

Ed. Parliaphou bH. R. H.

Feb. 21 1812

A. A. No. 13

19289 - 90

Sir.

Presumptuous as it may appear in Me to address Your Royal Highness, I shall venture to rely upon Your well known Goodness so often experienced by Myself to forgive this Intrusion & as I am by this means discharging a bounden Duty that I owe to Your Royal Highness I entertain a more confident Hope of receiving your Pardon.

As The Restrictions upon The Exercise of The Royal Authority by Your Royal Highness have now ceased, from which You are enabled to form such an Administration as you conceive to be best calculated for

hd Parliament to H.R.H.

Feb. 21 1812

A.A. No. 13

19290

conducting The Affairs of The Empire at this great & eventful Epoch of our History, the present Period of Parliament must be consider'd as The commencement of your Royal Highness's Reign.

Before I allow myself to give any Vote in Parliament or to recommend any Line of Conduct for my Friends to pursue, I must consider it my indispensable Duty to communicate most humbly & respectfully to your Royal Highness such Ideas as I conceive ought to govern my political Conduct, least it might appear to be a Want of Respect & Duty or of Gratitude for the many signal Marks of Favor with which I have been honor'd for a long Series of Years, or least there might appear any

Inconsistency in my parliamentary Conduct.

It has long been my Glory & Pride to be consider'd as an attached Friend to your Royal Highness in my publick as well as private Life, & in both I have never scrupled to avow that my Obligations were such from an early Period as to bind me to support your political Opinions & more especially your Individual Interest whenever it was concern'd, in order to do which I have never ceased to endeavour to increase my parliamentary Influence at considerable Expence & formerly at some personal Inconvenience, in which I felt myself most amply repaid by the Satisfaction I experienced of evincing in that Manner my Sense of Gratitude

with the dutifull Recollection of your
Royal Highness's unmerited Favours bestow'd
upon me. — It has also been a Matter
of much heartfelt Gratification, that the
very last time that I was honor'd with a
private Audience of your Royal Highness,
you still continued to repose that Confidence
in me, as to inform me & shew me a List
of those whom you consider'd your private
Friends in Parliament, attached to
yourself, independent of those great
Political Characters who might be expected
to fill the first Offices of the State,
in which List, most flattering to my Feelings,
I had the Honor of being included. —

It is now necessary, Sir, to come
to the most distressing & painfull Part of

my Duty.

Both Publick & Private Reports agree in stating that Mr. Percival & the principal Members of His Administration will continue to enjoy Your Royal Highness's Confidence & that You have allow'd Him to use His Discretion in strengthening the Hands of Government.

If such a Report is correct I must bow with Submission to Your Royal Highness's Choice of Servants & to Your enlighten'd & superior Judgment; but from having oppos'd in most Instances those Measures, which The Administration I have alluded to have for some Years thought proper to adopt, & condemning as I must conscientiously

do, the avowed Determination of Mr. Perceval
& His Friends, to persist in those Principles,
which I conceive to be most injurious to
the dearest Interests of The Country &
equally liable to Censure & as repugnant
to my own Feelings as those Measures
adopted by the same Men, who deprived
Your Royal Highness of Your Constitutional
Right, & who proposed & carried The
Restrictions, I can not with that Consistency
so necessary for my own Honor & Credit, support
such Ministers, & abandon those Opinions
that I have long formed & some political
Characters whom I have long respected
& supported, in which I had the great

19292

A.A.

Happiness to believe that I was acting in
strict Unison with Your Royal Highness's Wishes.

Thus circumstanced I feel peculiar
& distressing Difficulty, & shall suspend
my trifling parliamentary Support to any
Party, until I know whether it is Your Royal
Highness's fixed Determination that the same
Men with a trifling Variation are to be continued
to rule the Affairs of The State, & to
persevere in the same System of Conduct.

If Your Royal Highness should
condescend to advise this humble & respectful
Address, & should intimate any Wish for
me to explain more particularly any Part
of my Conduct or The Motives which have

acted me to presume to take this
great Liberty of humbly addressing
You, I shall most readily & dutifully
obey Your Commands.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

with the most profound Respect
your Royal Highness's
most dutiful & obliged
humble Servant

Darlington

Raby Castle
Feb^y 22^d 1812

Lord Darlington
Feb 21. 1812.