

W. Sidmouth to H. R. H.

A. A. No 87.

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White Lodge -
Richmond Park -
May 21st 1812 -

In Obedience to your Royal
Highness's Commands, Lord Sidmouth
humbly submits to your Royal
Highness the grounds of his
Concurrence in the Minute of
Cabinet, presented yesterday to
your Royal Highness by the
Earl of Liverpool.
It appears'd to him that the public

Declaration, required by Marquis
 Wellesley, and Mr. Canning, as a Part
 of the Basis of the proposed Union,
 that your Royal Highness's
 confidential servants would take
 into their consideration the Roman
 Catholic Claims was highly objectionable,
 and likely to prove illusory: as
 however reasonable such a Demand
 might appear under other Circumstances,
 He could not but understand it at
 present, as implying much more

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than the Terms of it may seem to
import. It must be presumed that
those Claims had long engaged the
anxious Attention of your Royal
Highness's Servants: it was known
that they had recently been brought
under the Consideration of Parliament,
and supported to a certain extent by
the Persons now desirous of a public
Pledge that they should be consider'd
in Cabinet: the least therefore that
Lord Sidmouth conceiv'd could be

intended by such a Proposal was
that your Royal Highness's servants
should take a new view of the Question,
and He thought that those, by whom
the Proposal had been made, should
state their own view of the Subject
both with regard to Concessions, and
Securities: as far indeed as it could
be inferr'd from what had pass'd in
the present Session, Lord Sidmouth
was convinc'd that it differ'd materially
from the Opinions, which He had
repeatedly express'd in Parliament,
and which remain unchang'd.

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That no Hope was entertain'd of
Mr. Canning's Acquiescence in an
Arrangement, by which the chief
Conduct of the Business of Government
in the House of Commons would be
placed in the Hands of Lord Castlereagh,
and which on Grounds, with the Circumstances
of which He will not presume to trouble
your Royal Highness, Lord Sidmouth
conceiv'd to be due to the Obligations
of Honor, and good Faith, as well as to
the eminent Pretensions of Lord
Castlereagh, and to be not less material
to the Strength, and Efficiency of your
Royal Highness's Government; an Object

which it had been the principal
Motive of the proposed Union to
promote: that a Change in this
Arrangement must deprive the
Government of the Assistance of
Lord Castlereagh, whose Resignation
had been once already tender'd to
your Royal Highness; and that then
it must be consider'd how far
Mr. Canning's splendid Talents in
Debate could alone compensate for
the lamented Loss of Mr. Perceval, and
the Retirement of Lord Castlereagh,
who, when united, were not more than

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sufficient to contend with the Abilities
opposed to them.

That as therefore He perceiv'd
no reasonable Hope remaining
of an Union at once creditable,
and satisfactory to the Parties, and
advantageous to the Interests of the
Country, Lord Sidmouth was of
Opinion that any further Attempt
to accomplish it would have no other
Effect than to increase Irritation,
and to prolong, and augment all the
Inconveniencies, and Embarrassments
to the public Service, which the Delay
in forming a Government had already
occasion'd.

Lord Sidmouth

20. May 1812.