

- Mr Whitcombe to Col. McCracken -

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Lieutants Inn Fleet Street
Monday 7th Dec.

Mr Whitcombe's most respectful compliments to Colonel McCracken, acquaints him that he only came up from Gloucestershire, on Saturday, or he should have taken an earlier opportunity of calling in Call Mall, to make his acknowledgements to Col McCracken for his great politeness, friendship, and attention to Mr Whitcombe individually, as well as for what the Colonel has been pleased to say to Sir John & Lady Douglas, whom Mr Whitcombe saw yesterday.

Mr Whitcombe, in consequence of this, did himself the Honour of calling in Call Mall this morning between 11 and 12 but found that Col McCracken was gone out and not expected to return sooner than 5 or 6 o'clock this afternoon - Mr Whitcombe took with him the Book intended for the Prince Regent, to show the manner in which this copy is bound &c, and likewise a copy, which he hopes the Colonel will do Mr W the Honour to accept of -

No person whatever has seen the Work, as Mr Whitcombe would by no means suffer it to go out of his hand, until after he has the opportunity of presenting His Royal Highness with his copy.

The tract runs to about one hundred pages quarto.

Enclosed a short Epistle Dedicatory to the Prince Regent, it contains five Letters addressed to his Royal Highness on the following subjects. The

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1st On the Regal or Monarchical branch of the
English Constitution

2nd Upon the Aristocratical Branch

3rd On the Democratical Branch

4th Upon what is called the Influence of the Crown.

In the course of these four Letters Mr Whitcombe has attempted to shew by an historical Deduction of facts & circumstances, that the position of the late Mr Dunning that, "The influence of the Crown has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished" is much more specious than solid, and that in fact its influence, on the two other branches of the Legislature, is much less than in any former Reign, and by no means greater than what our mixed form of Government necessarily requires.

The fifth Letter contains very full Observations and comments upon what is called Parliamentary Reform, and here in direct opposition to the Advocates for it, Mr Whitcombe trusts he has demonstratively shewn, not only from the common and statute Law, and the fundamental principles of the Constitution, but from usage coeval with the Lower House of Parliament, that annual Elections, and universal suffrage (both which the leading Advocates for Parliamentary Reform do in effect contend for and insist were the ancient constitution of the Country), never were part of our Constitution; and that in fact both these their leading points are the offspring of

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their political ignorance or wilful misrepresentation.
To these letters there is subjoined an Appendix
of some length which as well as the preceding letters
will be flatters himself, be found to contain a considerable
portion of original matter, as well as some few things
collected from Manuscripts, of which he is apprehensive
no other copies exist.

There is a short supplementary Letter occasioned
by the brilliant & glorious Victory obtained on the
plains of Salamanca, the official account of
which was not received until after the preceding
part of the work was sent to the press.

Mr. Whitcombe thought it right thus to glance
at the contents of his Tract, and as the subjects
on which he has treated are placed in a new
point of view he is in great hopes, that some parts,
at least, will be found not altogether uninteresting.
He hopes too, that upon the whole, the work will
in some respect be found an antidote to the poison
of the Democratic herd of Levellers of the present
times.

As Mr. W. missed of seeing Col. Hekebon this morning, perhaps
he may be allowed to entertain the hope of having the honour
of being indulged with a personal interview for a few
minutes to-morrow morning, as he has promised
to see Sir John & Lady Douglas immediately after.
He has had the pleasure of seeing Colonel M. Mahon
If he could learn at what moment it would be
most convenient to the Col. for Mr. W. to attend him, he would be
in Pall Mall precisely at the same time.

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[Faint, illegible cursive handwriting covering the majority of the page]

Mr. Whitcomb
7. Dec. 1812