

Ld.
Wellesley
Memo^{ms}

19672-3

Spurley House

10th May 1812.

For
covering
letter
See
19684

of
From the communication received
through Lord Liverpool, I understand,
that His Royal Highness The Prince
Regent has been graciously pleased
to signify His desire of strengthening
His Administration upon its present
basis, by associating me with it,
as one of those Persons, who agree
most nearly and generally in
the principles, upon which
Public Affairs have been conducted.

From the same communi-
-cation, I also derive the grati-
-fying intelligence, that all
Lord Liverpool's Colleagues have
authorized

1
authorized him to express a
disposition to act with me,
under an arrangement, consistent
with their own honour & duty,
and honourable & satisfactory to me.

I receive this notification
of The Prince Regent's Commands,
with every sentiment of Duty
and Affection; while it affords
me matter of just satisfaction,
that, to the distinguished honour
of such condescending notice from
His Royal Highness, is added so
high a testimony of the confidence
and esteem of all the respectable
Persons, composing His present
Administration.

With

With all humility towards
 the exalted Authority, from which
 this proposition proceeds, and
 with the most sincere regard
 for those, through whom it is
 conveyed, I must however declare,
 that I should have declined it
 at the first instant of its approach,
 if motives of deference and submissive
 attachment had not imposed
 upon me the obligation of re-
 ceiving it with respectful Con-
 sideration.

The proposition necessarily
 rests upon a supposition, that
 I entertain no such difference of
 Public Sentiment with the
 present

present Administration, as should
preclude me from acting with
them, under an arrangement,
compatible with our respective
honour and duty.

But it appears from Lord
Lisieux's candid and explicit
statement, that upon the important
question which regards the
Laws affecting the Roman Catholics,
Lord Lisieux's opinions remain
unchanged; nor is he aware,
that the sentiments of his colleagues
on that subject have undergone
any change.

I must therefore conclude,
that the Policy, which has been
pursued

proposed respecting the Roman Catholics, during the present Session of Parliament, is to be continued without abatement; all the general constituent parts of the present Cabinet are to remain unchanged; the highest and most efficient Offices in the State, therefore, are to be filled by Persons, who still conceive themselves to be bound by duty, honour, and conscience, not only to resist any mitigation of the present condition of the Roman Catholics, but even to prevent the Consideration of the Laws, which affect that large Portion of the Population of the

the

19
the Empire. I cannot concur
in the principle, on which the
present Administration has conducted
this important branch of Public
Affairs: On this point, I have
recently expressed the strongest
difference of Opinion with the
present Administration.

The declaration of Lord Liverpool
precludes the hope of any such
change in the Policy of the present
Administration towards the Roman
Catholics, as could satisfy my
Judgment: This difference is of
the utmost Importance; without
any other obstacle therefore,
this alone compels me to
decline

decline the proposition, which
Lord Liverpool has conveyed to me.

I entertain a confident ex-
-pectation that when the Prince
Regent shall have considered
the nature of this difficulty, He
will extend His indulgence to my
humble Representation, and will
relieve me from the pressure
of Commands, which I could not
obey, without sacrificing a public
principle of the highest obligation.

These observations comprise
a sufficient reply to the communi-
-cation received through Lord
Liverpool. But I deem it to
be a duty towards the Prince
Regent

Regent to declare, that the Considerations which induced me on the 19th of February to resign the Station which I had the Honour to hold in His Royal Highness's Service, have acquired additional force since that time, and would constitute an insuperable obstacle to my acceptance of any Station in the present Administration.

I originally expressed my desire to withdraw from Mr. Peacock's Administration, because my general Opinions for a long time past, on various important Questions, had not sufficient weight in that Cabinet, to justify

me

me towards the Public, or towards
my own Character, in continuing
in Office.

My objections to remaining
in that Cabinet, arose, in a
great degree, from the imperfect
scale, on which the efforts in the
Peninsula were conducted. It
was always stated to me, that
it was impracticable to enlarge
that System. I thought that
it was perfectly practicable to
extend the Plan in the Peninsula,
and that it was neither safe
nor honest towards this Country
or the Allies, to continue the
present inadequate scheme.

From

From Lord Liverpool's statement
 on this point, it is evident, that
 since my Resignation, it has
 been found practicable to make
 some extension of the System in
 the Peninsula; but it is still in-
 -timated, that my Views are more
 extensive, than the Resources of
 the Country can enable the
 Government to reduce to practice.
 I however still entertain the
 same Views, & Opinions, without
 diminution, or alteration; and
 I am convinced that a considera-
 -ble extension of the Scale of our
 Operations in the Peninsula,
 and also an effectual correction
 of

of many branches of our system
in that Quarter, are objects of
indispensable necessity, and of
easy attainment.

With such a decided difference
of Opinion in relation to the
Conduct and Management of the
War, my return into a Cabinet,
composed as the present is,
would offer to me no better
prospect, than the renewal of
discussions, which have hitherto
proved unavailing.

I learn from Lord Liverpool,
that he has received no authority,
in forming the intended Adminis-
tration, to make any proposal

to

to any of those Persons, now
designated by the name of
"The Opposition".

My inquiry on this point
originated in a sincere conviction,
(formed upon an attentive ob-
-servation of the general state
of Public Opinion, and of the
condition of the Empire) that no
Administration, which shall not
comprise some of those Persons,
can prove advantageous to the
Prince Regent, conciliatory towards
Ireland, and equal to the conduct
of the War on a scale of sufficient
extent.

It has been stated unanimously

that -

that the first act of the Prince Regent, upon his approach to unrestricted Authority, was to establish Mr. Perceval's Administration: But the fact is, that His Royal Highness's first act at that Crisis was to dissolve Mr. Perceval's Administration; and to endeavour to form a Cabinet, upon a more extended and liberal Basis. This endeavour was frustrated at that moment; and the formation of such a Cabinet was represented to His Royal Highness to be impracticable.

It has however since appeared
evident

evident to me, from the
discussions and declarations which
I have witnessed in Parliament,
that His Royal Highness's benevolent
intentions on that subject are now
perfectly practicable; and that
their accomplishment would tend
to promote internal Peace and
Tranquility, and to invigorate
the whole system of our external
Operations.

Impressed with this Sen-
timent I should be content
to His Royal Highness's interests
and Honor, as well as to the
prosperity of the Empire, if I
concerned in any Management
of

of an Administration, which did not include a fair & full consideration of this most important point.

After such a disproportionate consideration, my opinion is, that a Cabinet might be formed on an intermediary principle respecting the Roman Catholic claims, equally exempt from the danger of instant, unqualified concession, and of inconsiderate, peremptory exclusion; The entire resources of the Empire might be applied to the great objects of the War with general consent,

upon

upon a full understanding
of the real exigency of the present
Crisis; and concord and union
at home, might secure ultimate
and permanent success abroad.

(signed) Wellesley