

W. Pitt to H.R.H.

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Downing Street. Monday Jul⁶ 15th
1788.

Sir,

The Lord Chancellor delivered
to me last night a letter which he had
received from your Royal Highness, from
the contents of which I have the unhappiness
to perceive that both my general conduct
and what I have said in the House of
Commons has been represented to your Royal
Highness in a light which I flatter myself

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neither of them deserve. Nothing could
give me more concern than to be thought to
take any step inconsistent with the
Deference and Respect which I owe to
your Royal Highness. But I am not
conscious of any Conduct towards your
Royal Highness during the present unfortu-
-nate Circumstances, or at any former
Period which has not been dictated by
these Sentiments, as well as by my
unswerving Attachment and Duty to His

W. Pitt to H.R.H.,

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Majesty. I have certainly felt myself bound rather to wait the commands of your Royal Highness, than to intrude on your Royal Highness's time, without having received a previous intimation of your pleasure. At the same time your Royal Highness will permit me to recall to your recollection that I more than once had an opportunity humbly to express my readiness at all times to attend your Royal Highness, and have

several Times at Windsor had the honor
to enquire whether your Royal Highness
had any Orders for me, and have received
for Answer that you had not. I should
however in Common with the Rest of His
Majesty's Servants have felt it incumbent
on me, before any specific Plan was
brought forward in Parliament, to request
your Royal Highness's Permission humbly
to submit it to your Consideration.
With regard to what I have said in the
House of Commons, altho I am satisfied
that if what passed in the Debate had

been faithfully related to your Royal
Highness, you would have formed a very
different judgment upon it, I nevertheless
do not think myself at liberty, even
in my own justification, to state to your
Royal Highness the Particulars of the
Language used by any other Member. But
I must beg leave respectfully to assure your
Royal Highness, that I did not declare
an Intention (as your Royal Highness appears
to have been informed) to lay before the
House on Tuesday next, the Particulars of

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such a Plan as the present Circumstances
may require. The Motion of which I
gave Notice for that Day relates to the
Question of the Right of Parliament to
take the Measures which may be necessary
and proper in the present Conjuncture. At
the same Time, from the Circumstances in
the Debate (to which I beg leave only to
refer generally) I found it unavoidable
to enter, in some Degree into my general
Ideas of the Outline of the Plan proper
to be adopted; which (if those Circumstances
had not occurred) I certainly should not

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have stated at all, till I was enabled to
do so with more detail, and till I had
previously asked your Royal Highness;
Permission to submit them to your Consider-
-ation. Those Ideas were in substance,
That it was in my Opinion highly
desireable that whatever Portion of
Royal Authority might appear necessary
to be exercised during the present unhappy
Interval should be vested in your Royal
Highness. - That it should be exercised
by your Royal Highness, unrestrained
by any Permanent Council, and with the

The Choice of the Political Servants to act
under your Royal Highness. Precisely
what Portion of Royal Authority ought
to be given, and what ought to be withheld
I conceived it would be improper then particu-
-larly to discuss, but I added in general
Terms the Principle on which in my Opinion
the Distinction ought to be made, with
a View to the exigency of the Public Service
during the present Interval; and to the
Situation of the King when His Majesty should
be enabled to resume the Personal Exercise
of the Government. Until the Question
of Right should have been considered, I

expressed my Wish to abstain from going into any farther Particulars, especially as, if the Determination of the House should be contrary to the Opinion which I thought it my Duty to state on that Subject, It would preclude me from bringing forward the Propositions, which I should otherwise have to lay before them. Under these Circumstances I must entreat your Royal Highness's Permission not to enter at present into any farther Detail of the Measures to be grounded upon the Principles which I have stated.

If I should be fortunate enough to find the Sentiments which I entertain respecting the

Right of Parliament, sanctioned by
the Determination of the House, I shall
think myself highly honored, in the
further Progress of this Business, in being
permitted, according to the Will & Intention
which I have always entertained in Conjunction
with the Rest of His Majesty's Servants, to
submit to your Royal Highness, as explicit-
ly as possible, the best Opinions which
We find ourselves enabled to form respecting
the Specific Measures to be proposed for

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the Consideration of Parliament.

I have the Honor to be,
with the utmost Deference, and Submission,

Sir

Your Royal Highness's
most Dutiful
and devoted Servant

W. A.

Mr. Pitt's letter
in reply to Mr. Paine's
letter to the Chancellor

Decr. 15. 1780.

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