

From Lord  
Loughborough to (Capt. Payne)  
me at Windsor

38240-1

Nov. 1788

Dear Payne,

It gives me infinite satisfaction that any  
appreciation of my Zeal for the service of the P. & I may  
truly say of the Publick for they are now the same can  
seem to deserve H. H. A. attention & I can say with  
perfect truth that I feel an enthusiasm for his glory  
that would carry <sup>me</sup> much beyond any motives of personal  
or what is more honourable of Party Interest. The latter  
I wish only in subservience to his advantage & happiness,  
& the former well understood (as I hope I do) affords me  
few motives of ambition

upon the supposition which your Letter  
makes probable, of a State of disorder continuing for

His Lordships feeling  
upon the Rights of  
The Prince of Wales,  
in case of a Regency.

some time without hope of amendment but without  
 the prospect of an immediate release; the Principle  
 of the Prince's conduct is perfectly clear. The  
 Administration of Government devolves to Him of  
 right; He is bound by every duty to assume it  
 without diffidence of his Title, & his character would  
 be lepened in the publick estimation were he to  
 accept it on any ground but right or under any  
 sort of compromise. The Authority of Parlt<sup>o</sup> as the  
 great Council of the Nation I think requisite to  
 declare not to confer the right, for there is nothing  
 of an elective royalty in the British Constitution.

The Mode of proceeding which occurs to my  
 Mind would be this, In a very short time, the P.  
 should signify his intention to act by desiring a

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Meeting to be called of the privy Council where He  
should declare his intention under the circumstances  
stated to take upon himself the care of the State;  
The Council after ascertaining the circumstances by  
examining the Physicians who should have previous  
notice to attend, should express their gratitude,  
duty & assent. He sh<sup>d</sup> immediately direct a  
proclamation for the meeting of Parlt. as soon as it  
possibly can have notice. This done the P. should  
direct the several Ministers to attend Him with  
the affairs of their offices -

In the execution of this It seems infinitely  
material that the Measure sh<sup>d</sup> originate with the Prince  
alone & <sup>be</sup> decided in his own breast. It should not be  
put in any open consultation, tho' It may be fit to  
communicate it to those who can be trusted & shou<sup>d</sup>

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time before it takes place - perhaps it might be expedient to do some act marking distinctly the assumption of Government, & it most certainly is necessary that his determination to act of himself should appear. By his conduct & by cautiously avoiding to raise strong hope or strong fear, Mens Minds will be kept in expectation of what may arise out of his reserve, & all will be disposed to mark their observance of his wishes. Were the State of things more decided perhaps I sh<sup>d</sup> think an opposite line of conduct better, but till opinion settles on a new Case some caution is necessary.

I write to you immediately on receiving your Letter without the least communication with any one & except one Person I am very anxious that our correspondence should be unknown to every one.