

C. Arbuthnot to Col. Hecshaw.

A.A. No. 208

20301-2

C. Arbuthnot
wrote

Dorset
Thursday Morning

My Dear Friend

After leaving Carlton House
I sought Theobald, but could not find
him - I wrote to desire that he would
call upon me either in Dorset St.,
or at the House of Commons. - Hearing
nothing of him, I went from the House
between 11 & 12 to the Adelphi where
he lives, & as he was not at home
I sat down & wrote the heads of such
as

C. Arb

2030

An article as I wished to appear in
 Today's Courier; & I left word that
 he should be with me very early this
 morning - according to my desire, he
 came to me a little while ago, & I
 had much conversation with him upon
 the several subjects respecting which
 the Regent did me the honour to
 speak to me.

In a few words I will give you
 an idea of what passed between
 us.

I first discussed with him the
 propriety of buying over the news.

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C. Arbuthnot to Col. Kebleham.

A.A. No. 202

20302

He deprecated the idea of making the attempt, observing to me that such a Sunday Paper would not be useful if bought, & that any attempt now made by us would inevitably produce against us the same kind of disclosure as was now, in the case of Lady Percival, so injurious to the Princess. — Here I interrupted him by saying that I had understood that the idea of purchasing the news had originated with himself, & that he had mentioned it to your-
-mouth — he, replied he, it never entered

1812

entered into my thoughts that it w^d
be useful or practicable to purchase
the news, but in the course of con-
-sation I merely remarked that if in
the present instance that Paper c^d
be induced to make public all
that he knew, our Cause would gain
greatly. - I then asked him whether
he could be instrumental in making
the attempt to obtain such publi-
-city, & this he has promised to do.
If we succeed, I shall rejoice; if we
fail, I shall not be surprised; but
at all events I do venture to persuade
myself

A.A.

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(2)

myself that both for His own sake
& for His Government's sake the Regent
will approve of my not being osten-
sible in this business. I do not
wish to make professions; but I think
I may say that when I can really
be of use I shall not be found back-
ward in the Regent's Cause, & that
if I wish to write disquisitions with
 zeal it is from a conviction that
one false step might be much injurious
to His Royal Highness. - It was some-
times thought during the general Election
that I might have done more - Has
not the Parliament proved a good
one

one, & has it not been incalculably
 advantageous even to the Regent himself
 that my name has never once been
 called in question?

After having finished what we had
 to say respecting the news, I asked
 Street as oftentimes I have asked
 him before whether he could put me
 in the way of getting a good Morning
Paper. His answer was, why there
 is a London as well as a Country
Paper; & by attempting to have two
avowedly Party Papers you would
 destroy the efficiency of each. I then
 said to him, I am quite sure, Street,
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that when you were half drunk at
 Lord Garmouth's you felt different
 language; & I am equally convinced
 that were I to set up a new Morning
 Paper, you would be the first to cry
 it down & to be jealous of it. He
 laughed & owned that it might be
 so, & that no Party ever had on
 ever could have more than one
 organ: — That this was the case
 with the Opposition in respect to the
 Morning Chronicle, & that such
 always had been & ever must be
 the case with all Parties.

He left me with an Assurance
 that

that he would have the Article in this
day's Courier, & that he would do
all in his power to prevail upon
the Editor of the news to make a
general disclosure.

For brevity sake I have given
you but the outline of what passed.
My task is no easy one I assure
you. I did not like to trouble the
Regent yesterday with long explana-
-tions; but in truth I believe that
I might make it clear as soon day
that had the whole discussion in
the Courier been from the first left
Jo

A.A.

20305-6

(3)

To think I me, the result sh^d have
been far different. The Regent very
much mistakes me, & I w^d fain add
any little know^r me if he thinks that
I would be lukewarm where he is
concerned. It would be strange indeed
if I were not bound to him by every
the warmest feeling of gratitude &
attachment; but I scruple not to
say that on his account & on his
account solely I did disapprove of
the line which was pursuing.

I did not attempt to silence them;
but I told him that clamour and
declamation would be idly kicking
against

against the Greeks, & that we should
 be fighting with the air until we
 had new facts to go upon. I swear
 that weeks & weeks ago I forbade
 to sheet all that has happened.
 I sh^d rejoice to be confronted with
 him; & I know that he would now
 declare that I was right. It was
 by the violence (not resting upon new
 facts) of some of the articles in the
 Courier that we turned the public
 against us; & it was this which
 from the very beginning I had so
 greatly dreaded. I always said
 to sheet, let us be quiet - Our
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appearing, so will set the others off
the guard, & the instant that they
have committed an impudence
we will strike the blow. I was
not listened to; & as I could do no
good I withdrew. At length the
impudence was committed. Lady
Perceval was notoriously the agent
of the Princeps. It would not have
surprised me and to have done other
than attack the agents; but seeing
that the moment had arrived when
I might attempt to do good, I went
to Street & urged him to insert an
article. The one which he did
insert

insert was tamer than what I should
^{have} advised, but he was afraid of risking
the popularity of his paper.

I have written a much longer
~~letter~~ letter than I had intended. I
will only add that my heart and
soul will be at work when I see the
means of doing good; & that if I
have been thought lukewarm or
supine I have been misjudged. I
saw that the work was in other
hands, & I had neither the means
nor hope of doing good.

Ever affly Yrs

Robert