

Ld. Howe to Col. Mordaunt

A.A. No. 405

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Calcutta, Feb 26th
1757

My Dear Friend

We have seen in the English Papers a curious statement of Lord Popham's for it is ascribed to him respecting the Entertainment of my Party aboard the Stirling Castle. To color the enormity of the Demand for our Passage, it is represented that we were Ten in the Cabin and Eight at another Table. The numbers are accurate. But the Eight were so far from being in

-cluded in the charge of 6000 that their
 -keeping was paid either by me or of them-
 -selves to the officers with whom they lived.
 In our own servants I was obliged to lay in
 stores separately, nothing but Ship Provi-
 -sions being allowed to them by Sir Howe.
 I am ~~very~~ ^{well} that any thing should ever have
 been said on the subject. I am not surpris-
 -ed at it, however, as I well know whence
 the attack on him came. He took care
 to irritate deeply the Consul & the Captain
 of a Fleet of War in which the Consul was

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Ld. Howe to Col. Hitchcock

A.A. No. 405

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to sail for England just after our departure.
And I was told at Madeira of a cutting
sarcasm uttered to his face by that Captain
in public company on the very topic of his
behavior to our servants. The slightest shade
of dis-satisfaction was never testified of
L^d Henderson or any of us. In truth, the con-
-fession which he gave to my indifference
provision for us made it only laugh-
-able. By way of having things in high
style, he employed a College Cook who
was going to seek his fortunes in India.
Now, beyond roasting & boiling a College

Cook has less chance of skill than any of
his profession. But for the Honour of the
Table we were always to have three or
four made Dishes, & they were ordinarily
most comical. Cannon Wine was
given us for Hermitage, Claret, &c, but
that it might be said Champagne was
used at the Table, towards the close of our
Voyage some of the saddest potting stuff
that ever came from Cooper's Gardens
was produced. but three times on the Voy-
-age did he give us a bottle of Old Madeira,

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an injudicious liberality, as it served for
a standard by which we might rate our
every-day wine. Of this, it is now necessary
I should put you in possession. The desire
of wounding him may occasion others, as
he is unfortunate about exciting people
to look at him, to use us the means of
making them ill-will; and her Ladyship
woud not mind being poetic in her defence.
The insufficiency of the Provision was regard-
-ed by us all with sincere indulgence
as arising from the pecuniary difficulty

under which we knew him to labor, & the
ostentation which accompanied it never gave
rise to any thing but a good-humored smile.
His character is so peevish & his temper
so little under command, that there were
two or three occasions on which it was ne-
cessary to bring him quietly to recollection.
This, however, was done steadily & without
any thing like altercation. When he
had once acknowledged himself in the wrong
all remembrance of the circumstance was

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banished from our mind, he made it a point
to show him every civility here, & made
him take up his Quarters in the Govern-
ment House instead of occupying ap-
partments in the House appropriated
to Naval Officers. His expenses for us
aboard with no calculation here
amounted to £2000. When wine & water was
drunk in our Cabin, it was from a stock
which I purchased for the purpose, on
seeing the tone of things, at Madras &

kept in an own locker. This is for yourself
alone, & is only confided to you as a pre-
caution against misrepresentation. I
should prefer to have Sir Home placed in
an unfavorable light; because, with all
these injudicious tricks by which he has
entailed a host of enemies on himself,
there is essential good in him. He has
great professional skill, such readiness
of resource, & indefatigable activity in
working on any subject which attracts his

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gency. Material advantage may be drawn
from the observations he has treasured
up wherever he has been & from his sug-
-gestions on most points of Service.

Sir G. Kypscott has told several
of his friends that he will go home
in heaven be rest. The Directors cannot
warily think of sending out any other
Commander of the Forces, who cannot
but clash in many points with the Com^{dr}
in Chief. A Lieut^{nt} General, with a Demand

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Commission for the contingency of the death of the
is the only rational arrangement. In the
the mean time, there will be a seat in
Council to be filled in the room of
Sir George. Every interest should be made
by Adam & his friends to secure it for
John Adam, Secretary in the Political
Department. He is an uncommonly able
& judicious man, tho' in truth he has
two competitors, Fowderson & Ricketts,

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of high rate of talent as well as of
an excellent character. Don is peculiarly
modest & unassuming. With all my wishes
for him, should I be forced to nominate
provisionally I must of necessity address
Doddswell to the Council; for, he is the
Chief Secretary, & his ability would not
allow me to pass him over. The Direct-
ors, not being on the spot, have no means
of shackling their selection, and it is under-

- stood that it must be an affair of interest
with them. An overland dispatch will wait
the while / would bring to me their decision
in due time. We all continue well. The
heat has come upon us again, & ^{is} ^{more} ^{than} ^{usual} ^{we} ^{usually} ^{experience}
in the year. Poor Sir W. is, I am told, with
the hope of remaining here on the staff
is in deep mortification at his disappoin-
-ment, & I am so too. The expense of
the Pope's home would be very heavy on him
He waits a little for chances.
I am, Sir, your faithful servant
J. B. [unclear]

26th 1804
London