

R. B. Sheridan

May 25. 1713.

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A.A. No. 77

19688-9

Bruton J<sup>r</sup>  
Thursday Eve<sup>s</sup> May 25<sup>r</sup>  
1712

Sir

I cannot but be aware that at  
a moment so critical as the present  
and while so many important  
public considerations must press upon  
your Royal Highness's time and attention,  
any intrusion upon either from the  
suggestion of private feelings, however  
dictated by duty & attachment, requires  
the gracious indulgence of your Royal  
Highness to pardon it. — Not to  
trespas a moment longer than necessary  
I have only frankly to say that my

object in now taking the Liberty of  
addressing you is to express my extreme  
concern that your Royal Highness could  
for a moment, if I understood Mr. Mehan  
right, have thought me capable of  
the vanity and silliness of being a  
Party to the misrepresentations in  
the Newspapers which stated me to  
have mix'd in the recent consultation  
at Carlton House. — There is nothing  
more repugnant to my temper and  
nature than to be characterized as a  
meddler of that description, and ~~to~~  
I had myself authorized the contradiction  
of the Paragraphs alluded to before I  
had the honor of calling at Carlton House.  
Undoubtedly Duty would

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require of me, as of every other  
Privy-Councillor to submit my  
humble opinion at the express command  
of your Royal Highness upon any  
subject regarding which it might be  
required - and I only humbly take  
the Freedom of adding that I can lay  
my hand on my heart and declare  
that that opinion never has in a  
single instance, nor ever can be, if  
ever again required, been formed or  
given but upon grounds and motives  
proceeding from the most sincere, grateful  
and ardent attachment & devotion to  
your true interests Honor and Happiness.

My object in presuming to have  
writ<sup>d</sup> to see your Royal Highness

on Tuesday last was, as I explained to  
my most esteemed Friend and your  
Royal Highness's most faithful  
servant Col<sup>l</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Mahon, to prevent  
the possibility of my canvass at  
Stafford being misrepresented as being in  
any way a declension on my part  
still to have the honor of using my  
seat in Parliament to your gracious  
Protection and partial recommendation.

To continue to be your servant  
with unalter'd and unalterable zeal  
anxiety and affection is the hope  
and pride of my private wishes  
and ambition - but I feel confident  
that I can in no way be usefully ser-  
ved but by preserving the independence

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and consistency of my public  
course and political character, now  
doubly endeared to me since allowed  
and sanctioned by your Royal  
Highness's gracious approbation.

I wish to avoid giving way  
to gloomy thoughts respecting the  
possible results of the present  
awful crisis of unprecedented  
difficulty and Danger - but I  
can from my soul aver that under  
any condition of calamity, public  
or private I should find a degree  
of consolation in the very worst  
events in proportion as they afforded

me an opportunity of proving the  
true sincerity with which I am  
and ever will be  
your Royal Highness,  
most dutiful, grateful & devoted  
Friend & Servant  
W. Sheridan

To  
The Prince Regent