

24 High Holborn 21st July 1812

Sir

A variety of circumstances having contributed to embarrass me at this time, I have to beg as a particular favour that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who did me the Honour to Patronise my work intitled *Family Antiquity*, would condescend to order the Payment at this time, or to name a Time at no great distance.

His Majesty's Librarian has since the 29th of September (in a written Paper) & under the Great Seal: intimated His Majesty is to pay the Price paid by the Nobility & Gentry for the Copies on Elephant Paper but nothing more of course her Majesty will not give more

I have the Honour to inclose the Statement of the Price, & it will be a particular favour and an act of great Goodness to favour me in that I wish in all transactions to act with Frankness and

The Right Hon^{ble} Col^l M^{rs} Ellison

and above all things to speak the truth. This Publication
has been swelled to a size & consequently to a Price Greater
than was at first Expected; but this was owing to a very
General desire Amongst the Nobility that I should give not
only Genealogical Details in the Direct line, but ⁱⁿ collateral
Branches whereas I intended only to have given the Genealogy
Slightly & the Biography of Great Men very Carefully
a thing less tedious & voluminous & much more useful, but
it was not for me to Presist, & I am happy to say that the
purpose I had originally in view is accomplished.

It is now 17 years that I have had in view to prove that
the British Nobility have been Usefull as a Body, and
in general Estimable as Individuals * Thus I aimed at
doing in contradiction to all those Men of Letters who
during the last Century have Indravour'd to Turn Rank,
Title & Hereditary descent into Ridicule; by appealing to Facts
in a Statistical way & Comparing Noblemen with other
Men of affluence & Education I have Proved beyond all
Contradiction what I intended to Establish, & thereby I humbly
approach

* In John Mackpherson, The Earl of Warwick says fairly
that the Book is invaluable from the spirit in which it
is written & the good it is calculated to do

that I have rendered a service to one of the Firmest Pillars
 of the Throne & Guardians of the Liberties of the People
 Errors in such a work are unavoidable as ~~the~~
 Dates & Family Records cannot be verified but by the Families
 who are generally negligent but above 5000^l has been
 Expended in corresponding transcribing & consulting different
 Sources of Information so that the work will be a
 Foundation for a more full & cheap Decree in the future
 which was much wanted

I have taken the liberty of entering into this
 detail being anxious to explain that the Fault & Talent of
 the work did not originate with me but arose from
 circumstances that I could neither prevent nor alter

I have the Honour to be
 With great regard
 In
 your most obedient
 & most humble servant
 William Clarendon

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Mr. Mayhew to Col. M. Statham

21. July 1812

Acct No. of £104. 14. 0

for the "British Navy's antiquity."