

19115 - 23

Henry Cavendish

London

Dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge

the receipt of your letter of the 10th

inst.

and in reply to inform you

that the same has been forwarded

to the proper authorities for their consideration

I am,

Dear Sir, your obedient servant

John Bull

Secretary to the Admiralty

Whitehall

10th Dec 1784

Yours truly

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Secretary to the Admiralty

Whitehall

10th Dec 1784

EnclosureHouse of Commons

Committee appointed to Examine

His Majesty's Physicians

Lunce 13^o die Januarii 1812

The Right Honourable Charles Long

in the Chair

Copy from Mr. Gurneys

Short hand notes

Dr. Sir Henry Hallford Bart called in and
examined

Is the state of His
Majesty's health such as to render him
incapable of coming in person to His
Parliament and of attending to any
kind of public business

It is such as to render
him incapable of coming to His Par-
liament or of attending to any kind
of public business

What is the present state
of His Majesty's bodily health

Not good by any means

What

What is the present
state of His Majesty's mental health

Extremely disordered

Adverting to the state
of His Majesty's bodily and mental
health since your last examination
before a Committee of the House
of Commons are you now of opin-
ion that His Majesty's recovery is
probable or improbable

Improbable

In what degree do you
consider it as improbable

Very improbable

Are you of opinion that

His Majesty's recovery is hopeless

No

On what do you found
the opinion that His Majesty's
recovery is not hopeless though
very improbable

It is very improbable
from the character of His present

(2)

symptoms

19116

symptoms from the duration of the
disorder and from His Majesty's advanced
period of life but above^{all} from the in-
fluence of His Majesty's peculiar sit-
uation and circumstances upon His
irritable constitution but His Majesty's
faculties of perception and memory
are not impaired

When did you first form
an opinion that the recovery of His
Majesty was very improbable

At the beginning of July last
I thought it improbable and the continuance
of His symptoms since that time has
made it very improbable in my
opinion

Do you expect that His
Majesty will recover

I do not expect that he will
recover

Is His Majesty in a state
to converse upon public affairs

Certainly not

(3)

Yes

Has there been any
period since your last examination
when His Majesty's life has appeared
to be in immediate danger

No

Is there any such danger
existing now

I think there was not
when I left Windsor on Saturday
but I have reason to think that
within the last four and twenty hours
the King has not been so well

Had any fresh accession
of disorder taken place before you left
Windsor on Saturday or had you
reason to apprehend that any was
coming on

His Majesty was under
circumstances to make one rather
expect that such was coming ^{than} on ^{that}
it had established itself

Could you ascribe the
aggravation of the symptoms that
was

(4)

19117

was coming on to any particular cause

No

Is His Majesty's bodily health
more impaired now than it was six months
ago

I do not think it is

Is His Majesty in a worse
state of bodily health than he was when
you were last examined

No

Have you observed any signs
of amendment in His Majesty since the
beginning of December

There have been several
occasions on which the violence of His
Majesty's disorder appeared to be so far
abated and his mind seemed so far cleared
up as to admit of his detailing anecdotes
of past times accurately but not to exercise
a sound judgment on present circumstances

Since the beginning of Decem-
ber has His Majesty shown generally more
disposition to conversation

His

(5)

His Majesty has frequently shewn himself rather more capable of conversation

Has His Majesty in any of those conversations to which you have referred adverted to the circumstances of His own situation

Yes by watching the turn of His Majesty's thought and the remarkable energy of his expressions it is obvious that His mind has been deeply stricken by the supersession of His authority - I think it is important to state this because it has a greater weight in determining the opinion which I have given as to the great improbability of His Majesty's recovery than the particular symptoms of His complaint

The Wharfs withdrawn

D.

6

19118

Dr John Willis was called in and examined

Is the state of His Majesty's health such as to render him incapable of coming in person to His Parliament and of attending to any kind of public business

His Majesty is incapable of doing either

What is the present state of His Majesty's bodily health

His Majesty's bodily health I have thought somewhat improved since I saw His Majesty first which was the 9th of October but not within the last week

What is the present state of His Majesty's mental health

There is a very great degree of derangement and particularly bordering on insanity having very much the symptoms of insanity at the same time rather unusually and occasionally with the delirious character

Adverting to the state of His

7

His

His Majesty's mental and bodily health during his present indisposition as far as it has come under your observation are you of opinion that His Majesty's recovery is probable or improbable

^{that it is improbable.}
In what degree do you consider His Majesty's recovery as improbable
Very improbable

Are you of opinion that His Majesty's recovery is hopeless

No certainly not hopeless

On what do you found your opinion that His Majesty's recovery is not hopeless

I think it has not arrived at that fixed point at which cases generally are hopeless it has not so decidedly that fixed character of insanity to render it hopeless

Do you expect that His Majesty will recover

No I do not expect that His Majesty will recover

When did you leave Windsor

(8) This

This morning
What was His Majesty's state at the time you left Windsor

A very indifferent state
Is it worse than it was last week

Yes I think it is certainly worse than it was last week

Has there been any aggravation of symptoms within the last three days

I think there has they have bordered more on the symptoms of delirium perhaps not to a greater degree than I have seen since the 9th of October. but as compared with ten days or a fortnight before there was then a better appearance from the 9th of October to the 23^d of November I saw His Majesty only three days

How often do you visit His Majesty now

I have been resident at Windsor ever since the 18th of November with the interval of the last week I returned on

(9) Satur-

Saturday

There appears in the Report presented to the House of Commons from Her Majesty's Council to have been a correction of an opinion given by one of the Physicians in his first examination were you the Physician who so corrected your opinion

I was

were there any grounds upon which you could form a different opinion from that which you gave in your first examination before the second took place

I do not know with regard to my own feelings that I found a different opinion but I found that I had not used a word with its proper import being perhaps in the habit of using the word despair in a more light manner than I ought to have been. I did not mean that I did despair totally one is
perhaps

10

19120

perhaps apt when speaking to the friends of a person who ask whether they shall remain longer or not or whether you despair to say I conceive a person may recover but I cannot be without despair or I cannot help despairing but on hearing read the words I had used "I cannot help despairing" with an emphasis laid on them I was struck with them as conveying a meaning much stronger than I intended I had not been in the habit of attending the Queen's Council

Did you mean more by saying you despaired of the recovery than that you did not expect a recovery

No I did not

You attended the King on former illnesses

Yes

Is His mental state worse now than occurred at any time during those previous illnesses when you saw His Majesty

11

very considerably worse than I had seen His Majesty before
You stated that you were called in on the 9th of October has your attendance upon His Majesty been pretty constant since that time

From the 9th of October I saw The King only to the 12th of October and was called in again on the 18th of November since which I have attended His Majesty regularly

Since your attendance became pretty constant have you ever witnessed anything approaching to a lucid interval in His Majesty's case

I have seen several times in which The King could hold conversation extremely well for a short time but His Majesty was always liable to the disorder pressing upon the mind again at any moment. The King has held certainly good conversations

Do those conversations appear

12

19121

appear to you to be of a favorable tendency certainly one cannot help having a hope from hearing those conversations but it requires to get to a further advanced point to be able to say that it is really an amendment it is often what takes place when derangement is gradually ceasing

Then the derangement of The King's mind is not such as to leave you without hope at any moment

It had yesterday more of a feverish tendency it was more difficult to interrupt The King from the influence of disorder on His mind but there is generally a capacity in The King to answer any sort of questions

Since your attendance upon His Majesty has there in your judgment been any appearance of progressive improvement

I can hardly so well call it progressive improvement as occasional. There were many days on which there was a great degree of quiet that has taken place at different

13

times

times since the 23^d of November

In your opinion upon
the improbability of His Majesty's
recovery as strong now as it was on
the 9th of October

It is

Do you consider His
Majesty's disorder in general nearest
alied to delirium or insanity

For the most part during
the greatest part of the time I have
seen His Majesty in His present indis-
position it has been nearest alied to
insanity

The witness withdrew

Dr Robert Darling Willis was called in and
examined

Is the state of His
Majesty's health such as to render him
incapable of coming in person to His
Parliament and of attending to any
kind of public business

His Majesty's state is
not

114

not such as to enable him to come to
His Parliament or to attend to any kind
of public business

What is the present state of
His Majesty's bodily health

The present state of His Ma-
jesty's bodily health is by no means good
though it may be considered generally
speaking better than under the circumstances
of the want of air and exercise might have
been expected - This morning His Majesty is
in an extremely agitated and nervous state
which has been increasing for some days past

What is the present state of
His Majesty's mental health

The state of His Majesty's
health is worse at present than it has been
at any time since His attack

Adverting to the state of
His Majesty's mental health since your
last examination before a Committee of
The House of Commons are you now of
opinion that His Majesty's recovery is probable
or improbable

15

Extremely improbable
Are you of opinion that
His Majesty's recovery is hopeless

I do not think it impossible
but I really hardly know how to apply
the word hopeless in a medical sense
it is only applicable to a state some-
where between extreme improbability
and impossibility but that is a state
which is so extremely difficult to
ascertain and in the greater number
of instances will be so transient that
I hardly know how to apply the word
I do not think it impossible but it is
in my opinion all but impossible.

When did you first form
your opinion that His Majesty's re-
covery was extremely improbable

I began to have a very
indifferent opinion of His Majesty's state
soon after the beginning of the paroxysm
in July and as the symptoms have never
given way in any respect my hopes

16

have

19123

have continually decreased

Is there anything peculiar
in the aggravated symptoms which have
shewn themselves within the last three days

Nothing peculiar nothing
that we have not seen in several aggra-
vated states before

Are the symptoms themselves
now aggravated than they have been at
any previous time

No I have seen His Majesty
in the same state several times

Are the symptoms which
have appeared within the last three days
such as to endanger His Majesty's life

In any other individual I
think they would but I have so repeatedly
seen the King in the same state and have
seen them give way afterwards that I can
perhaps hardly say that I consider His
Majesty's life in danger from those symptoms

Referring to the answer given
to the third question respecting the state of

His

17

His Majesty's mental health did you
mean to convey to the Committee
that His mental health is now worse
than it was after the paroxysm came
on in July

I think it is

Do you mean to confine
your answer to that question merely
to appearances within the last three
days

No nothing particular
has taken place within the last few
days to increase the mental symptoms
The mental symptoms have regularly
increased since July they have never
diminished

Has there been any
abatement of the symptoms at times
since the beginning of December

No abatement of the
essential symptoms of the complaint

The witness withdrew.

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