

R.B. Sheridan to Col. Ketchum

A.A. No. 469

21492\_3

Private

Javille. Row  
Wednesday July 27<sup>th</sup>  
[1814]

My Dear Friend

I have done exactly as you wish'd and seen Lord Liverpool as well as Lord Sidmouth - I said every thing to the former you advised, avowing your previous communication with me and what I said was under the impression of very sincere gratitude -

I have grieved, & so I believe I express'd myself to you the other night at the 20<sup>th</sup>, to learn from different quarters that the Prince was dissatisfied at my giving way on the Westminster Election - Against Brougham I would have stood till I dropt, for that was a personal assault on the Prince - I meant to have produced the most unwholesome effects - The other was a very different case, & one in which the Prince had no personal concern - Had I persever'd in being a candidate look for a moment to what my situation would have been. I should have had to encounter a popular yell

It would be gross affectation in me if I did not confess that I write this letter with a sanguine confidence that you will communicate its contents to the Prince - I am sure He has only to glance his eye over it to be convinced, that those who have told him that in declining Waterhouse at this moment I have fail'd in duty to him or regard to the Public, have not judged well.

Now my Dear Mac, I must conclude this long letter - I shall do it with a short but sincere sentence - The Prince is an excellent Critic in every thing and in nothing more than in his insight into political character - I believe He gives me credit for honourable and independent political Principles and I trust for sincere personal attachment to him - but He places no confidence in my judgement to apply these well - I therefore dare not use the phrase He is mistaken - but I yet feel confident that it would require a very strong effort to dislodge me from his good-will -

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I think the last sentence of my advertisement  
very intelligently intimates - I have no  
wish to be member for Westminster  
but as that seat would furnish me  
in these precarious days a more  
independent opportunity of being of  
service to the Prince, nor have a wish  
to be in Parliament at all but for  
the same object - even in opposing  
Brougham it is lamentable to think that  
I now find that he would have been  
opposed & supported by the leading Talents  
against me - Goensville Gony & Whitbread  
&c. I could not for - but it was a  
grief to my heart to find Tavistock,  
with whom I had been living in such  
intimacy, & the name of Perrell pledged  
to the same cause! - with others whom  
I will not name!! but Adam who  
can only act in one line, and that is  
the line of perfect honor can ascertain the  
fact to you, & perhaps deplored it more than I do.