

Sir Charles Thompson to the Duke of Bruce -

16072 - 3

Old Bond Street  
1<sup>st</sup> June 1776

My Dear Lord

To save your Lordship the trouble of a conversation you may not have time for I will submit to your consideration in this manner the result of what hath occur'd to me in consequence of your commands to point out to you the person I should think the fittest for the important situation of Sub Governor to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

I told you that in my opinion he must be in the first place a gentleman as well by birth as Education; that he must be possess'd of the sentiments of one, that is, of the strictest honour, of the most liberal and enlarged principles, of a solid understanding and sound judgment, but that of the two his heart should be better than his head; that he must be of no Faction or Party, belonging to no Man or set of Men - that he must enter upon this Office with the honourable view alone of doing his Duty and must be above the Idea of any other kind of recompense - He must agree in opinion with your Lordship not only as to your general plan but likewise in the mode of carrying it into execution and he must treat you and therefore be treated by you with the most unbounded confidence and Friendship - He must be, let me add, of polished elegant manners, a Man of good breeding and good temper, of a benevolent heart and conciliating disposition - He should be without pedantry a Man of Letters. He must above all be free from every species of Vice, and even from dissipation, and yet his mind should be a cheerful one. - His Character should

should be universally good; so good as that he should unquestionably stand high in the general opinion of Mankind. —

To find a Man possess'd of these Qualities, one must know them well, a common acquaintance is out of the question; so that ones view is of course confin'd within a very narrow Circle indeed; and after taking a most accurate one of my friends, I must, however vain and presumptuous it may appear, declare to Your Lordship my Eye remained fix'd in my own Family, I mean upon my Brother Lieut Colonel Hotham. —

Now My Lord I would have dyed a thousand deaths, rather than have nam'd Him of all Men living, If I did not religiously believe that both the King and Your Lordship will be firmly convinc'd, no consideration or fear on Earth could have led me to it, but the most conscientious assurance of His being in my judgment, the Man I know who comes the nearest to the picture I have drawn. —

No advantage to Him, to my self, or to any part of my Family could have induc'd me to have taken this step; I feel better than I can describe the delicacy of it — I feel the risk, the danger, in which I place him, and I feel the responsibility towards my Sovereign the Nation, His Royal Highness, and Your Lordship in which I place my self. I am not if I know my self sway'd by affection or partiality — My heart tells me I am actuated by the most affectionate attachment to the thing that any Man perhaps ever possess'd; that and that, alone it is that leads me to give Him this proof of it. —

My Object is that there should be a proper Man in that situation, and if Your Lordship shall tell me that you have found

Sir Charles Thompson to the Duke of Bruce

16073

tionably stand a proposer than my Brother, so far from its being a matter of concern, it will I protest be a matter of infinite satisfaction to me, for if I knew a fitter I would propose him, and if hereafter I should recollect one, I will. — In the mean time I satisfy my self with having done my duty. —

There remains only for me to say that upon my honour, he is totally ignorant of what I am writing, and that I am by no means sure his modesty and diffidence will allow him to engage in so momentous an undertaking. —

I have the honour to be with the utmost regard and

respect.

My Dear Lord

Your most faithful and most  
obedient humble Servant

Chas. Thomson

of my  
feel better  
the danger,  
my Sovereign  
face my self.  
ty — My heart  
rest to the  
alone it is

Max in  
have found

J. Co. Thompson  
No. 3. B. to L. B. B. B.  
Old Road Street  
1<sup>st</sup> June 1776.

1 June 76