

February 15. 1842.

Droghmore MSS

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Sir

We beg leave most humbly to express to your Royal Highness our grateful acknowledgments for the gracious and condescending manner in which you have had the goodness to communicate to us the Letter of His Royal Highness The Prince Regent on the subject of the arrangements to be now made for the future administration of the Public Affairs. And we take the liberty of awaiting ourselves of your gracious permission to address to your Royal Highness in this form what has occurred to us in consequence of that communication.

The Prince Regent after expressing to your Royal Highness in that Letter His sentiments on various Public matters has in the concluding paragraph undertaken to intimate his wish that some of those persons with whom the early habits of his public life were formed should strengthen His Royal Highness's hands and constitute a part of His Government, and His Royal Highness is pleased to add that with such support, ^{aided} ~~supported~~ by a vigorous and united administration formed on the most liberal basis He would look with additional confidence to a prosperous issue of the most arduous contest in which Great Britain was now engaged. —

In the other parts of His Royal Highness's Letter

we do not presume to offer any observations. But in the concluding paragraph in so far as we may venture to suppose ourselves included in the gracious wish it expresses, We owe it in obedience and duty to His Royal Highness to explain ourselves with frankness and sincerity.

We beg leave most earnestly to assure His Royal Highness that no sacrifice except those of Honour and Duty could appear to us too great to be made for the purpose of healing the Divisions of our Country, and of uniting both its Government and its People.

All fears and exclusions we entirely disclaim. We rest on Public measures; and it is on this ground alone, that we must express without reserve the inflexibility of our unity with the present Government. Our differences of opinion are too many and too important to admit of such an union. His Royal Highness will, we are confident, be as just as to remember that we have twice already acted on this impression; in 1804 on the proposition then made to us under His Majesty's authority; and last year, when His Royal Highness was graciously pleased to require our advice respecting the formation of a new Government. The reasons, which we then humbly submitted to him, are strengthened by the increasing dangers of the times. Nor has there hitherto this moment appeared even any approximation towards such an agreement of opinion on Public interests, as can alone form a basis for the honourable union of Parties previously opposed to each other.

In the detail

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In the detail of these Differences we are unwilling to enter; they embrace almost all the leading features of the present Policy of the Empire; but His Royal Highness has himself been pleased to advert to the late deliberation of Parliament on the affairs of Ireland.

This is a subject whose other most important in itself and connected with the most pressing dangers. The views concerning in the sentiments which His Majesty's Ministers have on that occasion so recently expressed we entertain opinions directly opposite. We are firmly persuaded of the necessity of a total change in the present system of Government in that Country, and of the immediate repeal of the Civil Disabilities under which so large a portion of His Majesty's Subjects still labour on account of their Religious opinions. To recommend to Parliament this Repeal is the first advice which it would be our duty to offer to His Royal Highness, nor could we ever for the shortest time make ourselves responsible for any further delay in the proposal of a measure without which we could entertain no hope of rendering our Services useful to His Royal Highness or to our Country.

We have only therefore farther to beg your Royal Highness to lay before the Prince Regent the expressions of our humble Duty and the sincere and respectful assurances of our earnest wishes for whatever may best promote

Assemble

promote her ease, honour, and advantage of His Royal
Highness's Government and the success of his endeavours
for the Public Welfare:

We have the Honour to be Sir

(Signed) Grey
Granville

On the representation of
The Right Honourable
Thomas

July 15th 1712.

Duke of York
Granville to the
Duke of York

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To His Royal Highness
The Duke of York