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Lds. Grey & Green etc to
Ld. H. K. St. John

Party Debates

XXIII Appendix

Camelford House

June 3. 1812.

My Lord —

We have considered with the most serious attention the minute which we have had the honor to receive from your Lordship, & we have communicated it to such of our friends as we have had the opportunity of consulting.

On the occasion of a proposal made to us under the authority of H. R. The Prince Regent

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we wish to renew in
the most solemn
manner the declaration
of our unfeigned
desire to have faciliti:
tated, as far as was
in our power, the
means of giving
effect to the late
vote of the H. of Com:
mons, & of averting
the imminent &
unparalleled dangers
of the country. No
sense of the public
distress & difficulty,
no personal feelings
of whatever description,
would have prevented

us under such
circumstances from
accepting with dutiful
submission any situa-
tions in which we
could have hoped
to serve H. R. H.
usefully & honorably.

But it appears
to us on the most
dispassionate reflection
that the proposal
stated to us by your
Lordship cannot
justify any such
expectation.

We are invited
not to discuss
with your Lordship,

or with any other
public men, according
to the usual practice
in such cases, the
various important
considerations both
of measures & of
arrangements which
belong to the formation
of a new Govt. in all
its branches; but to
recommend to H. R.
H. a number, limited
by previous stipulation,
of persons willing to
be included in a
cabinet, of which
the outlines are
already

Early Dec.

already definitively
arranged.

To this proposal
we could not accede
without the sacrifice
of the very object which
the H. of Commons has
recommended, the
formation of a strong
& efficient Gov^t. We
enter not into the
examination of the
relative proportions,
or of the particular
arrangements which
it has been judged
necessary thus previously
to establish. It is to
the principle of disunion
& jealousy that we

object; to the supposed
balance of contending
interests in a cabinet
so measured out by
preliminary stipulations.

The times imperiously
require an adminis-
tration united in prin-
ciple, & strong in mutual

reliance: possessing
also the confidence
of the Crown, & assured
of its support in those

deciding measures
which the public
safety requires, &
which are necessary
to secure to the Govt.

the opinion & affections
of the people.

No such hope is
presented to us by
this project, which
appears to us equally
new in practice &
objectionable in prin-
ciple. It tends, as
we think, to establish
within the Cabinet
itself a system of
counteraction incon-
sistent with the pro-
secution of any uniform
& beneficial course
of policy.

We must therefore
request permission

to decline all partici-
pation in a govt con-
stituted upon such
principles: satisfied as
we are that the certain
loss of character which
must arise from it
to ourselves could be
productive only of
disunion & weakness
in the administration
of the public interests.

We have the honor to
be with great respect,
My Lord - yr Lordship's
most faithful & most
obed^t M. S^{ts}

(signed) Gage
Grenville.

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Lord Gage & Lord Grenville
13th June 1812