

19717-8

For covering up

letter see nos 19772-9

Memorandum

May 24th - 1812

ltds.
Croy
&
Gren-
ville
to
ltd.
Kellas
Secy.

In such a moment
as the present we feel it
to be the duty of all public
men both by frank and
conciliatory explanations
of principle & by the
total abandonment
of every personal object
to facilitate as far as
may be in their power
the means of giving
effect to the late vote
of the House of
Commons, & of averting
the imminent and
unparalleled dangers
of the Country.

Lord Willoughby has
selected two among the
many important subjects
which must engage the
attention of any Men
who could in such
circumstances be called
upon to consider of the
acceptance of stations of
public trust. On those
two points our explanation
shall be as distinct as
it is in our power to
make it.

On the first indeed
our opinion is too well
known and has been

too recently expressed
to need repetition. We
have derived a very
high gratification
from Lord Wellesley's
powerful exertions
in support of the claims
of the Roman Catholics;
as well as from the
manner in which that
subject is adverted to
in his minute. And we
do not hesitate to assure
him that we will
warmly support any
proposal made by
any Ministers for the
immediate consideration

of those claims with a
view to their conciliatory
adjustment. A Measure
without which we have
already declared that
we can entertain no
hope in any case of
rendering our own
Services useful.

As to the second point,
no person feels more
strongly than we do
the advantages which
would result from
a successful termination
of the present contest
in Spain. But we are
of opinion that the
direction of military operations

operations in an extensive
War, & the more or less
vigorous prosecution
of those operations, are
questions not of principle
but of Policy; to be
regulated by circumstances -
stances in their nature
temporary and fluctu-
ating, and in many
cases known only
to persons in official
stations; By the
engagements of the
Country, the prospects
of ultimate success,
the extent of the
exertions necessary

its attainment, &
the means of supporting
those efforts without
too great a pressure
on the Finances, and
internal prosperity
of the Country.

On such Questions
therefore, no public
men, whether in
or out of Office can
undertake for more
than a deliberate
and dispassionate
consideration according
to the circumstances of the
case, as it may appear,
and to such means of

information as may
then be within their
reach.

But we cannot in
sincerity conceal from
Lord Wellesley that
in the present state
of the Finances we
entertain the strongest
doubts of the practica-
bility of an increase
in any branch of the
public expenditure.

(225)

Answers from lords
Grey and Grenville.

24 May 1812