

E. Burke to Capt. Payne.

Oct. 7 1789

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My D^r Sir,

I am made exceedingly happy in finding that his h. h. condescends to take in good part the unexpected homage I pay to his virtues & manners. I have no doubt, that some mistake has prevented Mr. Blair & Doctor Priestley from receiving at the proper time his h. h. Highnesses acceptance of the marks they were desirous of giving of their zeal & duty. That you may have a correct idea, which I have not, I find, as yet given you, of the affair, you are to know, that Mr. Blair is only the channel of communicating Dr. Priestleys intentions thro' Mr. Fox to the Prince. This I know as his neighbour; & though he is a very ingenious & ingenious man, he has no share in the work. I shall immediately obey his h. h. Highness orders with regard to him. But as to the rest, let me beg leave to suspend my obedience, until I have further directions; I wish it to be considered, that

That the application was not originally made thro' me,
but thro' Mr. Fox, & that neither the Prince of Wales's
gracious acceptance, nor Mr. Fox's attention to Dr.
Bristley would have the same good effect, as if the
whole were to take a more methodical Course, &
that his R. H.'s pleasure was signified thro' Mr.
Fox or yourself, or both. My interference, which
arose only from my Zeal to the Prince, & my regard to
Mr. Fox, might carry the appearance of an officious
intrusion into a Business not committed to me. I
wish you would, on my part, humbly submit this
consideration to the Prince, & might it not be best
for you to write to Mr. Fox, (as on his application)
a Letter, which might be enclosed to Mr. Blair, &
in which you might say something civil on the part
of his R. H. resp. about Dr. Bristley's Talents & merits?
& this Letter, Mr. Fox would transmit, with something
proper from himself in the manner I mentioned.

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I conceive that this would be more regular & give more pleasure to the author, & tend better to produce the only effect I proposed to myself in this business, & that was to lead mistaken people gradually into a true conception of the Prince's Character. As to myself I take the liberty (I hope with proper discretion & humility) of suggesting what occurs to me as useful to his R. H.'s service, with no disposition whatsoever to meddle in the conduct of what I am certain would be more effectually executed for that service by others. Believe me with very great sincere Esteem & regard

Yours^r Sir

Y^r most faithful
Yours^r humble servant

Edm Burke

Memorandum 1st Oct. 1789.

May I request that if his R. H. falls in with this plan, that no time may be lost in giving the proper orders to Mr. D.

I verily believe, that every thing except the general feeling, has been in the West as you represent it, but
John

John Bull has been long dead; He is succeeded by something not
very much meriting that firm, blunt, thick headed, but
well meaning title.

Mr Burke

3^d Oct: 1789.

Mr Burke

1st Oct: 1789.