Henry Dundas

8173

Wimbledon 3d June 1796 ½ 3 P. M.

Mr Dundas has the Satisfaction humbly to transmit to your Majesty the Dispatches this morning received containing the accounts of the Conquest of the Island of St Lucia.

Mr Dundas takes the liberty likewise to mention to your Majesty that al

tho the official Dispatches
are not yet arrived Intel-
ligence perfectly to be de-
pended upon is arrived at
the India House such the
accounts of the Surrender
of Columbo which com-
pleats the conquest of
the Island of Ceylon.

The Return of Ammunition
ordnance and Stores are

Henry Dundas

8173(2)

kept back for the purpose of publication in the Gazette there not being time to copy it.

Mr Ellenborough
Nov 3d 1806

Lord Chatham

June 6. 1796

8174

Whitehall June 6th ½ p. 2. P.M

Lord Chatham has the honor of submitting to Your Majesty, that, if it is not trespassing upon Your Majesty, it would be desirable that the Order in Council for carrying the Act of Parliament into execution, should be made this evening, and in that case would beg to receive Your Majesty's Commands, at what hour Your Majesty would be pleased, that the Council should be held.

Admiralty. Bulletin
June 16. 1796

8175

Admiralty 16 June 1796.
20m past 12.

Lieutenant Probyn was superseded in the command of the Woolwich and joined Sir John Laforey at Antigua for his passage home.

Lt. Probyn left Martinique on the 22 May - an account had been received from St Lucia of an unsuccessful attack having been made on the night of the 17 on Morne Fortune under the command of Colonel Hay, the detachment consisted of about 800 men about one half of which number were killed and wounded - Sir Ralph Abercromby was then making preparations for a regular attack. Lieut. Colo Malcolm had been killed previously to the attack of the Morne in getting possession of another Post.

Duke of Portland

June 17 1796

8176

x

The Duke of Portland most humbly begs leave to lay before Your Majesty the inclosed Letters which he received this morning from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, to both which the Duke of Portland feels it incumbent upon him most earnestly to entreat Your Majesty's attention in order that Your Majesty may be apprised of the reasons which have induced the Lord Lieutenant & the Duke of Portland to presume to deviate in this instance from the rule which has been uniformly observed by them in

taking

taking Your Majesty's pleasure upon every request it has been their duty to submit to Your Majesty's consideration —

If Your Majesty shall be graciously pleased to confer the dignity of the Peerage upon Sir Joshua Vanneck & Mr Smith the Duke of Portland is informed by Mr Pitt that the title which Mr Smith would hope Your Majesty would permit him to assume is, that of Carrington; a title, which has been already enjoyed by a person of the name of Smith, & as Garter asserts, by no other

Duke of Portland

June 17 1796

8176 (2)

other family whatever. The Duke of Portland has not yet had an opportunity of learning Sir Joshua Vanneck's wishes in this respect, but he expects to be informed of them in the course of tomorrow, & will lay them immediately before Your Majesty —

Burlington House
Friday night 17th June 1796

Duke of Portland.

Burlington House
17th June 1796.

Duke of Portland

8177

18 June 1796

The Duchess of Portland humble begs leave to inform Your Majesty that he has acquainted Sir Joshua Vanneck with the honor Your Majesty was graciously disposed to confer upon him & that Sir Joshua who requested to be heard at Your Majesty's feet desired the Duke of Portland with all humility to intimate his wish to Your Majesty of assuming the title of Huntingfield —

Whitehall Saturday 18th June 1796
½ 15 p. 5. p. m.

Gen. Pasquale de Paoli June 21 1796

8178

Sire

Aprés l'accomplissement du plus cher de mes voeux, la liberté de ma Patrie assurée sous les heureux auspices du gouvernement de votre Majesté, avec une Constitution analogue à celle de vos autres Etats, Je n'aurois pas hesité un seul instant à venir vous preter le plus sincere hommage de ma loyauté et de ma reconnoissance, si la conduite de votre Representant aussi contraire aux bonnes intentions de votre Majesté, qu'à la plus saine politique, que le moment auroit dû lui dicter pour conserver la bonne volonté de vos nouveaux Sujets, et le peu de vigilance qu'il mettoit à assurer, autant la tranquillité interieure, que la securité exterieure du pays, ne m'eussent fait sentir le danger qu'il y avoit à l'abandonner en de pareilles circonstances.

C'est la, Sire, l'unique cause qui y m'y avoit retenu, en depit de mes desirs et de la petite jalousie que ma popularité auprés de mes Compatriotes avoit fait naitre, me persuadant d'ailleurs, qu'elle n'auroit pu nuire ni à vos interets, ni à mon credit personnel, que Je croyois à l'abri des atteintes de la plus noire calomnie, sur tout auprés de votre Majesté, à laquelle l'honneteté de mes principes etoit depuis long tems connue.

L'annonce du bon plaisir de votre Majesté, que Je recus par le canal de Mr North, et la menace dont il fut accompagné d'abandonner le pays en cas

cas de refus de ma part, et cela en replique aux inconveniens que Je lui representois devoir resulter de mon absence, et sans avoir une meilleure raison à me donner, hormis que celle de mon trop d'influence, incompatible avec la dignité du Vice Roy, ne me laisserent plus d'autre choix, que celui de me mettre immediatement en route.

Il faut pourtant que J'avoue à votre Majesté, qu'au moment de mon depart, Sir Gilbert dans les differentes conferences qu'il eut avec moi, me parut si penetré de son tort pour le passé, et si disposé à changer de conduite, qu'il ne me fut pas aisé de prevoir tout le danger que cette demarche auroit dû produire.

Cependant à peine J'arrive à Londres, que J'ai le chagrin d'apprendre que les affaires de Corse vont toujours en empirant; et par la froideur dont Je suis accueilli par le Ministre de votre Majesté, Je ne puis m'empecher de le soupconner très mal prevenu contre moi.

Cette froideur, Sire, m'ayant ôté tout espoir de rien obtenir par sa voye, l'interet que Je dois prendre à votre service et au bien etre de ma Patrie, m'oblige à le prier de m'obtenir la grace d'une audience de votre Majesté, laquelle m'ayant été accordée autre fois, Je me flattois d'autant plus de pouvoir l'obtenir maintenant à titre de Sujet, et membre de votre Parlement de Corse.

Je ne puis pourtant pas dissimuler à votre Majesté, que Je ne m'attendois pas qu'une demande que Je croyois si legitime, eut dû m'attirer

son

8178(2)

son indignation au point de me donner rendez vous chez lui pour m'y insulter, en me donnant pour toute reponse aux observations que Je lui faisois sur la necessité de changer de mesures à l'egard de la Corse, et d'un ton aussi peu convenable à son caractere public qu'au mien quoique privé, qu'il me connoissoit, et que le Ministere avoit bien des choses contre moi, et se couvrant ensuite de sa qualité pour se dispenser de les manifester, et de justifier ainsi par des faits l'injure dont il m'accabloit.

Quoique Je me flatte, Sire, que le temoignage d'une longue vie remplie de tant de troubles et difficultes, et pourtant sans reproche, doit suffire à me mettre à l'abri des calomnies obscures qui peuvent avoir seduit votre Ministre, et contre les quelles independemment de mon aveugle et prompte soumission à vos volontes, Je pourrois en appeller hautement à celui de tous vos Sujets Anglois qui ont servi, ou qui servent encore actuellement en Corse, sans en excepter celui de Sir Gilbert meme, que l'on peut deduire de toute sa correspondance avec moi jusqu'au dernier moment de mon depart; cependant Je ne puis point m'empecher de soumettre au sage autant que juste discernement de votre Majesté, si un Ministre est en droit d'inculper le moindre de vos Sujets, sans lui donner lieu de dementir les faux rapports sur

les quels

lesquels il a paru se croire fondé.

Cet ecclaircissement, Sire, ne me paroit pa moins juste, qu'il m'est necessaire dans le declin de mon age, pour ne pas laisser ma reputation à la merci des rapports secrets et calomnieux, sur tout lorsqu'on n'a pas difficulté de les avouer, et que l'on s'en sert pour s'authoriser non seulement à m'insulter, mais aussi pour poursuivre dans ma Patrie des mesures non moins perniciéuses à sa tranquillité et au systeme heureusement etabli, mais aux vrais interets e à l'honneur de votre Majesté.

C'est là, Sire, la grace que pour le presen I'ose demander à votre Majesté, en attendant toujours celle d'une audience pour l'informer de la situation reelle de votre nouveau royaum de Corse, non moins que de la loyauté jusqu'ic inebranlable de ses habitans en depit du mecontentement actuel occasioné uniquement par la faute du present systeme.

Daignez, Sire, recevoir avec l'humanite et la bonté qui vous caracterisent cette representation de celui qui est de Votre Majesté

le tres humble et fidele Sujet

Londres ce 21 Juin 1796.

Paoli

Gouvernt Corse
Juin 21. 1796

Lord Grenville
23rd June 1796

8179

Downing Street June 23. 1796.

Lord Grenville thinks himself obliged humbly to mention to Your Majesty that Count Zeppelin, having applied to see Lord Grenville, has been with him this morning and has requested that Lord Grenville would lay before Your Majesty his wish to be enabled to transmit to His Court

the

the answer from Your Majesty to the demand which he was commissioned to make. Lord Grenville hopes it is not necessary for him to assure Your Majesty that he would not presume to trouble Your Majesty on the subject, if he was not compelled to it by the pressing importunities of Count Zeppelin.

Duke of Portland

June 25 1796

8180

Windsor Sunday it appears that the extracts published in the Papers of this morning are literal translations of the French Papers, & that Your Majesty may probably have seen the French Papers themselves, the Duke of Portland presumes to flatter himself that Your Majesty will forgive ~~this~~ presumption in offering to Your Majesty the extract given by the French themselves of an Event which

must

Duke of Portland
25th June 1796

must be so interesting & which he trusts in its consequences may prove so satisfactory to your Majesty —

Bulstrode
Saturday, 25th June 1796
m.
10 p. 5. p. m.

106. Orrin
53.

Ld. Grenville

July 5 1796

8181

Cleveland Row July 5. 1796.
11. P.M.

Lord Grenville takes the liberty of humbly submitting to Your Majesty Count Zeppelin's desire to have his audience of leave tomorrow, if Your Majesty should be pleased to approve of it, and also his wish that he may permitted to pay his duty to Her Majesty at Windsor, as he is very anxious to return without delay. Lord Grenville thought it his duty under the circum-

-stances

-stances of Count Zeppelin's Mission not to decline laying this request before Your Majesty.

Post Scriptum.
Lord Granville to Queen Victoria
London 5 July 1870

Ld. Grenville

July 7 1796

8182

Cleveland Row July 7. 1796.

Lord Grenville humbly submits to Your Majesty that M. Lavezzari, and his successor Count Giacommazzi have this day been with him to request him to receive Your Majesty's commands as to the day when Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to honour them with audiences.

Lord Grenville.

Cleveland Row: 7th July 1796.

His Royal Highness
The Duke of York
Bath — 17th July 1796.

Bath July 17th 1796

8183

Sir

Being informed that the Death of Marshal Sir George Howard may be hourly expected, I beg leave before hand to lay before Your Majesty, the Sentiments to the Regiment and Government, which I trust an exactly draw up according to the orders which I received from Your Majesty, in order that they may be gazetted as soon as the certainty of Sir Georges death is known. I think it however my duty to acquaint Your Majesty that Sir William Fawcett who appears exceedingly happy at Your Majestys gracious intentions towards him, has hinted to One that the Government of Gravesend and Tilbury is worth near four Hundred

Lounds pt. Annum.

I find a daily improvement in my Health ever since I began to bathe and drink the Water here, which I did the day after my arrival, and I have no doubt that I shall be quite recovered by the time I leave this place, which I intend to do at latest on Wednesday or Thursday sennight.

I have the Honor to be

Sire

Your Majesty's

Most dutiful Son

and Subject

Frederick

Mr Pitt,

Hollwood — 18th July 1796.

8184

Mr Pitt humbly begs Leave to submit to Your Majesty that it has been intimated to Him that it would be a great Convenience to Mr Dempsport if Your Majesty should be pleased to permit him to kiss hands at the Levee on Wednesday, for his intended

Creation of Viscount; and as the Time which has intervened since the Creation of the other Peers is as long as was understood to be in Question at that Time

Mr Pitt flatters himself that Your Majesty may not see any Objection.

Hollwood.

Monday July 18th 1796. 9 PM.

Duke of ~~Grenville~~ Portland

8185

The Duke of Portland is desired by Lord Sydney humbly to request that Your Majestys pleasure may be signified respecting Venison from the New Forest, during Your Majestys Residence at Weymouth as Lord Sydney will not consider himself authorized to give any Warrants upon that Forest unless he receives Your Majestys permission to that effect.

The Duke of Portland humbly begs leave to lay at Your Majestys

Majesty's Feet a private Letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland expressing his grateful sense of Your Majesty's condescension & favor in granting the request he made to Your Majesty for an Earldom in favor of his Brother in Law the Viscount Castlereagh, & to offer to Your Majesty's consideration a Letter from Sir John Burdett & a memorial from Sir Charles Burdett of which a copy is inclosed. of Sir John Burdett's Letter no copy was sent; but the Duke of Portland inclines to hope that Your Majesty will have the goodness to acquiesce

Duke of ~~Grenville~~ Portland

8185 (2.)

Lieutenant of
Majesty's condescension

Majesty for
the Interest

consideration

mail from Sir
of Sir John
Duke of Portland
the goodness to
against

acquitted of any unbecoming indiscretion or want of attention in presenting it unopened to Your Majesty, in consideration of Sir John Shelbourne's well known loyalty & dutiful attachment to Your Majesty's Royal Person & Family —

Notice has been sent by the Board of Admiralty to Governor Forbes that the Frigate which is to carry him to the Bahama Islands is ready to sail, the Duke of Portland has presumed to advise his immediate departure for the Port at which the Vessel is lying, & to assure the Governor that Your Majesty would

Duke of Portland,

Burlington House
22: July 1796

would be more disposed to approve his endeavours to be no
more in getting to his Government than strict observance of
the Rules which prescribe his being introduced to Your
Majesty, & being permitted to kiss Your Majesty's hands previous
to his final embarkation —

Burlington House
Friday 22d July 1796
40 m p. 10. p. m.

Mr Dundas.

Wimbledon — 25th July 1796.

8186

Wimbledon 25th July 1796 ½ 10 A. M.

Mr Dundas has the satisfaction humbly to transmit to your Majesty the accounts this day received of the issue of operations of your Majesty's arms in the Leeward Islands during the present Campaign.

Lord Grenville.

Dropmore 25. July 1796.

8187

Dropmore July 25. 1796. 10. P.M.

Lord Grenville has the honour humbly to acquaint Your Majesty that Mr. King the new American Minister is arrived, and is to present the copy of his credentials tomorrow to Lord Grenville. And as Mr. Pinckney is very desirous to have his Audience of leave before Your Majesty goes

goes to Weymouth, because he proposes leaving England in September, Lord Grenville humbly requests Your Majesty's permission to appoint the two Audiences for Wednesday next if it would suit Your Majesty's convenience to have them on that day.

Encloss.
6
8189

8188

Downing Street
July 28. 1796.

Cabinet Meeting

Present

The Lord Chancellor
Lord President
Lord Privy Seal
Duke of Portland
Marquis Cornwallis
Earl Spencer
Earl of Liverpool
Mr. Pitt
Mr. Dundas
Mr. Windham
Lord Grenville.

Upon considering the present situation of affairs, as resulting from the late disasters on the Rhine, and from the apparent superiority of the Forces of the Enemy over those of His Majesty's Allies on the Continent, His Majesty's Servants have agreed humbly to submit it to His Majesty, as their unanimous opinion, that no Measure appears so likely

to

to afford a prospect of ter-
-minating the present War
without the greatest disad-
-vantage to the interests of
His Majesty's dominions, and
the utmost danger to all
Europe, as the endeavouring
to induce the King of Prussia
to propose to France reasonable
terms of Peace, and to enter
into engagements to act con-
-jointly with His Majesty and
His Allies, if such terms
should be rejected by the
French.

In order to induce the
King of Prussia to act in
this manner, His Majesty's
Servants are of opinion that
it will be indispensably ne-
-cessary that some considerable
acquisition should be held out
to Him, as the price of His
Cooperation, and as an inden-
-nity for the risk and expence
to which He may be subjected
by

by it. And they conceive that for this purpose such arrangements might be made at a General Pacification, as would induce the Court of Vienna to consent to His obtaining the Low Countries, in consideration of His consenting to an extension of the Austrian dominions in Germany. By which means Great Britain would still have the advantage of opposing to the progress of France in that quarter the intervention of a great Continental Power: an object which could in no other manner be attained, unless the events of the War had taken such a turn as to leave a hope of replacing the House of Austria in the possession of those Provinces.

In order to ascertain whether this plan can be made effectual, so as to obtain the assistance of the King of Prussia in the manner above-specified, His Majesty's

servants humbly recommend to His Majesty, that Mr. Hammond should be authorized to proceed to the Continent, with full Powers to treat with the Courts of Vienna & Berlin, (either separately, or in conjunction with His Majesty's Ministers at those Courts, if they shall be on the spot,) and to conclude eventual arrangements for the execution of all such measures as may become necessary on this occasion. And a draft of instructions to Mr. Hammond in conformity to these ideas having been laid before His Majesty's Servants, it has been agreed by them that it should be submitted to His Majesty with this Minute, as containing their humble opinion and advice upon the measures which appear to them indispensably necessary to be pursued, for the interests of His Majesty's Kingdoms, in this difficult and arduous Crisis.

Ld Grenville to H.M.

8189

Downing Street July 29. 1796.

8188

Lord Grenville has the honour most respectfully to submit to Your Majesty a Minute of the meeting of Your Majesty's Confidential Servants yesterday Evening, together with the Draft there referred to. If Your Majesty should be graciously pleased to approve of Mr. Hammonds journey

journey the Credential Letters, and full Powers may be submitted for Your Majesty's signature to-morrow Evening, and Mr. Hammond would be ready to set out on Monday or at farthest on Tuesday next.

Mr Pitt

Downing St. 29th July 1796.

8190

Downing Street.
July 29th 1796.

Mr Pitt humbly begs Leave to submit to Your Majesty, a Letter which he received yesterday from Lord Kenyon; conceiving that from the Opinion which he knows Your Majesty entertains of Lord Kenyon's Character and Conduct, Your Majesty might not be unwilling to have an

opportunity of conferring on him such a mark of favor as that which he solicits.

Mr Pitt at the same time takes the liberty of submitting, whether it would not furnish a better answer to any other application, if Lord Kenyon were to be appointed himself rather than his son.

H. M. to Rd. Grenville

8191

Windsor July 30th 1796

I have just received Lord Grenvilles Note accompanied by the Copy of the Minute of Cabinet of the Most serious kind ever deliberated upon, as it contains no less than the outlines for a Treaty of Peace, by which without the least explaining what sacrifices this Country is to make of its Conquests out of Europe for obtaining that object we offer that in Germany the Dominions of Princes may be given up for the advantage of Austria, and consequently rendering that power more dangerous to the various small Princes of which the German Empire is composed to tempt her to yield the Netherlands to Prussia what she has often said she looked upon as a Barrier not as advantageous possession. I am certain no one of My Ministers can be surprised that I feel great repugnance at the idea of giving up any Conquests made by this Country and still more when it is vaguely stated that the King of Prussia may suppose this goes to any extent to obtain the object of an immediate Peace

but unpleasant as that may be, that is a point that is for the consideration of this Country, and necessity may oblige one to submit but what right England has to give away the rights and interests of other Princes, who have either by England or Austria been brought forward into a business, their own inclinations did not covet, I can not either see a shadow of Justice, or the prudence of Interference, and whether the Violence of France or the encouragement of Britain effects this I must look on it as equally hard on the Individual and subversive of every idea that ought to actuate the Stronger to support not oppress the Weaker

If France looks on the Netherlands as a Barrier, she may on a peace yield these Provinces to Prussia and that Court may accept it, but should the King of Prussia be wise enough he might in return give the new acquired Margraviates of Anspach and Bareuth to Austria, provided for the County of Saya, which on the death of the present Margrave comes to me, I should be indemnified by getting the Bishopric of Hildesheim, whenever the present Pope poor Hell dies or resigns; these are reasonable exchanges which the necessity

H. M. to Hd. Grenville

8191(2)

weight authority; and if the two Margraviates do not in value equal the Netherlands, as the support of them would be less expensive that ought to be taken into the Calculation, but should that not do the King of Prussia might make up the difference by some addition from the Polish Acquisitions being given to Austria

I have here stated very roughly but with the frankness I think right on all occasions, ought to accompany the opinions of an honest Man, my sentiments; what I fear is that too general a language will raise the demands of both Austria and Prussia that therefore we ought to be explicit, as to the interests of the Smaller Princes and indeed of the Elector of Bavaria whose Situation is the more to be attended to as there is no power that has not sooner or later declared this and the interests of the Successor the Duke of Deux Ponts should be attended to. I certainly as well as this Country must lose forever all Character in Germany, if I could enter into such a Bargain; and in my more particular Situation as a Member of the German Empire, I certainly must at the Diet protest against so

unjust a measure

Lord Grenville must easily acknowledge that they have
seen two Negotiations of Peace, and on both occasions the Treaty
fell so far short of the first project, that such loose ideas as
as regards the foreign Possessions of this Country, and on any thing
such unjust as to the concerns of every one on the Continent
but the two great Powers of Austria and Prussia can not but
alarm me.

I desire Lord Grenville will shew this Letter to Mr. Pitt, that
the instruction for Mr. Hammond may be drawn up conformable
to this; I am certain it must be felt that I am going as far as possible
without giving up all Claim to that Uprightness, which I should
will ever attend my Conduct.

I should have mentioned the Prince of Orange, but I trust
every one feels his Dominions must be secured to his Family
and if not restored to his Situation in Holland that We are
bound out of the Advantages gained over the Dutch to grant
him for himself and his Successors an ample equivalent in
Money

Signed
George R

Ld. Grenville

July 30 1796

8192

Dropmore July 30. 1796.
10. P.M.

Lord Grenville has had the honour to receive Your Majesty's note of this date, which in humble obedience to Your Majesty's commands he has communicated to Mr. Pitt.

It is with the deepest concern that they have seen, that any part of the ideas which they have felt it their Duty, in common with the rest of Your Majesty's Servants, humbly to submit to Your Majesty as most conducive to the interests of Your Majesty's Kingdoms, has not met with Your Majesty's full approbation.

They beg leave humbly to submit to Your Majesty, that there appears no probability that Peace can be concluded with France without the sacrifice of some part of the Conquests made by Your Majesty's Arms out of Europe: and that the shewing a disposition to reasonable concession in that respect is necessary with a view to general concurrence at home in such Measures as may become indispensable for the further

prosecution

prosecution of the War. It had been felt by Your Majesty's Servants that any attempt to particularize those sacrifices in the present moment might commit Your Majesty too far in the first instance, without giving any security against the Enemy's urging higher Demands in the sequel of the negotiation.

The same consideration may perhaps afford a sufficient reason for abstaining, in the first overtures to the King of Prussia, from entering as much into particulars as had been proposed. But it appears to Mr. Pitt and Lord Grenville that whatever may be the steps of such a negotiation, the ultimate result must probably be the same.

They beg leave humbly to submit to Your Majesty their opinion that the manner in which the Netherlands shall be settled at the Peace, and particularly the keeping those Provinces, if possible, out of the possession or dependance of France, are so important for the interests of this Country, that they ought to form the primary objects of attention in any discussion respecting a Continental Peace. They now see little hope of obtaining this point either by negotiation or by force, without the intervention of the King of Prussia, in concert with Your Majesty, and the Emperor. And it is

not

July 30 1796

8192 (2)

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Peace. They
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end it is
not

not to be expected that such intervention can be procured without securing to that Sovereign a considerable acquisition of territory in the Netherlands, or in Germany.

In whatever way this acquisition is arranged, it seems almost certain that Austria can be reconciled to it no otherwise than by the accomplishment of the views which that Court entertains respecting Bavaria. It does not belong to Your Majesty's Servants to judge, especially in the first instance, to what degree, or in what manner, the Elector of Bavaria should be indemnified for this sacrifice. But it should seem that the restitution of the Palatinate, which has been lost in great measure by His want of Energy & Zeal in the common Cause, and which He never could recover but by the assistance of the more considerable Powers, ought reasonably to be taken into the account. It seems however to be probable that the means of indemnifying that Prince, and any other of the Princes or States of the Empire from whom any sacrifices might be required, would be found in measures similar to that which has naturally presented itself to Your Majesty's mind on the subject of Hildesheim.— Measures, by which the tranquility of Europe was restored at the Peace of Westphalia,

and

and the foundation laid of the present system of the Empire.

Mr. Pitt and Lord Grenville have submitted these points to Your Majesty, as affecting the interests of this Country, and as affording perhaps the only means by which France can be prevented from acquiring at the Peace a preponderance that may be fatal to Great Britain. But even if Your Majesty's Servants could so far overlook these considerations as to recommend it to Your Majesty to abstain from all intervention on this subject, it still appears highly improbable that the complicated interests which must come in question in the negotiation of a Continental Peace, can ultimately be settled in any other manner than by arrangements of the nature of those proposed in the Minute submitted to Your Majesty. It seems indeed certain that this could not be the case except in the single event of an unqualified submission on the part of all the Powers on the Continent, to any terms which France might dictate.

Mr. Pitt and Lord Grenville humbly submit these considerations to Your Majesty

as

as the result of the fullest and maturest deliberation on this important subject. If Your Majesty should condescend to require any further explanation upon them, they humbly hope to be honoured with Your Majesty's commands for attending Your Majesty, or for furnishing such explanation in any other manner that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased to direct: only begging Your Majesty's permission to add that the exigency of the present crisis appears to them to press in the most urgent manner for the adoption of measures calculated to give effect to the ideas above-stated.

Lord Grenville

Dropmore — 30. July 1796.

The Provost of Eton,

Eton Lodge — 30th July 1796.

to Hd. Walsingham

8194

The Provost of Eton presents his Comp.ts to Lord Walsingham; He wrote to a Gentleman, who was a frequent visitant at Park place, to enquire if he could explain the Epitaph — from whom the Provost received an answer today, of which the following is an extract

"with respect to the Epitaph, concerning which "you enquire, I can give you a decided answer. "It was intended for the purpose, which you mention. (he ~~Prog~~ told him his ~~my~~ suspicion of its being a picture) Namely to puzzle; L.d Sandwich many years ago "in a voyage up the Thames with Sr Jos. Banks "copied that very inscription & applied to me not "as a visitant of Park-place, but imagining as to "a Sybil for an explanation. I once thought I had "made sense of it, but the present Lord Orford "informed me, it was intended as nonsense."

Therefore the P. cannot help observing that ~~he~~ had his Lordship ~~or~~ been an Œdipus instead of a simple Provost & Lord, neither of them could have made sense of it —

Eton Lodge
July 30th 1796 —

Wm. Pitt

8195

Downing

Saturday Night. July 30th
1796

Mr Pitt will not presume to detain
your Majesty by entering into any Retrien-
ces on the Subject which occasioned your
Majesty's Note to Lord Grenville this
Morning. The infinite Importance of
the Points in the Question, and the urgency
of the Moment induced him to come

without loss of Time to dispatch, in order to converse again with Lord Grenville on the Subject; and as the Sentiments which are strongly and anxiously impressed on both their Minds are contained in the Paper which Lord Grenville now submits to Your Majesty, Mr Pitt has

Wm. Pitt

8195 (2)

only to express his earnest hope that ~~that~~ the Reasoning on which those Sentiments are founded may, at least as far as the Country is concerned, obviate the Objections which Your Majesty appears to have entertained to the Proposition suggested. It indeed appears to him to furnish almost the only Chance of

Mr. Pitt
Downing Street 30 July 1[illegible]

terminating the Contest on the Continent without an Accession of Power to France which must be considered as eventually injurious to this Country; and the necessity of the Case hardly appears to his Mind to admit of not trying the Experiment proposed.

Charles Downes
to
31. July 1796.

8196

My Lord

London July 31st 1796

I have just been Honor'd with your Lordships letter, and should be happy to return an answer agreeable to your Lordships wishes, I was in great hopes from the little walk my Lord took yesterday round the Bason in the Park, that it would have created an appetite for his Dinner - but I am sorry to say my Lord Eate nothing, at about half Past Ten o'clock his Lordship was seiz'd with a Sickness, but not with standing I have the Pleasure to say he Eate a half Pint Bason of sago for his Supper, which settled very well - and his Lordship has had a Pretty good night. but it is with great concern I Preceive my Lord get weaker —

the account Sir George Baker and Mr Gunning gives to Day, is much the same, has yesterday but if any Diffrence rather better. my Lord is just gone out in his coach and Propoges, on his return to take a walk round his Garden

I have the Honor to be my Lord your Lordships Most obed.t Humble Servant

Chas. Downes

half Past 3 o'clock -