

6hd. Moura
A.A. No. 8.

Tho. Hammeley
17. July 1812.

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Ball Mall 17 Feb. 1812

My Lord

very confidential

If I were not to avail myself of the opening you have been pleased to give me, after the explanation you have kindly received, and of the confirmation of it by my worthy relative Mr Ward, to speak to you with confidence & freedom respecting myself, I should be undeserving of the favour bestowed upon me. Your Lordship's magnanimity in permitting your ancient good will towards me to prevail over an occurrence, which I am sensible must have deeply wounded your feelings, and which, I beg to repeat was no less hurtful to my own, was a favour rooted in my heart.

From a few words which dropped from me, at the end of a conversation you permitted me to hold with you, as well

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as from what I understand Mr Ward
said to you, your Lordship will not
be entirely unprepared for the object
of this letter. —

I have been upwards of Forty years
a Banker, and am not conscious that I
have done any thing, which would sully
the character of a person in that con-
fidential line of business — Early in
my career, I became connected with
a branch of the Royal Family who honored
me with his friendship for a course of many
years, and which ended only in his death;
and my attachment to him was such
as to induce me to write him a letter,
the answer to which, now in my possession,
was, I believe, his very last writing. —

About six & twenty years ago, the
late Lord Lake, first made me known to
the Prince of Wales, which introduction
was most graciously improved by Mr. H.
Lisle, the Duke of Cumberland, which in a
very short time procured me the honor
of being upon such confidential terms

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with the Prince, as to raise my hopes
that the whole world was successfully
before me — A happy & flattering in-
tercourse subsisted for several years,
during which time I received many
marks of favour & confidence, and was
entrusted with the arrangement of some
not trifling matters — I do not include
the loans which were attempted, for
the explanation of several what came
to my knowledge, would require long
& ample detail — The manner in which
Mr. R. H. ^{appointed me his} Banker, I believe was an
occurrence as uncommon as it was
flattering to me. —

Towards the end of my partne-
ship with Lord Mordaunt & Mr. Mordaunt,
& which as your Lordship knows, from
the part you kindly took in my favour,
finished not amicably, the Prince had
cause of displeasure with Lord Mordaunt
and withdrew his business: this was

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extremely mortifying to me not only
from the loss of H. R. H.'s business
but from the circumstance of H.
R. H. having condescended, at my
request some years before, to give
Lord Kiinnaird his Proxy & Interest
at an election for Scotch Peers.

Notwithstanding this separation
in business, H. R. H. permitted me
to have personal intercourse with
him, & some few personal transactions
afterwards took place — Even
the day before H. R. H.'s marriage
I received a message with an assu-
rance of His regard for me. —

Some little time after this,
I must confess I fell into a great
error, which I sincerely deplored, but
which, though under the mortification
of a deservedly sharp reproof from
H. R. H. served only to confirm

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me in the hope that I still retained a place in H. R. H. favour. — The case was this — When H. R. H. removed his account from Court's, (whether he had retaken it after he withdrew it from us,) to Drummonds, I presumed to write him a letter, expressive of my unhappiness, upon which H. R. H. immediately sent for me, & told me how extremely wrong I had acted; but still, after this rebuke, with his wonted graciousness, he did not send me cheerfully away, but added "you ought to have known me better, Hammerley, I could not come to you" and gave me to understand that it was at the H. —'s desire he removed his account from Court's, to Drummonds. —

H. R. H. however did open an

account with us, & upon which there is a small balance remaining at this time; and there are besides some of the small matters of the Penier's expenditure which still pass thro' our hands. — For many years however, nothing has occurred, but my unceasing love & devotion to H. R. H. Person; for so deep was the impresson made upon me, still a young man when introduced to him, that no time nor circumstance can efface. —

Now, my Lord, I beg you will believe, that I do not in any way presume upon what I have related to you — I mean only to put you in possession of my situation & feelings. — if they should be sufficient to incline you to act upon ^{them}, I know it

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will be in my favour; if not, or any circumstances which I cannot know, prevent ^{my} Lordship from even thinking upon my situation, I shall know that it does not arise from the want of good will, & that the communication will be safe in your own breast.

This then, my dear Lord, is my situation. —

From the fortunes of the partners in my house, & the prudence of the managers of it, there is ample security for all the Customers of it — So, I can say, of both my former connections, that no person, who ~~was~~ entrusted his money with me, was ever in danger of losing one shilling. —

I had a gentleman's education, but a small fortune, which, though not diminished, is not increased as might have been expected from any public course of 40 years. — I have had

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a family of 16 Children — I trust I
have never fallen into any vicious
courses; and I never had a gambling
transaction in any life, in the stocks,
or otherwise; but I never had what
is called, a stroke of good fortune.

— I have been pulled to pieces in
two fabrics, that I had ^{raised} and in
my present house I have had to
contend with great & constantly per-
plexing opposition. The times
also have been such as greatly to
shake confidence in all Bankers,
hardly excepting half a dozen of the
oldest houses; since I have been a
Banker, the number of Banking houses
~~is~~ more than doubled, to of nearly 500
individuals who compose all body
I am the oldest Banker excepting
3 persons.

I am, my Lord, rapidly advancing
towards the age of fourscore, my health is
not so good as could be wished, and

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although I am not incapable of exertion, I cannot encounter difficulties and vanquish them, with the same courage and vigour I have done on many occasions in my life.

I now come, My Lord, to the important part of the disclosure of my situation — Some further change is become necessary in the firm of my house — Family concerns in one ^{part}, & public considerations in another, induce me to think that a change is necessary — I have already mentioned to V. Lordship that my own fortune is not sufficient for the support of the fabric, I have reared for the benefit of my family, & my customers must not remain an instant without seeing that stability which must place them perfectly at ease; I must therefore admit into my partnership some person or persons of known property & prudence. — Had I not sustained considerable losses, not I trust from improper pro-

cedings on my part, but from those calamities which often happen and without reproach, I might have had a sufficient fortune to have kept the whole business in my own family; — the chief of which, arises from my connection with a person, & in consequence of his misfortune, who stands deservedly high in the Prince's favour and confidence. As this is a sacrifice which cannot be avoided, the higher ground I can place myself upon, in the eyes of such new connections, the better terms, therefore, I shall be able to make for my own family.

I now come My Lord lastly to express my wishes, at this most important crisis of my advanced life; they naturally lead to the restoration to the confidential situation I once held of being H. R. H.'s Banker, and that he would be pleased to transfer

19264 his condescending friendship to me, to my two sons, Hugh & George, who will be my successors; my second son Charles, is already in possession of a portion of H. R. H.'s favour, by being in partnership with his uncle Grandson this friend & cotemporary, Henry Fox —

But, My Lord, I am neither so arrogant as to suppose that I deserve this restoration, nor so unreasonable as to think that, during a lapse of 14 or 15 years, there may not have arisen persons better entitled to H. R. H.'s favour; as to that object, I am perfectly & cheerfully submissive to whatever may be H. R. H.'s good pleasure.

I am sincerely grateful for the road you have opened to me, ^{to an object} which may lead to some advantage to me, upon another important event taking place, for which, if the occasion presented itself, I could officially apply; for there has always

been some money on H. R. H. account, and consequently I have never ceased to be, though partially H. R. H. Banker-ally wishes, therefore, ^{and} that H. R. H. would be graciously pleased to re-animate this account in any small way he may think proper. The very circumstance of reviving H. R. H. name in our books, this Treasurer sending for his book of Account would lift me up in the eyes of my partners, my clerks, seeing this circumstance, would do just ^{any} consequence in my own profession - This I hope is not an impracticable wish, nor the further desire that some little mark of notice might pass, that I was not altogether discarded from H. R. H. recollection - All ideas of ambition or personal advancement have long since subsided, which would now be no gratification to me, as I wish to pass ^{quietly} the remainder of my life; still, as long as that life lasts, I shall preserve the gratifying feeling of attachment, my great reward would be that he was pleased with it. — At this important crisis, it

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would be highly unreasonable in me to suppose that your Lordship can attend to any concern of mine; but as it is the moment when your Lordship should know my exact sentiments, I hope you will pardon the trouble of reading the letter, which may occupy less of your Lordship's time than granting me a personal interview — I am with the
greatest respect My Lord

Your Lordship's
faithful & obliged servant
Thos. Hamnerley

The Earl of Drogheda
his brother

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