Pce of Hales to Grand Lodge of Freemasons
? 1790, on death of D. of Cumberland.

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Brethren All,

I return you my thanks for drinking my health. I take this as the earliest opportunity in my power of expressing the pleasure & experience at the proof of yr. regard to yr. Ye here testified towards me in the unanimous election you made of me as yr. Grand Master, ~~at the same time~~ I can not but express the deepest regret at the event occasioned ~~not~~ by placed ~~me~~ wh. ~~[illegible]~~ in the office wh. I now fill, & wh. affords me pure peculiar satisfaction. I need not recall ~~yr. minds~~ to yr. recollection the merits & the virtues ~~of yr. late Worthy Grand Master~~, as I am certain there is not one of us ~~to be sure~~ in whose mind they ~~recollection his merits~~ are not still fresh, nor one of us in whose hearts the highest respect for his ability for his character ~~[illegible]~~ will not ~~continue~~ to live. ~~[illegible]~~ Any further ~~[illegible]~~ ed. drop from my lips respecting him I am certain wd. be perfectly useless; I will therefore

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now

withdraw ~~[illegible]~~ so painful ~~[illegible]~~ a topic from ~~[illegible]~~ before
yr eyes, ~~[illegible]~~ & endeavour to restore the spirit & [illegible]
of the meeting by drinking all yr good Healths.
crowing yr. Sisterne.

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