Duke of Portland

Ap. 1 1796

8150

The Letter addressed to Your Majesty is just received by the Duke of Portland with a most strict charge from the Marquis of Bute that not an instant should be lost in laying the dutiful effusions of his Gratitude at Your Majestys feet.

The Marquis of Bute's Letter to the Duke of Portland contains too many subjects of a domestick & very familiar nature to suffer the Duke of Portland to presume to submit it to Your Majestys perusal. but as the concluding paragraph partakes in a

a great degree, & may be almost considered as entirely political.
he takes the liberty of ~~transcribing~~ transcribing it for Your Majesty's
information - & it is as follows — "of Polignac it is useless
"to say one word as You read all the Communications. So far
"I will observe, that unless You get upon a very high Horse, I
"believe matters may go on decently - This is much to come from
"a man of my impetuosity of temper, but the cool sedateness of
"the Spaniard has taught me does to submit to my Servants
"who if they carry my orders into execution, three or four days
"after"

Duke of Portland

Ap. 1 1796

8150 (2)

"they are signified, may be amended persons of wonderfull activity"—

The Duke of Portland begs Your Majesty will condescend to pardon the liberty he is tempted by this opportunity to take of submitting to Your Majesty the very humble but anxious hope of Mr Prescott (late Governor of one of Your Majestys Colonies) that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased to confer the honor of Knighthood on Mr George Pownall, Secretary & Register of the Province of Lower Canada who is now here by Your Majestys permission in consequence of his late Father's death but is to return with the first Ships that sail for Quebec and

tirely political.
Majestys
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or four days
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"after"

Duke of Portland
1st April 1796

& whom Geo. Pownall appears me he intends to make the heir of
all his property — This circumstance therefore in addition, if any
addition is wanting, to the plea which Mr George Pownall's Services
seem to give him to such a mark of Your Majesty's favor, induces
the Duke of Portland with the more confidence to submit this
request to Your Majesty's superior wisdom —

Burlington House
Friday 1st April 1796
40 m. p. 5. p. m.

Lord Grenville
2nd April 1796

8151

Dropmore Ap. 2. 1796.
to. 9½.

Lord Grenville has the honour to submit to Your Majesty a letter with its inclosures which he has received from Count Zeppelin, and he humbly requests to be honoured with Your Majesty's commands respecting Count Zeppelin's application for an audience to deliver his letters to Your Majesty.

Mr Pitt
7th April 1796

8152

Mr Pitt humbly begs leave to acquaint Your Majesty, that a Motion was made to day by Genl Smith for a Committee to enquire into the Expenditure on account of Barracks; which was supported by Mr Taylor, Mr Fox, Mr Courtenay Mr Grey and Mr Sheridan, and

opposed by Mr Windham, Mr Pitt, & Mr Steele. The Motion was negatived by 97 to 23.

Downing Street
Friday April 7th 1796 ½ pt 10 P.M.

Lord Grenville
9th April 1796

8153

Cleveland Row April 9. 1796.
½ p. 11. P.M.

Lord Grenville has the honour humbly to submit to Your Majesty the draft of an answer to be transmitted by Mr. Wickham to M. Barthelemi on the subject of the insolent Paper received from France. Lord Grenville trusts that Your Majesty will think that the terms in which the haughty and inadmissible demands of the Directory are spoken of are likely to produce

a

a proper impression on that subject here, without giving ground for any imputation of a change of language or sentiment.

It is proposed if Your Majesty should be pleased to approve of it, that the three Papers which have passed on this occasion should be printed and delivered to the Foreign Ministers with a view of their becoming public. Some doubt is entertained whether a communication of them to Parliament would be proper or not.

Arch Bishop of Canterbury
April 19. 1796

8154

Lambeth house
April 19. 1796

The Arch Bishop of Canterbury humbly begs leave to submit to His Majesty the inclosed Paper, as containing what his reflections have suggested to him as a respectful answer to the letter, which he had the honor to receive from Prince Augustus Frederick. He presumes at the same time humbly to intreat His Majesty, to suggest to him any Sentiment or Expression that appears to His Majesty to want further Consideration & alteration.

8155

Die Veneris 13°. Maij 1796.

Arch. Cant.
Eps. Bristol.
Bangor.
Rossen.
Lincoln.
Norwicen.
Glocestr.
Dunelmen.
Londinen.

Dux Glouc.
Dux. Longhlmough Cam.
Co. Mansfield. Mill. Moses.
Chatham. C. p. s.
Dux Norfolk E. M.
Bridgwater.
Rutland.
Bedford.
Ancaster.
Beaufort.
Dorset Senesch.
Leeds.
M. Lansdown.
Cornwallis.
Townshend.
Com. Aylesford.
Co. Scarbrough.
Stair.
Torbocen.
Carnarvon.
Lauderdale.
Suffolk.
Graham.
Guilford.
Shaftesbury.
Poulett.
Spencer.
Stamford.
Hardwicke.
Westmorland.
Ker.
Glasgow.
Northampton.
Cowis.
Sandwich.
Pembroke & Montg.
Thanet.
Dorchester.
Leicester.
V. Sydney.
Falmouth.

Dus. Grenville Ld.
Grimston.
Walsingham.
Upper Ossory.
Rawdon.
Harrowby.
Auckland.
Hawkesbury.
Clive.
Ardley.
Middleton.
Lyttelton.
Boyd.
Boston.
Romney.
Hay.
Delaval.
Bulkeley.
Douglas of Lock.
Curzon.
Brownlow.
Bradford
Willoughby de Broke
Bucie
Rodney.
Malmesbury.
Clifton.
Selsey.

The Order of the Day being read for The Lords to be summoned:

Moved To Resolve 1. That it appears to this House that the Amount of the funded Debt incurred during the present War is - - - - - - - - - 93,846,000.

1. Earl of Lauderdale.
2. Lord Auckland.
3. Lord Rawdon.
4. Lord Hawkesbury, who moved the Previous Question.

Against The Previous Question. - - - - - - - - - - For it - - - - -

1. Marquess of Lansdown
2. Lord Grenville.
3. Earl of Lauderdale.
4. Lord Hawkesbury to explain
5. Earl of Lauderdale to explain.
6. Lord Hawkesbury to expln
7. Lord Grenville to explain.
8. Earl of Lauderdale to explr.

Upon the Question put "That This Question be now put,

" Resolved in the Negative.

2. That it appear to this House that the sum voted for the service of the present year (exclusive of the Civil List and Interest of the National Debt amounts to - - - - - - - - 33,262,360 £.

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amounts
262,360 £.

8156(2)

3. That the Amount of Permanent Taxes imposed during the present War is — — — — — — — — — 4,423,351 £.

4. That a Sum of 10 Millions must on the Conclusion of the War be raised for the Discharge of Arrears and other Incumbrances, the Interest of which including the Provision to be made by the 33. Geo: 3. c. 55. will amount to - - - - - 600,000 £.

8157

5. That the Sum of 200,000£ is annually voted by Parliament to be added to the Fund for the Reduction of the National Debt.

6. That the probable Increase of the Peace Establishment at the Conclusion of the present War will amount to, 500,000 £.

of the Peace
on of the
500,000 £.

8157 (2)

7. That the Annual Peace Expenditure calculated on an Average of 5 Years ending 5th Jan.t 1791, & including the Sum annually applied to the Reduction of the National Debt, amounted to the Sum of, 16,816,904 £.

8. That the above mentioned sums of 16,016, 90
500, 00
200, 00
600, 00
4,423, 35

making together — £ 22, 540, 33

must be provided for as the lowest future Peace Expenditure which can be estimated, even supposing the War to conclude with the present Year.

8158

9. That the Total Produce of Taxes for the Year ending 5th April 1796, deducting an occasional payment for Stock of Wine on hand amounted to - - - 15,603,285 £.

10. That the estimated Produce of the New Taxes imposed in the present Session is - - - - - - - - - £1,670,000.

8158 (2)

11. That The Land & Malt Taxes are calculated by a Committee of The House of Commons to produce the sum of 2,550,000 £.

12. That Calculating the Amount of the Taxes existing previous to the War to produce the same on the return of Peace, as they did on an Average of four Years immediate preceding the War, an Improvement in the present Revenue may be expected to the Amount of ——— 757,400 £.

8159

13. That the above mentioned sums of £15,603,205
1,670,000
2,500,000
757,400

making together the sum of . . . £ 20,596,765

afford the only resources at present existing which can be stated as applicable to the future Peace expenditure: And that the sum of £1,943,570. (being the difference between the future Peace Expenditure estimated as above at £22,540,335: & the future Peace Income estimated as above at £20,596,765 will remain to be provided for.

14. That the Sum of £500,000 is annually due from the East India Company to the Public provided that a certain Surplus Profit arises to the said Company after discharging the whole of their regular payments: but that no payment on the above account has been received by the Public since the 1st April 1794.

8159 (2)

15. That it appears to this House that a Lottery may be estimated to produce a sum of above - - - - - - - - £250,000

The previous Question being also put on the 14 last Resolutions severally, The same were respectively negatived.

8160

Mr Pitt.
April 14. 1796

Mr Pitt humbly presumes to acquaint
Your Majesty that he this Day proposed
to the Committee of Ways & Means, the
Provision for a substitute for the Tax on Coffee,
as well as for all the extraordinary Services
not stated before Christmas, and for
funding so much of the Exchequer Bills,

as may enable the Bank to increase their Advances to the Public; and removed the Difficulty that has lately prevailed. Mr Pitt thought it his Duty to extend the Provision for these Objects to the largest Amount which could be deemed necessary, and he proposed for this Purpose to adopt the Tax on Dogs; and a Regulation to

8160(2)

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enforce the Duty on Hats as a substitute for
the Cotton Tax, and for the other Purposes
to add another 20£ p^r Ton on Wine, which
he has no doubt will be productive to
nearly the same Amount as the former
of 600,000£ Annually. Mr Pitt has
great satisfaction in adding, that
the Manner in which the proposal was

received and the general Result of the Discussion was, notwithstanding all that Opposition could urge with a contrary view, of a nature to give fresh Confidence at Home in the State of the Public Resources, and to be likely to make no immaterial Impression abroad.

Downing Street.
Tuesday April 19th 1796 ¾ past 12. A.M.

8161

Die Martis 10° May 1796.

Arch. Cant.
Ebor.

Lords Present.

Bps Bangor
Bristol
Peterborough
Rochester
Durham
Lincoln
Norwich
London
Glocestr.

Dux Clarence

L. Chancellor.
E. Mansfield Widdx
E. Chatham L.P.S.

D. Bridgewater
Grafton
Bedford
Beaufort
Dorset Senesch.
Portland.

M. Lansdown
Hertford
Cornwallis
Townshend.

E. Sandwich
Stair
Lauderdale
Dartmouth
Graham
Stamford
Fitzwilliam
Suffolk & Berks
Guilford
Chanet
Shaftesbury
Coventry
Macclesfield
Digby
Spencer
Westmorland
Glasgow
Hardwicke
Carnarvon
Mt Edgcumbe
Harrington
Carlisle
Aylesford
Dorchester
Powis.

E. Pomfret.
Radnor
Norwich
Sandwich
Derby.
Pembroke & Montg.
Chesterfield
Bathurst.
Jersey.
Ker.
Leicester.
Doncaster.
Winchilsea & Not.
~~Cornwall~~
Poulett
Oxford & Mortimer.

V. Falmouth
Sydney
Wentworth

L. Grenville Lord Pr
Walsingham
Rawdon
Bagot
Bradford
Hay.
Hawkesbury
Grantley
Lyttelton
Mulgrave
Willoughby de Eresby
Delaval.
Sommers
Clive
Boringdon
Boringdon
Berwick
Heathfield
Douglas of Loch
Onslow & Cranley
Bulkeley
Ducie
Malmesbury.
Middleton.
Rodney.
Selsey
Grey de Wilton
Upper Ossory.
Sondes.
Clifton.
Curzon

1796

The Order of the Day being read for the Lords to be summoned;

Moved, That an Humble Address be presented to His Majesty, Humbly to offer to His Royal Consideration that Judgment which the Lords Spiritual and Temporal have formed and now deem it their Duty to declare concerning the Conduct of His Ministers in the Commencement and during the Progress of the present unfortunate War. As Long as it was possible for us to doubt from what Source the National Distresses had arisen, We have in times of difficulty & peril thought ourselves bound to strengthen His Majesty's Government for the Protection of His Subjects by our Confidence & Support. But our Duties as His Majesty's Hereditary Counsellors will no longer permit us to dissemble our deliberate and determined Opinion that the Distress, difficulty & Peril to which this Country is now subjected, have arisen from the Misconduct of the King's Ministers, and are likely to subsist and to encrease as long

as the same principles which have hitherto guided these Ministers shall continue to prevail in the Councils of Great Britain.

It is painful to us to remind His Majesty of the Situation of His Dominions at the Beginning of this War, and of the high Degree of Prosperity to which the Skill & Industry of His Subjects had, under the Safeguard of a free Constitution, raised the British Empire, since it can only fill His Mind with the Melancholy Recollection of Prosperity abused, and of Opportunities of securing permanent Advantages wantonly rejected. Nor shall we presume to wound His Majesty's Benevolence by dwelling on the unfortunate consequences which might have arisen from the Mediation of Great Britain between the Powers then at War, which might have ensured the Permanence of our Prosperity while it preserved all Europe from the Calamities which it has since endured — a Mediation which this Kingdom was so well fitted to carry on with Vigour and dignity by its Power, its character and the nature of its Government, happily removed at at an equal distance from the contending extremes of Licentiousness and Tyranny.

From this neutral and impartial System of Policy
His Majesty's Ministers were induced to depart
by certain Measures of the French Government
of which they complained as injurious & hostile
to this Country. With what Justice these complaints
were made, We are not now called upon to deter-
-mine: since it cannot be pretended that the Mea-
-sures of France were of such a Nature as to preclude
the possibility of Adjustment by Negociation: &
it is impossible to deny that the Power which shuts
up the Channel of accomodation must ever be
the real Aggressor in the War. To reject Negociation
is to determine on Hostilities: and whatever may
have been the Nature of the Points in question be-
-tween us & France, We cannot but pronounce the
refusal of such an authorized Communication
with that Country as might have amicably ter-
-minated the dispute to be the true and imme-
-diate Cause of the Rupture which followed.

Nor can we forbear to remark that
the pretences under which His Majesty's Ministers
then haughtily refused such authorized Comm-
-unication have been sufficiently exposed by their
own Conduct in since submitting to a similar
Intercourse with the same Government.

The misguided Policy which thus rendered the War inevitable appears to have actuated the Ministers in their determination to continue it at all Hazards.

At the same time we cannot but observe that the Obstinacy with which they have adhered to their desperate System is not more remarkable than their Versatility in the pretexts upon which they have justified it. At one period the Strength, at another the Weakness of the Enemy has been urged as Motives for continuing the War: the Successes as well as the defeats of the Allies have contributed only to prolong the Contest; and hope and despair have equally served to involve us still deeper in the horrors of War, and to entail upon us an endless Train of Calamities.)

After the original professed Objects had been obtained by the Expulsion of the French armies from the Territories of Holland and the Austrian Netherlands, We find His Majesty's Ministers influenced either by Arrogance, or by infatuated ambition and vain Hope of Conquest, which, if realised, could never compensate to the Nation for the Blood & Treasure by which they must be obtained: rejecting unheard the Overtures made by the Executive Council of France, at a period when the circumstances were so eminently favourable to His Majesty and His Allies, that there is every reason to suppose that a Negociation

commence

commenced at such a Junctura must have ter-
-minated in an honourable and advantageous
Peace. To the prospect arising from such an
opportunity they preferred a blind and obstinate
perseverance in a War which could scarce have
any remaining object but the unjustifiable purpose
of imposing upon France a Government disappro-
-ved of by the Inhabitants of that Country. And
such was the Infatuation of these Ministers that
far from being able to frame a wise & comprehen-
-sive system of Policy they even rejected the few
advantages that belonged to their own unfortu-
-nate Scheme. The general existence of a design
to interpose in the internal Government of
France, was too manifest not to rouse into active
Hostility the National Zeal of that People: but
their particular projects were too equivalent to
attract the Confidence or procure the Co-operation
of those Frenchmen who were disaffected to the
then Government of their Country. The Nature
of their plans was too clear not to provoke formi-
-dable Enemies, but their extent was too ambiguous
to conciliate useful Friends.

We beg leave further to represent
to Your Majesty, that at subsequent periods Your

Ministers have suffered the most favourable opportunities to escape of obtaining an honourable & advantageous pacification. They did not avail themselves, as it was their duty to have done, of the unbroken strength of the great confederacy which had been formed against France for the purpose of giving effect to overtures of Negociation. They saw the secession of several powerful states from that confederacy: they suffered it to dissolve without an effort for the attainment of a general pacification: They loaded their country with the odium of having engaged in a combination charged with the most questionable views, without availing themselves of that combination for procuring favorable conditions of Peace. That from this fatal neglect the progress of hostilities has only served to establish the evils which might certainly have been avoided by Negociation, but which are now confirmed by the events of the War. We have felt that the unjustifiable and impracticable attempts to establish loyalty in France by force has only proved fatal to its unfortunate supporters. We have seen with regret the subjugation of Holland, & the aggrandizement of the French republic and we have to lament the alteration

in the State of Europe, not only from the Successes of the French, but from the formidable acquisitions of some of the Allied Powers on the side of Poland; - acquisitions alarming from their Magnitude, but still more so from the manner in which they have been made; so fatally has the War operated to destroy in every part of Europe that Balance of Power for the Support of which it was undertaken and to extend those Evils which it was its Object to avert.

Most Cordially therefore did We assure His Majesty That We heard with the sincerest satisfaction His Majesty's Most Gracious Message of the 8th of December, wherein His Majesty acquaints Us that the Crisis which was depending at the Commencement of the present Session had led to such an Order of Things as would induce His Majesty to meet any disposition to Negociation on the part of the Enemy with an earnest desire to give it the full & speediest effect, and to conclude a general Treaty of Peace whenever it could be effected on just and suitable terms for himself and His Allies.

That from this gracious communication We were led to hope for a speedy determination to this most disastrous Contest; but that with surprise and Sorrow we have now reason to apprehend that three Months were suffered to elapse before any Step

were taken towards a Negociation, or any overtures made by His Majesty's Servants.)

With equal surprise and concern We have observed when a fair & open conduct was so peculiarly incumbent on His Majesty's Ministers considering the prejudices and suspicions which their previous conduct must have excited in the minds of the French, that instead of adopting that open and manly manner which became the Wisdom, the character and dignity of the British Nation, they had recourse to a style calculated rather to excite suspicion than to inspire confidence in the Enemy. Every expression which might be construed into an acknowlegement of the French Republic, or even an allusion to its forms was studiously avoided; and the Minister through whom this Overture was made, was in a most unprecedented manner instructed to declare that he had no authority to enter into any Negociation or discussion relative to the Objects of the proposed Treaty.)

That it is with pain we reflect that the Alacrity of His Majesty's Ministers in apparently breaking off this incipient Negotiation as well as the strange and unusual manner in which it was announced to the Ministers of the various Powers of Europe, affords a very unfavourable Comment on their reluctance in entering upon it, and is calculated to make the most injurious

Impression respecting their Sincerity on the People of France.

On a review of so many instances of gross and flagrant Misconduct, proceeding from the same pernicious principles, and directed with incorrigible Obstinacy to the same mischievous Ends, We deem ourselves bound in Duty to His Majesty and to our Country to declare that We see no rational Hope of redeeming the affairs of the Kingdom, but by the adoption of a System radically and fundamentally different from that which has produced our present Calamities

Until His Majesty's Ministers shall, from a real Conviction of past Errors, appear inclined to regulate their Conduct upon such a System, We can neither give any Credit to the Sincerity of their professions of a Wish for Peace, nor repose any confidence in their Capacity for conducting a Negociation to a prosperous issue. Odious as they are to an Enemy who must still believe them secretly to cherish those unprincipled and Chimerical projects which they have been compelled in public to disavow; contemptible in the Eyes of all Europe from the display of Insincerity and Incapacity which has marked their Conduct,

Our only hopes rest on His Majesty's Royal Wisdom and unquestioned Affection for His People, that He will be graciously pleased to adopt Maxims of Policy more suited to the Circumstances of the Times than those by which His Ministers appear to have been governed, and to direct His Servants to take Measures, which, by differing essentially as well in their Tendency as in the Principle upon which they are founded, from those which have hitherto marked their Conduct, may give this Country some reasonable hope, at no very distant period, of the establishment of a Peace, suitable to the Interests of Great Britain, and likely to preserve the Tranquility of Europe.

For the Motion	Against it
1. Earl of Guilford.	2. Viscount Sydney.
3. Duke of Bedford who moved to adjourn the debate.	4. Earl of Carlisle agt. it & to order.
5. Earl of Guilford.	6. Lord Mulgrave.
8. Duke of Bedford to withdraw the Motion of Adjournment.	7. Earl of Carnarvon.
11. Duke of Grafton	9. Earl of Carlisle to explain.
18. Marquess of Lansdown.	10. Lord Hawkesbury.
13. Earl Fitzwilliam.	12. Lord President.
15. Earl Fitzwilliam to explain	14. Lord Grenville.
	16. Lord President to explain.
	17. Lord Grenville to explain.

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8164(2)

For the Motion	Against it
20. Earl of Lauderdale	19. Lord Mulgrave
22. Marquess of Lansdown to explain.	21. Lord Chancellor.
25. Duke of Bedford.	23. Earl Spencer.
	24. Lord Grenville to explain.
	26. Lord Hawkesbury to explain.

E. Lauderdale } Content 7. Proxies. 3. Total 10.
E. Chesterfield } Not Content. 79 Proxies. 31 Total. 110

Mr Pitt.

May 15. 1796

8165

Mr Pitt humbly begs leave to acquaint
Your Majesty that a Motion was made
this day by Mr Fox introduced by a
Speech of four Hours, for a Long Address
to Your Majesty, reviewing all the Topics
which have been urged by Opposition
against the War, and recommending
a total Change of Counsels; but abstaining

from entering into any particulars respecting the French Proposal. The Motion was opposed at considerable length by Mr Pitt, and after a reply from Mr Fox was negatived by 216 to 42.

Downing Street

Tuesday Night May 10th 1796.

Mr Pitt
15th May 1796

8166

Downing Street.
Sunday May 15th 1796

Mr Pitt having been prevented from paying his duty to your Majesty at St James's last Week, is under the necessity of humbly requesting Your Majesty's gracious permission to attend Your at any Hour that will be least inconvenient either tomorrow or Tuesday,

that he may be honoured with Your
Majesty's Commands on some Points that
require Decision previous to the Election

Henry Strachey

8167

May 19. 1796

Mr. Strachey most humbly represents to His Majesty, that upon letting out the Water of the Canal in the Royal Garden at Kensington, there were taken

520 Carp
200 Prussian Carp
292 Tench and it is supposed there must be many Eels.

As the Number of Fish is greater than will be necessary to preserve for His Majesty's Use, Mr. Strachey is anxious to know

if

if His Majesty will be graciously pleased to command him with respect to the Distribution of any of them – not one having been yet removed (at least with Mr. Strachey's Sanction) except for His Majesty's Table.

He most humbly proposes, if it should meet with His Majesty's Approbation, to direct a Stew to be made, in a secure and convenient part of Kensington Garden, which will be the means of having, at all times, a Supply of Carp and Tench for His Majesty's Table, without the delay and difficulty of dragging the deep Waters.

Mr. Strachey presumes farther to represent to His Majesty, that he has agreed

with

Henry Shackey

8167 (2)

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with a Man, who has invented a Machine by which the Mud in the Canal may be taken out at a Third of the Expence that would be incurred by the ordinary mode of executing such Work, and that in the course of a Month, the Machine will be ready for use.

He presumes that His Majesty, will expect the valuable Manure produced from the Canal, shall be chiefly spread, under the direction of the proper Officer, upon such of the farming part of the Garden, as will be most benefited thereby

Hill Street
19th May 1796.

Mr. Strachey
19th May 1796

Sir John Sinclair
May 23 1796

8168

Sir/.

I think it my duty to submit to your Majesty's gracious consideration, some circumstances connected with the agricultural interests of the Kingdom, to which your Majesty has invariably paid such particular attention.

The dissolution of Parliament which has taken place, of course deprives the President of the Board of Agriculture of his seat, and, in consequence of his representing the County of Caithness, which only sends a member alternately with that of Bute, there is little prospect of his being re-elected. He may be under the necessity therefore, of relinquishing pursuits, to which he has devoted so much time, trouble, and expence, and from the very discussion of which, such public benefits have been derived.

The statistical account of Scotland, and the agricultural survey of every part of the Island, (with the exception of two small Scotch Counties, Clackmanan and Kinross now printing) being completed, a foundation is laid for carrying on the improvement of your Majesty's Kingdom, which no other country was ever possessed of. It would be worthy your Majesty's anxious care, to promote, by every possible means, the prosperity of your dominions, the preventing the author of such works from being driven to retirement. —

In the annals of your Majesty's reign it will be recorded, either that, after an institution for the agricultural and internal improvement of the country had been formed, and for some time had been carried on with uncommon energy and spirit, that it had dropt from the want of Royal Patronage, or, "that the thing, finding "that the President of the new Board "of agriculture, was not likely "to be re-elected into the new "Parliament, was graciously pleased "to raise the founder of that institution

8168 (2)

"the honours of a British Peerage, and
"that under the protection of so enlightened
"a Sovereign, such a spirit of improve-
"=ment was excited, as doubled, with
"unexpected rapidity, the value of the
"Kingdom, and confirmed its prosperity
"and strength."—

I flatter myself that
your Majesty will be graciously
pleased to excuse the liberty I take,
in making this application to the
real fountain of honour.—

With the greatest respect,

I beg leave to subscribe myself—

Sir/

Your Majesty's

Faithful and devoted subject

John Sinclair.—

Whitehall—
London—
23d May.— 1796.—

Sir Jno. Sinclair

23rd May 1796

8169

Mr. Pitt
24th May 1796

Mr Pitt has been honored with Your Majesty's Commands and has given Direction for the Appointment to be made out for Mr Bernard's Son accordingly.

Mr Pitt humbly takes the Liberty of acquainting your Majesty that he finds Lord Hawkesbury would be peculiarly gratified if Your Majesty would be graciously pleased, to permit your

Intention of advancing him to an Earldom, to take place at this time. He has also just seen Lord Macartney. He is perfectly ready to accept the Situation proposed to Him at the Cape, but at the same time expresses a hope, in order not to lose his Precedence,

8169(2)

that your Majesty would have the goodness to confer on him the intended Peerage, before the Patents now depending are compleated. If your Majesty should think proper to consent to these requests, Mr Pitt takes the Liberty of hoping that your Majesty will have the Goodness to

Let your Pleasure be signified to the Duke of Portland, in which case they might if your Majesty approves it, kiss hands tomorrow. – Mr Pitt humbly presumes to suggest this Mode, as he is under the necessity of leaving Town, to be present at his Election tomorrow.

Downing Street.
May 24th 1796. 2 PM.

The Duke of Portland
25th May 1796

8170

The Duke of Portland received Your Majesty's Commands last night, & immediately signified Your Majesty's pleasure to Lord Macartney & Lord Malmesbury that they should attend to day to be presented to Your Majesty the first for a British Peerage, the latter for a British Earldom —

Burlington House
Wednesday 25th May 1796
20 m. p. 8. a m.

Ld. Spencer

May 26 1796

8171

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Lord Spencer
May 26. 1796

Earl Spencer thinks it his Duty to lay before your Majesty a private Letter he has this day received from Captain Nelson of the Agamemnon, relative to the Proceedings of the Squadron under his Command on the Genoese Coast, of

which no other Account has arrived at the Admiralty, and from the present state of Lombardy, it is probable none may arrive for some time to come. The accompanying Letter has also been received from Capt: Freemantle of the Inconstant.

Admiralty. 26 May, 1796.

Duke of Portland

Burlington House
29th May 1796.

8172

The Duke of Portland humbly begs leave to lay before Your Majesty the inclosed Letter which he received this afternoon from Sir John Ross — Should Your Majesty be graciously pleased to permit Sir John Ross to assume the Title, he now submits to Your Majesty's consideration, instead of Brandon, the Duke of Portland requests Your Majesty's pleasure may be signified to him respecting the insertion of the new Peerages in next Tuesdays Gazette — the Baldom to Lord Hawkesbury

Hawkesbury & the dignity of a Viscount to Lord Hood, as not
interfering in point of rank with any of the other Peerages
Your Majesty has condescended to bestow, were published in
the Gazette of last night, & the Duke of Portland anxiously hopes
that Your Majesty will not blame this presumption in taking
that step — as the Letter, Military, from the Lord Lieutenant
of Ireland arrived this afternoon. The Duke of Portland has
ventured to avail himself of the same conveyance to submit
it to Your Majesty.

Windsor Sunday Even: 29th May 1796 p 10½ p.m.