

R. B. Sheridan to H. P. H.

A.A. No. 101

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R. B. Sheridan  
June 1. 1812.

Monday Evening  
June 1<sup>st</sup> 1812.

Sir

I should think myself deficient in the respect and duty I owe to you were I to close this day without conveying to your Royal Highness in a few words my humble congratulations on the wisdom and magnanimity of the Part you have taken in giving to Lord Wellesley the Powers with which you have invested him this morning - At the same time I should be insincere if I attempted to dissimulate the deep regret I have felt at an apparent alteration in your manner towards me - produced solely I must believe by my expressing an opinion

that a Proscription of Lord Grey in the formation of a new administration would be a proceeding equally injurious to the estimation of your Personal dignity and the maintenance of the Public Interests.

Long indulgence, Sir, on your part, in allowing me to speak the Truth to you leads me not to hesitate, or consider it as presumptuous to say that you grievously wrong'd me if you supposed I ventured to press this my opinion on you from any undue Partiality to the noble Lord in Question or ~~many~~ of those with whom He is allied. I have never profess'd or affected any such motive - and with great submission

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I must express my surprise that your Royal Highness could for a moment have entertain'd this notion. My offer I can with the utmost sincerity declare was founded on what I considered best for your Honor & your Safety and the general Good of the Country.

Juvier says in a public letter of his address'd to your Royal Father "the Fate that made you a King forbade your having a Friend" I deny his Proposition as a general Maxim. I must feel confident that your Royal Highness possess qualities to win and to secure to you the attachment and Devotion of private Friendship in spite of your being a Sovereign at least

I am entitled to make this declaration  
as far as relates to myself - and I  
do it under the assured conviction  
that you will never require from  
me any proof of that attachment  
and devotion inconsistent with  
that clear and honourable independence  
of mind & conduct which constitute  
my sole value as a public Man and  
which have hitherto been my best  
recommendation to your gracious favour  
confidence and Protection.

I have the Honor to be  
Sir  
with unalterable Duty  
and attachment  
your faithful Servant  
W. Sheridan.