

[Jan. 2 -
1789]

See:

Add. MSS

Georgian

2. f. 6.

The Prince of Wales learns from Mr Pitt's Letter that the proceedings in Parliament are now in a Train which enables Mr Pitt, according to the information of his former letter, to communicate to the Prince the outlines of the plan which his Majesty's confidential Servants conceive to be proper to be proposed in the present circumstances.

Concerning the Steps already taken by Mr Pitt the Prince is silent, Nothing done by the two Houses of Parliament can be the proper subject of his animadversion, but when previous to any discussion in Parliament the outline of a scheme of Government is sent for his consideration in which it is proposed that he shall be personally and principally concerned & by which the Royal Authority & the public welfare may be deeply affected the Prince would be unjustifiable were he to withhold an explicate declaration of his Sentiments his silence might be construed into a previous approbation of a plan the accomplishment of which every motive of Duty to his Father & Sovereign as well as of regard to the public Interest obliges him to consider as injurious to both. In the state of

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deep distress in which the Prince and whole Royal Family were involved by the heavy calamity which has fallen on the King and at a moment when Government deprived of its chief energy and support seem peculiarly to need the cordial and united aid of all descriptions of good Subjects it was not expected by the Prince that a plan should be offered to his consideration by which Government was to be rendered difficult if not impracticable in the hands of any person intended to represent the King's authority much less in the hands of his Eldest Son the Heir Apparent of his Kingdoms and the person most bound to the maintainance of his Majesty's just prerogatives and authority as well as most interested in the Happiness, the Prosperity and the Glory of his People.

The Prince forbears to reason on the several parts of the sketch of the plan laid before him he apprehends it must have been formed with sufficient deliberation to preclude the probability of any argument from him producing an alteration of Sentiment in the projectors of it but he trusts with confidence to the Wisdom & Justice of Parliament when the whole of the Subject and the circumstances connect

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connected with it shall come under their deliberations.
He observes therefore only generally on the Heads
communicated by Mr. Pitt, and it is with the deepest
regret the Prince makes the observation, that he
sees in the contents of that paper a project for produ-
cing Weakness, Disorder and Insecurity in every
branch of the Administration of affairs, a project
for dividing the Royal Family from each other,
for separating the Court from the State & disjoining
Government from its natural and accustomed Sup-
port, a scheme for disconnecting the authority
to command service from the power of animating
it by reward and for allotting to the Prince all the
invidious duties of Government without the means
of softening them to the people by any one Act of
Grace, Favour or Benignity.

The Prince's feelings on contemplating this plan
are also rendered still more painful to him by obser-
ving that it is not founded on any general principle
but calculated to infuse Jealousies and distrust
wholly groundless, he trusts, in that quarter whose
confidence it will ever be the first pride and object
of his Life to receive and to Merit.

With regard to the Motive and object of the
Limitations

Limitations and Restrictions proposed the Prince
can have but little to observe. No light or informa-
-tion whatever is afforded to him by his Majesty's
Ministers on those points they have informed him
what the powers are which they mean to refuse
him not why they are to be withheld.

The Prince however holding as he does that it
is an undoubted and fundamental principle of
this constitution that all the Powers & Prerogatives
of the Crown are vested there as a Trust for the
Benefit of the People and that they are sacred only
as they are necessary to the preservation of that
Poise and Ballance of the Constitution which
Experience has proved to be the true security of
the Liberty of the Subject — must observe that
the Plea of public Utility ought to be strong
Manifest and Urgent which calls for the Extinction
or Suppression of any one of these essential Rights
on the Supreme Power or its representative or
which can justify the Prince in consenting that
in his Person an experiment shall be made to
ascertain with how small a portion of the Kingly
Authority the Executive power of this Country
can

can be carried on.

The Prince has only to add that if security for his Majesty's repossessing his rightfull Government whenever it shall please Providence in Bounty to the Country to remove the Calamity with which he is afflicted be any part of the object of this plan the Prince has only to be convinced that any Measure is necessary or even conducive to that end to be the first to approve and urge it as the preliminary and Paramount consideration of any Settlement in which he will consent to share.

If attention to what is presumed might be his Majesty's feelings and wishes, on the happy day of his recovery, be the object, it is with the truest Sincerity the Prince expresses his firm conviction that no Event could be more repugnant to the feelings of his Royal Father than the knowledge that the Government of his Son and representative had exhibited the Sovereign power of the Realm in a State of degradation of curtailed authority and diminished energy a State hurtfull in practice to the prosperity and good Government of his People and injurious

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in its precedent to the Security of the Monarchy &
the Rights of his Family.

Upon that part of the plan which regards the
Kings real and personal property The Prince feels
himself compelled to remark that it was not necessa-
-ry for Mr Pitt nor proper to suggest to the Prince
the restraint he proposes against the Prince's grant-
-ing away the Kings real or personal property the
Prince does not conceive that during the King's Life
he is by Law entitled to make any such grant &
he is sure that he has never shewn the smallest
inclination to possess any such power but it remains
with Mr Pitt to consider the eventual Interests
of the Royal Family and to provide a proper &
natural security against the mismanagement of
them by others.

The Prince has discharged an indispensable
duty in thus giving his free opinion on the Plan
submitted to his consideration his conviction of
the evils which may arise to the King's Interests
to the Peace and Happiness of the Royal Family
and to the safety and welfare of the Nation from
the Government of the Country remaining longer
in its present maimed and debilitated State out-

outweighs in the Princes Mind every other consideration and will determine him to undertake the painfull Trust imposed upon him by the present Melancholy necessity (which of all the Kings Subjects he deploras the most) in full confidence that the Affection and Loyalty to the the experienced attachment to the House of Brunswick and the Generosity which has always distinguished this Nation will carry him through the many difficultties inseparable from this most critical Situation with comfort to himself with Honor to the King & with advantage to the Public.

A copy of the enclosed
reply to the admiral

Regency.