

Ld. Castlereagh to H.P.M. -

A.D. No. 648

21914-5

18 March 1816

St James's Square
London

Lord Castlereagh has with much regret
to inform your Royal Highness, that the
Property Tax has been rejected by the
House of Commons by 230 to 201 - Majorities
37 - the calculation of the Treasury this
morning was, that we should carry it
by 40, but this was defeated by numbers
of the friends of Government going away
and some going against whose support
had been calculated upon - Mr Wilberforce
spoke strongly against the Tax

This defection leaves us with
but 12 millions of Clear Revenue to meet

Ed. 10
2
This years Expenditure of 30 Millions, &
taking the future Peace Establishment at
20 Millions a year, there will exist a serious
deficiency of means to meet the Charge, this
view of the Financial Situation of the Country
will be the more serious, if in the present
rage for taking off Taxes, the Opposition
opposed by the Country Gentlemen should
succeed in negating the New Duties,
which produces 3 Millions more - Lord C.
submits this Explanation to satisfy your
Royal Highness that your Servants could
not have been justified in Sacrificing
without a Struggle so important a branch
of the Public Revenue. As the Government

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were not sufficiently supported, It is perhaps
better to have been it true best upon it,
than to have had a small majority, which
might have dwindled away in the
subsequent stages

Mr. Bernal moved for a Return
of Convicts under Sentence in London
explaining of the delay in receiving the
Recorder's Report - The House was
opposed by Royal Highness's absence
from Town from indisposition & the
difficulty of opening the great Chamber
including the Law Lords at Brighton - Mr. B.
gave notice of a Motion for a future
day, on this as he calls it delay of Justice

Dear Father

(Burying of the Stone.)

1816