

John Hoake

16032 - 3

Saturday. 19th August. 1775

Sir

My Lord Holdernesse yesterday morning informed me, that Your Majesty had no further occasion for my service, that I was required to leave the Princes' house on Monday morning, & that I was not to expect any reward, or mark of Your Majesty's favour.

I understand, from his Lordship, that the reasons of my dismissal are the bad state of my health, & my opposition to Mons.^r de Bude; that the reason of my being dismissed without the reward, which Your Majesty had once graciously intended to confer upon me, is my refusal to comply with his Lordship's desire, which was, that in speaking of the reason of my dismissal, I should rest the whole matter upon my health, & be silent concerning the opposition to Mons.^r de Bude.

Might I be permitted to approach Your Majesty, & state the facts, as they really happen'd, I am not without hopes of being able to convince Your Majesty, that this opposition to Mons.^r de Bude (which My Lord Holdernesse has so freely censured, notwithstanding his desire, that I should be silent concerning it) was, upon the whole, such, as deserved thanks rather than blame. It was, for the most part, exerted in the behalf of the Princes, meant to prevent such treatment, as appear'd to me both cruel & injudicious, & what I could not abstain from, without neglecting my duty, & throwing aside all regard for

John Hooke

16033

Their Royal Highnesses' health, peace & welfare.
And I can likewise assure Your Majesty with great truth
as I have already assured My Lord Alderborough, that, not-
withstanding I feel myself much injured, my motive for
wishing to be at liberty to mention both the reasons of my
dissatisfaction is not a desire to revenge myself by raising a
clamour against any person whatever, but merely to keep
clear of what, I think, is, at least, a very blameable
abuse of truth, & to avoid doing a violence to the sense of my
own mind, which would probably have made me wretched
thro' life.

May I beseech Your Majesty to consider
this motive with the candour & attention it deserves? At the
same time May I presume to solicit the honour of being
admitted to Your Majesty's presence, & allowed to speak
more fully to the several parts of this letter?

By granting this request Your Majesty will give me
what will always be the first object with every honest man,
an opportunity of vindicating my conduct. By having heard me,
as well as my accusers, Your Majesty will be enabled to form
an equal judgement of my desert. And the result, I trust
will be, that I shall not quit Your Majesty's service without
some share of that good opinion, which, I flattered myself,
I had once the honour & happiness to possess.

I am, with unfeigned respect,

Sir

Your Majesty's
very dutiful subject
& faithful servant

John Hooke

[Faint, illegible cursive handwriting covering the majority of the page]

Mr. Forster
August 19. 1775