

N^o. Livingston

1st May 1798

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Naples 3 May 1790

Sire

The Anxious Situation I have been in since my arrival at Naples, prevented my having the honor to address your Majesty till I had it in my power to say something positive about prince Augustus affairs. By my letter of the 6 and 8 March I had the honor to inform your Majesty that His Royal Highness enjoyed good health, which he does at present. It gave me pain to see a total separation of society, betwixt the prince, Count Munder, and his Father, which continued so till these Gentlemen left Naples 16 April. Their acquaintance here esteem them much, I found them sensible, and well informed, much attached to the honor and dignity of His Royal Highness; unfortunately the prince for a long time has been entirely directed by a set of very improper Society, whose interest it was, to keep up a division betwixt the prince and his attendants, and I am sorry to say they were entirely master of all his actions

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and have been the cause of the prince acting in public, and private in a very improper manner. Count Saurin having told me that your Majesty has been amply informed of every thing regarding the prince before my arrival: I shall only add I found great disorder in Her Royal Highness's affairs, within, and without doors, on serious representations, I got the prince, to give up the constant dinners, and suppers, with very bad society in his own apartment, where it was impossible and would have been very improper for me to be present. I wish I could inform your Majesty that there was a total reform, but there is no chance of that in this country.

The moment the prince's creditors heard of my arrival they became very pressing to be paid and went to attend to arrest his person, Their demands was of so serious a nature, that Sir William Hamilton was forced to authorize Mr Gibbs an English Merchant here, to call in a list of the prince's debts, and he as your Majesty's Minister engaged they should be all paid as soon as the proper arrangements could be taken in England as the debts don't exceed 6000 Pounds I am convinced your Majesty will approve Sir William's conduct: There was no alternative

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left; if Sir William had not become bound to see all the just debts paid, His Royal Highness must have remained here, and run a great risk of falling into the hands of an inveterate Enemy, that would have shown him in triumph from his to Paris. The dignity of the Crown and honor of the nation, also required that a prince of the blood Royal, should not leave this Country without satisfying his creditors. as soon as the peace leaves this, Sir William Hamilton will inform Mr Pitt, and send an exact list, of all the honorable debts he has engaged to pay. Considering the prince had 2000 a year for his pocket money, I cannot vindicate his having contracted debts, but when I reflect seriously on the number of years His Royal Highness has been in this immoral Country, where vice pleasures are not fashionable, it is not very surprising the prince followed the bad example he had constantly before him. To prevent the like conduct in future I take the liberty to give my opinion, that your Majesty may be pleased to write the prince in very strong terms concerning the propriety of Contracting Debts, and of the absolute necessity of not Contracting any more debts, and that he will incur your Royal displeasure if he does

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not conform his expenses exactly to the allowance you may be pleas'd
to order for his Household and his pocket money, and I beg your
Majesty may be graciously pleas'd to order very exact Instructions
be sent me wth Sir Grotendons, Vienna, on that Subject.
If I am not mistaken the prince is of an indolent and easy temp^r
not nice in his Society and an easy prey to designing men
nothing can prove it so clearly as pensions he has given
to people that never should have been admitted in to his
presence. all these deplorable affairs must end on our quiers
Naples. I hope your Majesty may not think it unreasonable
that I wish for the assistance of a rather Gentleman, to attend
the prince. My health has suffer'd by the long winter Journey,
should I be laid up with the gout, the prince would be without
a single attendant, I wish that Gentleman to be near the
prince our age, of honorable Sentiments, and gentle behav^r.
Doctor Dombey remains with His Royal highness, he is a very
honest man, and able physician, and much attached to the
prince. Count Münster carry'd four servants with him, as
the prince leaves his coach here, His Household is almost
dissolv'd at present. Count Münster told before he left

This the six horses belonging to your Majesty. The prince
 also to the horses that he had purchased himself, There was no
 possibility of sending them to Germany. Neither is it possible for
 me at present to propose any reasonable plan to your Majesty
 for the prince's future residence. I have not yet been admitted
 into the prince's society of advisers. His pretended friends have
 treated me at as great a distance as possible. I have no doubt
 they do all they can to make the prince believe, that he is
 of an age to have the nomination of his attendants; Her Royal
 Highness has always been civil, and altho he does not
 exactly follow the advice I have taken the liberty to offer, he
 allows I could not have acted otherways than I have done
 since I had the honor to attend him. I have also reason
 to believe some of the prince's correspondants at home
 have attempted to give him an unfavorable opinion of me,
 I know from undoubted authority they have put the prince
 on his guard not to trust me in any thing concerns them;
 as my conduct shall on every occasion tend to Her Royal
 Highness's honor and Interest, I have no doubt when the
 prince is better acquainted with me, that he will do me

The Justice I deserve

Sir William Hamelton on every occasion has shewn the most respectful friendship to the Prince, Count Munster told me Sir William had put him self to very great expence, by the Balls, and entertainments, he had give to His Royal Highness, to this Court, and Nobility, on the Princes arrival, Birth days &c

I will have the honor to inform your Majesty as soon as the Prince gets on shore; for political reasons, it is probable he may be landed in Dalmatia, or Istria.

I have the honor to be with the most profound respect

Sire

Your Majesty most dutiful
and faithful Subject

J Livingstone