
17 Bishop of Rochester (to order)	
19. Bishop of Rochester (to order)	
20 The Lord Chancellor.	
23. Lord Grenville.	24. Duke of Bedford, who with Leave of the House withdrew his amendment

On the Question put on the Original Address resolved in the affirmative.

Memorandum respecting a Sceptre found at Stobhall near Perth.

1795

8097

In the stormy winter of 1795 the snow drifted through the slates of the House of Stobhall near Perth. in cleaning away the snow this Sceptre was found. no account has been discovered of it but it is supposed as the family of Perth was in high office about the Royal Family of Scotland from a very early period, that it must have been hid in the time of the troubles.

An Inventory of the Plate of the Drummond Family in that house in 1500 makes no mention of this Sceptre. –

An Account of the Number of Publick and Private Irish Bills passed from the Year 1785 to 1795.

An Account of the Number of Publick and Private Irish Bills passed from the Year 1785 to 1795.

		Publick	Private	Total
Sessions	1785	62	15	77
	1786	45	19	64
	1787	53	13	66
	1788	44	12	56
	1789	37	8	45
	1790	36	15	51
	1791	43	12	55
	1792	33	10	43
	1793	50	13	63
	1794	25	1	26
	1795	42	8	50
	1796	55	7	62
		525	133	658

Duke of Portland

Jan.y 1796

8099

The Duke of Portland begs leave with all humility to acquaint Your Majesty that he has just received an answer from Mr Pelham to the Letter which he wrote Him yesterday, by which the Duke of Portland has the satisfaction to find that Mr Pelham is relieved from the anxiety & distress of mind which he suffered upon Lord Pelham's account, & accordingly feels that his duty requires him to resume his station in Ireland – Mr Pelham will be in town tomorrow evening – a meeting of Your Majesty's Servants is appointed to be held at eleven on Friday forenoon for the purpose of

of considering the draft of the Lord Lieutenant's intended speech at the opening of the Session, & Mr Pelham, who will be desired to attend that meeting will certainly be ready to set out for Ireland as soon after as Your Majesty's pleasure shall be signified to him to that effect —

The Duke of Portland presumes to submit to Your Majesty the Letter from Mr Pelham to which he has alluded above, & further to inform Your Majesty that he received one at the same time from Mr Pelham to the Lord Lieutenant which in consequence of the sanction Your Majesty was pleased to bestow on the manner in which the Duke of Portland had kept the Lord Lieutenant informed

Duke of Portland

Jan.y 1796

8099 (2)

intended speech
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the same time
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Lieutenant informe
of

every event which had happened & every step which had been taken relative to the appointment of a Chief Secretary it is the Duke of Portland's intention to forward immediately to Ireland

Burlington House
Wednesday 6 Jan.y 1796
10 p. m.

Duke of Portland
January 6. 1796

Lord Grenville
January 9. 1796

8100

Cleveland Row Jany. 8. 1796 -
11. P.M.

Lord Grenville having been informed by order of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales that His Royal Highness's letters for Brunswick will be ready to go by a Messenger tomorrow, he thinks it his duty humbly to request Your Majesty's commands, in case Your Majesty

should

Should have any orders to give to Lord Grenville on the subject, or any letters to send, upon the occasion of the happy event of Her Royal Highness's delivery.

Duke of Portland

Jan. 8 1796

8101

The Duke of Portland most humbly begs leave to submit to Your Majesty the Lord Lieutenants intended Speech with the Letter which accompanied it in which the Writer states the reasons for the selection of several of the subjects of which he treats in it, for the omission of some of which he conceives he might have been expected to have taken notice, & for desiring to receive instructions as to the propriety of bringing forward others particularly those which relate to the actual political circumstances in which we stand - The Duke of Portland also requests

Your

Your Majesty's permission to lay before You an altered draft of the Lord Lieutenant's speech as agreed upon at the meeting of Your Majesty's Servants this morning, at which Mr Pelham was present: & a draft of the Duke of Portland's answer to the Lord Lieutenant which if approved by Your Majesty will be dispatched tomorrow by the Messenger who brought over the Lord Lieutenant's Letter & Speech — The Duke of Portland has acquainted Mr Pelham with Your Majesty's pleasure respecting his departure for Ireland — He will make every possible

exertion

Duke of Portland

Jan. 8 1796

8101 (2)

llew'd draft of
the meeting
h Mr Pelham
nds answers to
e Majesty wish
brought over
Duke of Portland
pleasure
ake every possible
exertion

exertion to obey Your Majesty's Commands, & has not a doubt
of being able to set out for Dublin early on Monday, evening

The Occasion, which the performance of the Duty he has just
fulfilled, now affords the Duke of Portland of approaching Your
Majesty compels him almost irresistibly to offer to Your Majesty the most anxious
tribute of his joy on the happy Event of the Birth of Her
Princess. in giving way to this emotion the Duke of Portland fears
that he may have transgressed the bounds of the Respect & Duty which
ought not to be passed by a subject, but he even venturers to trust,

Sheed

that be the case, to Your Majesty's condescending to attribute the transgression to the attachment he & his family have ever borne to Your Majesty's Person & Royal House —

Burlington House
Friday night 8 Jan.y 1796 —

Duke of Portland
Burlington House
8 Jany 1796

Duke of Portland

Jan. 9 1796

8102

x

As the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has felt it incumbent upon him to account for the inconsistency, which Your Majesty will observe, between that part of his intended Speech, "in which he gives reason to hope for the early suppression of the disturbances", & the paragraph of Her Majesty's Letter of the 5th, in which he represents the importance of the Regiments which are to be passed over to Ireland being, in a state fit for immediate service"; the Duke of Portland considers it to be an act of justice to the Lord Lieutenant to lay before Your Majesty

Majesty the Lord Lieutenant's private letter of the same date in which the reasons are contained, which it is humbly hoped may appear to Your Majesty sufficient to reconcile this difference of opinion — the Duke of Portland takes the liberty of submitting to Your Majesty the copy of an instruction delivered by order of the Roman Catholick Bishops of Ireland to the respective Congregations of the several Parochial Chapels in that Kingdom, which he has received from the Revd. Mr. Hussey, a very respectable Clergyman of that persuasion — & presumes to add on Your Majesty's gracious escape

Duke of Portland

Jan. 9 1796

8102 (2)

the same date
humbly hopes
appears
this reference
liberty of
which delivered
end to the
ypts in that
Mr. Fisher, as
ssumes to add
on

a Letter he has received this day from Lord Adam Gordon giving
an account of the arrival of Monsieur The French Things
Brother at Edinburgh on last Wednesday noon —

Burlington House
Saturday night 9th Jan: 1796 —

D. of Portland
Burlington House Jan.y 7.

Ld. Camden to Duke of Portland.

Jan. 9 1796

My dear Lord

Whatever may be the fate of the true & real solicitude your Grace has shewn upon a late occasion to endeavour not only to carry my wishes into execution with respect to Mr Pelham but also to carry that point which under all the untoward circumstances

would be best for the public, I
beg your Grace to be persuaded
that I am not unmindful of
your anxiety to give me the early
& the most comfortable intelligence
in your power. I hope my
last Letter to your Grace, convinced
you, that I was not one who threw
difficulties in the way of arrange-
ment — I felt & I believe I expressed

Ld. Camden to Duke of Portland.

Jan. 9 1796

8103 (2)

in that & former Letters that the situation of Secretary is of all others that which requires a former acquaintance & implicit confidence. With that view Mr Steele & Mr Stewart suggested themselves to my mind as those Persons to whom I individually could entrust my own character & the interests of the Country & I immediately entered into your Grace's wishes with respect to Mr

ble, & made end of the early intelligence my convinced who then of assay I express

Camden
Jan 9. 1796

Perceval, however, none of these suggestions have succeeded & I shall under the present circumstances which preclude farther discussion, think it my duty to accept whatever Person your Grace & Mr Pitt may decide upon with regard to Mr Sargant. I do not expect any more willingness to receive him than any other Person whom your Grace might

think fit for the situation with
which Person, I might probably
enjoy the same degree of acquain
tance that I do with Mr Sargeant
Shower the Gentleman may be
I shall think it a part of that
Duty which Lord called upon
to exercise when I came into
this Country to give him every
encouragement & assistance - & I hope
your Grace will have recollected
that the Session opens on Thursday
Sen'night -

a most terrible outrage & inhuman
Murder has been committed upon
Mr Harman Member for the Co
of Longford by a Party of Defenders
I will give your Grace more
particulars in a Day or two, the
Perpetrators of this murder have
been taken up & if there is
a strong probability of convicting
them. I propose to issue a Special

810H (2)

communication for Your immediate treats —

I have the Honor to remain
with great truth
Your Grace's
Most obedt & obliged Servt
Camden

Dublin Castle
Jan: 9th 1796.

Henry Dundas

8105

Wimbledon 10th Jany. 1796
½ 10. A. M.

Mr Dundas humbly trans:
mits for your Majesty's
approbation the accompany:
ing Drafts. on a Subject of
such Magnitude it is impos:
:sible to expect an univer
:sal concurrence of Sentiment,
but Mr Dundas feeling it

to be absolutely necessary
to have St Domingo in
view as a most essential
object, and upon that ground
being of opinion that
it was essential to enlarge
the discretion of Lt General
Abercombie as to his choice
of objects, thought it his
duty after the late un:

Henry Dundas

8105 (2)

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il ground
that
enlarge
General
his choice
it his
te un:

lowed interruptions to
bring the Subject fully un
der the Consideration of
your Majesty's confidenti:
al Servants, and the
accompanying Drafts have
been prepared as the Re:
sult of their Deliberations

Mr Dundas

January 16. 1796

Duke of Portland

Jan. 14 1796

8106

The Duke of Portland humbly begs leave to acquaint Your Majesty that he has received a copy of an address of the Dissenting Clergy of the Cities of London & Westminster to Your Majesty on Your late Providential Escape, & a letter to himself from a Deputation of that Body desiring to be informed of the time & place at which Your Majesty will be pleased to be attended with it. & also that the Remembrancer of the City has called upon him by order of the Corporation to let him know that the

Sheriffs

Sheriffs were this day ordered to attend Your Majesty tomorrow to know Your Majesty's pleasure when You would be attended with the Address of Congratulation which the Corporation had voted to Your Majesty on the birth of The Princess. It is presumed by the Corporation that it may not be convenient to Your Majesty to signify Your Commands to The Sheriffs on Monday. But as Your Majesty suffered them the very last time an Address was presented by the Corporation to take Your pleasure a few minutes only before Your Majesty received the Address an intimation had been necessarily given to them of the time at which

Your

Duke of Portland

Jan. 14 1796

8106 (2)

jesty humbly
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very last to
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the Address, an
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Your

Your Majesty would appear to be attached with it. Your Majesty will perhaps condescend to follow that precedent on this instance & command the Duke of Portland to signify Your orders to them accordingly when he sees them tomorrow. With respect to the Dissenting Clergy it seems that as often as they have presented Addresses to Your Majesty they have received an answer from Your Majesty, which the Duke of Portland has been given to understand & believes to be a proof of the Addresses having been received by Your Majesty on the Throne but as the Gazette does not state the place in which parchment Addresses are received by Your Majesty nor by whom the Addresses are introduced, & as those who

Duke of Portland,
to
Buckingham House 11th Jan.y 1796

are deputed to learn Your Majesty's pleasure seem to be very little informed upon the subject, the Duke of Portland has no other information to lay before Your Majesty than what can be drawn from those Letters had an answer given to them by Your Majesty & submits the whole to Your Majesty's superior wisdom & judgement

The Duke of Portland has seen a private Letter from Martinico of as late a date as the 3d of last month which states that every thing was going on well in that Island & makes no mention of any disaster or disappointment in any of Your Majesty's other West Indian Possessions — Buckington House
[illegible] 24 Jan.y 1796

Duke of Portland.

Jan. 16 1796

8107

The Duke of Portland humbly begs leave to acquaint Your Majesty that upon communicating to the Remembrancer of the City of London Your Majesty's pleasure to be attended with the Address of the Corporation on next Wednesday, that Office expressed considerable regret at Your Majesty's having fixed upon the day, on which it was the Lord Mayor's Duty to open the Quarter Sessions - upon which the Duke of Portland undertook to represent that circumstance to Your Majesty, & postponed

pursuance to assure ~~Your~~ Remembrancer that Your Majesty would not suffer the course of Justice to be Impeded; & would certainly appoint another day; & that he should withhold the orders, which he would have given to the Lord Mayor & the other members of the Corporation, until Your Majesty's further pleasure could be known; but that he should acquaint the Sheriffs of Your Majesty's permission to them to attend at St. James's on next Wednesday, when the Duke of Portland told

them

Duke of Portland.

Jan. 16 1796

8107 (2)

Majesty would
; & would
withhold the
Mayor & the
jesty's further
approve the
Send at 5.
Portland told
him

him that it was not improbable that Your Majesty would order the Corporation to attend Him on the following Wednesday which will be the 27th instant —

Burlington House

Saturday night 16th January 1796 —

Duke of Portland

Burlington House 16th Jan:y 172

Mr Dundas
January 26. 1796

8108

Pimbedon 26th Janry. 1796
½ past. 4 P.M.

Mr Dundas has this moment been honoured with your Majestys Note and the accompanying Paper which in obedience to your Majestys commands, he takes the liberty of returning. If would give Mr Dundas at this moment inexpressible Satisfaction if

he could be certain that
the reasons your Majesty
assigns coincided as much
with the opinions of
others as they most cer-
tainly do with those
which Mr Dundas after
a most serious and an
xious consideration of
the subject has formed.

Sir John Sinclair
January 26 1796

8109

Sir,

I take the liberty of transmitting to Your Majesty, the sketch of a Bill, for facilitating the cultivation and improvement of the Waste Lands in your Majesty's Kingdoms, which has this circumstance in its favour, that it is the result drawn from 1800 acts already sanction-ed by parliament, and that it has already been approved of by some of

of the most intelligent individuals, on subjects of that nature, in the Island. —

I embrace the same opportunity, of submitting to your Majesty's inspection, a specimen of Barley Flour of uncommon good quality.

With the greatest respect, I have the honour to be, Sir/

Your Majesty's Faithful and devoted Subject

John Sinclair

Whitehall
26th January
1796. —

H.M. Draft Memo^m

Jan. 27 1796

8110

The allusion in the Speech at the opening of this Session of Parl^t to a desire of making Peace, which was renewed in December by the Messages to both Houses of Parliament, though both calculated to stave off any evil impression which Opposition might create in the minds of some over tender friends of Government in the House of Commons, were perhaps useful steps at home, though actually calculated to cause some uneasiness to our Allies on the Continent, and to damp the rising in the interests of Peace. I think myself compelled from the magnitude of the subject to state my sentiments on the supposition that this idea of Negotiating may again be brought forward, at the moment when I am persuaded none of my Ministers can seriously look on this as the proper time for entering on the consideration of that subject, and consequently that my ideas may be of no use, they having as yet not weighed the objection

E without waiting for the effects of the Great Armament which has been sent to the West Indies under the Command of Sir Ralph Abercromby; this I do with greater ease at the present

objections which appear to me well grounded ~~that would arise at this particular~~ for rendering the present period ~~period~~ particularly improper for either ~~either~~ to set any negociation afoot.

The great force which has been collected and sent to the West Indies, to which I have already alluded, the addition to it to be sent on the first change of Wind and in the Month of March, ought to have sufficient time allowed for it to be seen what success may ~~have~~ attend it in that part of the Globe, perhaps as far as Jamaica but ~~particularly~~ especially it may secure the possession of St. Domingo without which acquisition I cannot think our possessions in the Islands secure, and that Peace ~~could~~ can be but of short duration.

The further distress in the East Indies which cannot but be expected ~~is a~~ additional reason not to ~~embarrass~~ hampers ourselves with a negociation.

We are trying to persuade both the Courts of Vienna and Petersburg

H.M. Draft Memo^m

Jan. 27 1796

8110 (2)

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persuade both
and Esterhazy

to come forward and commence an early Campaign, how fruitless must be this attempt if we open any negociation, for we cannot honourably move without giving them notice, which will be a sufficient cause to them for waiting the issue of the measure prior to making preparations which cannot be effected without expence.

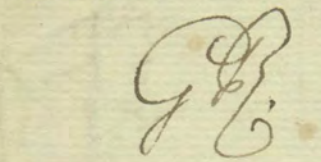
In addition to these weighty reasons, the present state of France points out that no better argument can be employed to effect our purposes than time; the ill success of the present Loan and further discredit of the Assignats must soon overwhelm the new modelled Government; the conduct of the Republican Rangers both within France as well as those employed in Germany and Italy will then appear doubtful as the increasing discontent in the Country; every one of these disasters can alone be averted by our proposing Peace which would give a momentary weight to the Executive Government of France and put a stop to the various enemies that seem now to threaten the downfall of that

φ I wished to have stated my sentiments in further words, but the subject would not admit of it.

Loyal fabrick, established on the avowed foundation of the deep history of all Religions, Love and Moral

Rough draft of a Paper
of which I have given Copies to
the Lord Chancellor, the Duke
of Portland, Mr. Pitt, and
Mr. Secy. Dundas

Queens House Jan.y 27.th 1796.



Duke of Portland

Jan. 29 1796

8111

The Duke of Portland humbly begs leave to lay before Your Majesty a letter he has received this evening from the Duke of Grafton in his capacity of Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, in which, he acquaints the Duke of Portland that that University has voted an Address to Your Majesty on the birth of the Princess Your Majesty's Granddaughter, & desires the Duke of Portland to receive Your Majesty's Commands & signify them to Him respecting the time at which it shall please Your Majesty to appoint to be

attended

attended with the Address of that University —

The Duke of Portland has been just informed that the Jury, after having been out of Court for between two & three hours, have acquitted Stone. on the verdict being delivered there was a shout of applause in the Court, but, except the persons who were in the Court, which it is said was very full of Stone's friends, there was not above an hundred people in all the rest of the Hall, & not the least appearance of any thing like mob or assembly of people in the neighbourhood of the avenues leading

Duke of Portland

Jan. 29 1796

8111 (2)

to Westminster Hall.

Burlington House
Friday 29th Jan.y 1796
50 m. p. 11. p. m.

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The Duke of Portland

29th January 1796

Duke of York
January 30. 1796

(Inclosure)

8112

London January 30th 1796

Sir

I have the Honor to acquaint Your Majesty that Major Forbes Aid de Camp to Sir Ralph Abercromby arrived this morning with the Intelligence that Rear Admiral Christian, after persevering for seven weeks has at last been obliged from the Nature of the Convoy under his Command to return to St Helens.

Major General Abercromby reports that the number of Troops returned with the Fleet are between six and seven thousand.

As it is absolutely necessary that the Corps should be disembarked as soon as possible, and as many arrangements must be made previous to it for the Removal of the Regiments which occupy the Barracks and Quarters round Portsmouth, which may be made much easier upon the Spot than they could be from London, I mean to set off immediately for Portsmouth, which I trust will meet

With Your Majestys approbation.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your Majestys

Most dutifull Son

and Subject

Frederick

P.S. I transmit enclosed to Your Majesty Sir Ralph Abercromby's Letter to me

Sir Ralph Abercrombey to Duke of York.
Enclosure.

8113

On board H. M. S. The Glory, at
Spithead the 29th January 1796

Sir

I have the Honor to acquaint Your Royal Highness, that Rear Admiral Christian, after persevering for seven Weeks, in Opposition to a most violent and inveterate South West Wind, has at last been obliged, from the Necessities of the Convoy under his Command, to return to St. Helens —

This Resolution was taken, on the most mature Deliberation, and when he determined to put it in Execution, there was no longer a Possibility of Delay — The Number of Troops which have returned with the Admiral, may amount to Six or seven thousand — In the Beginning of January a Sickness began to appear in two of the Transports of the 88th.

His Royal Highness
The Duke of York
&c &c &c —

88th Regiment, and on board the Dutton, East India Ship, which had half of the first Batt.n of Grenadiers: It was in consequence found necessary to order these three Ships to return to Port.

Admiral Christian has proposed to send the West India Ships, and ordinary Transports to Cowes Harbour, for the better Accomodation of the Troops; where the Men may have an Opportunity of landing, without any great Risk of Desertion; and where they can receive the Refreshments necessary for them, after so severe a Voyage — No Time shall be lost, in disposing of the Sick, which shall be removed to the Hospitals at Southampton, Porton, and the Medina Mills, in the Isle of Wight; and for procuring such Comforts for the Troops, as their Situation may require.

The most correct Returns of the State of each Transport, and of the General State of the whole, shall be transmitted with all possible Dispatch, to the Adjutant General, to be laid before Your Royal Highness —

It is a Duty which I owe to Admiral Christian, to assure Your Royal Highness, that his Care and Attention to the Troops, under very trying Circumstances,

Sir Ralph Abercrombey to Duke of York.
Enclosure.

8113 (2)

have been unremitted, and merit on my Part, the warmest Sentiments of Gratitude; indeed his whole Conduct, has been judicious and firm —

This will be delivered to Your Royal Highness by Major Forbes, my Aid de Camp, who will wait Your Royal Highness's Commands —

With the Highest Respect
I have the Honor to be,
Your Royal Highness's
Most Obedient, and
Most Humble Servant

Ral: Abercrombey Lt:

Ld. Grenville

Jan. 30 1796

8114

Downing Street Jan. 30th 1796.

Lord Grenville has the honour to submit to Your Majesty the draft of a dispatch to Sir Morton Eden, which was this day read and approved at the meeting of Your Majesty's Confidential Servants, as a measure which the circumstances and situation of public affairs appear to render necessary and expedient. Considering the great importance of the subject, Lord Grenville does not presume to take this step without previously submitting it to Your Majesty's consideration.

ration, but he would not discharge his duty to Your Majesty if he did not take the liberty to add, that as far as he is capable of forming a judgment on the subject, such a declaration or communication as is there mentioned, especially if it can be made jointly in Your Majesty's name and that of the Emperor, could not but produce the most advantageous effects both at home and abroad. If it should in the result produce from France such an answer as it seems most reasonable to expect, from what is known of the views and disposition of the present Rulers there, it would as Lord Grenville hopes give additional energy and animation to the public mind here, and would probably lead to much discontent and disunion in France. If on the contrary it should lead to the opening a negotiation on a footing consistent with the Honour and Interests of Your Majesty and Your Allies, the present exhausted state of France, tho' it is as yet not such as to preclude the possibility of another Campaign on their part, would

yet

Ld. Grenville

Jan. 30 1796

8114 (2)

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yet afford a reasonable ground for expecting terms of Peace highly advantageous and honourable, particularly to Your Majesty's dominions.

Lord Grenville is by no means insensible that to these considerations others of great weight may be opposed, as is natural with respect to a subject so extensive in its nature and so important in its consequences. In humbly submitting to Your Majesty those arguments and that opinion which prevail in his judgment, he discharges the duty which he owes to Your Majesty, and he trusts to the experience which he has so often had of Your Majesty's goodness for a favourable interpretation of them. If Your Majesty should on the whole be pleased to authorise him to send the dispatch in its present form, it will be presumed be necessary to make communications of a similar import, (as far as the difference of circumstances may permit,) to Your Majesty's other Allies, and Lord Grenville will in that case lose no time in executing the

transcript

burnish in that shape.

Lord Grenville,
Downing St. 30th Aug. 1806

Wm. Pitt

Jan. 30 1796

8115

Mr Pitt was honoured with the Command which Your Majesty had the Condescension and Goodness to send him on Wednesday last. Circumstances had recently led to repeated Consideration among your Majesty's Servants on the Line proper to be pursued with respect to Negotiation, and tho Mr Pitt fears that the Result is not (even under the present

new Situation, from the Return of the West India Fleet) likely to meet all the Sentiments which Your Majesty has expressed. He is persuaded Your Majesty will believe that it is offered from an earnest desire to consult Your Majesty's Service. The Opinion of Your Majesty's Servants is so fully stated in the Draft of the Dispatch to Sir Morton Eden which will be submitted to Your Majesty by Lord Grenville, that

Wm. Pitt

Jan. 30 1796

8115 (2)

Mr Pitt does not feel himself obliged to trouble Your Majesty with much additional Observation. —

The Return of Admiral Christian to Spithead with a large Part of the Convoy (of which Accounts were received this Morning) and the advanced Season make it now impossible that Operations in the West Indies on a large Scale can be prosecuted with Effect (tho' they may be successfully begun) till the Close of the

year, and it cannot be expected that Parliament or the Country will wait to so distant a Period for some further Painful Explanation. It seems equally clear that, if Government takes in Time Steps to remove the Possibility of Cavil on its real Desire to make Peace in conjunction with Your Majesty's Allies on suitable Terms whenever they can be obtained,

This will ensure the Continuance of a zealous Support in and out of Parliament. On the other Hand, if Government delay taking Steps so long as to be obliged at last to take them in consequence of any Declaration of the Sense of Parliament, All Hope of good Terms would be at an End. In the first Case the Issue of the War, (tho far from equal to what might at some

Periods have been hoped) would still be honorable and probably advantageous. In the other Case, it can hardly be expected to be otherwise than the Reverse. Besides this, it is to be considered that if (on Explanation) France should avow the indisputable and extravagant Pretensions contained in the Papers lately circulated by French Agents, Nothing could contribute more to a cheerful and vigorous Support of the War, and in the

Interval every Parliamentary difficulty will be avoided, and the undisturbed Management of the Negotiation (in its future Progress) be secured to Government, by their being enabled to hold a Language which must silence all Opposition. —

Downing Street.
Jan 30th 1796.

Mr. Pitt
Downing Street Jan. 30th 1796

Ld. Spencer

Jan. 30 1796

8117

Earl Spencer conceives it may be more satisfactory to your Majesty in addition to the publick Dispatch from Rear Admiral Christian to see his private Letter to Earl Spencer accompanied by a very accurate Draft of the Track of the Fleet under his Command.

The Rear Admiral is naturally very anxious to

Earl Spencer.
Admiralty 30. Jan.y 1796

clear himself for any imputation of Blame on this occasion, and Earl Spencer trusts that your Majesty will agree in the Opinion that so far from any Blame being to be imputed to that Officer, both he & Sir Ralph Abercromby are entitled to much Praise for their zeal and perseverance in endeavouring to promote so important a service under circumstances of such almost unexampled difficulty.

Admiralty 30 Jan: 1796.

H. M. to Wm. Pitt

8118

Windsor Jan.y 31st 1796

I should not have felt easy had I not fully stated my sentiments against any step from hence being taken for applying to France for Peace, and it is not the return of the force sent to the West Indies that can in the least alter my opinions as to the propriety of holding out till France makes some avowed steps for attempting to treat but do not in the least by this mean to make any obstinate resistance to the measure proposed, though I own I cannot feel the utility of it; ~~and~~ my mind is not of a nature to be guided by the obtaining a little applause, or staving off some abuse; rectitude of conduct is my sole aim. I trust the Rulers in France will reject any proposition from hence short of a total giving up every advantage we may have gained, and therefore that the measure proposed will meet with a refusal

GR

H. to Hd. Grenville

8119

Windsor Jan. 31st 1796.
m/s. f. 1 A. M.

I have received this morning Lord Grenville's note accompanying the draft of a dispatch to Sir Morton Eden read and approved yesterday at a meeting of the Cabinet, which the circumstances and situation of public affairs appeared to them to be necessary and expedient; I do not in the least mean to make any obstinate resistance to the measure proposed, though I owne I cannot feel the utility of it; my mind is not of a nature to be guided by the object of obtaining a little applause, or staving off some abuse; rectitude of conduct is my sole aim. I trust the rebels in France will reject any proposition from hence short of a total giving up of every advantage we may have gained, and therefore that the measure proposed will meet with a refusal.

G R

No. 3. Draft
to Mr. Pitt
Windsor Jan.y 31st $\frac{m}{11}$ p.t 9. A.M.
and one to Ld. Grenville
Windsor Jan.y 31st $\frac{m}{n}$ p.t 9. A.M.
1796