

Sr J. Sinclair to Capt. Payne

Oct. 21 1789.

38509 - 10,

Dear Sir -

I had the honour of receiving your very obliging letter from Brighton, and feel myself infinitely flattered with the interest which the Prince is pleased to take in the Election for Caithness. I am sure that nothing could have induced me to have troubled his Royal Highness upon the subject, but the astonishing exertions made by the enemy, who have carried on the contest with more art, keenness, and inveteracy, and in a manner more unfair, and ungentlemanlike, than anything of the kind I have ever witnessed. The scene of action is 300 miles from Edinburgh, yet they were at the expence of sending a barrister, and three attorneys all that distance, to manage the legal part of the business, and they have tried the effect of threats



of promises, and of corruption not only with every individual Freeholder, but even with those who could be supposed to have any influence over them, without regarding their connexion with me, or positive engagements. Their partizans here give out, that Mr Pitt considers it as his own Election, and that he would sooner lose half a dozen of other seats in Scotland, than this one in the North.

Fortunately, however, my friends, have, with a few wretched exceptions, stood firm and steady. We had a trial of strength about three weeks ago, when the Court of Freeholders were obliged to sit for twenty two hours without intermission, owing to the tedious volubility of their lawyers. They had made every possible exertion to muster all their forces, and to prevent mine from attending. But they were after all so completely beat, that they are thinking of giving up the attempt as impracticable.

impracticable  
cost them,  
and they

present, &  
additional  
happy to  
a new pa  
may be  
of a cert  
nothing  
to reason  
which y  
the pleac  
as soon

request  
of my gr  
condem  
present  
regard,  
Edinburgh.



impracticable. If they persevere, it will cost them, I am persuaded, from 8 to £10,000, and they will lose it after all.

Though a dissolution at present, would insure my seat, without much additional trouble or expence, yet I am happy to hear that it is put off. Before a new parliament is necessary, means may be fallen upon to procure the dismissal of a certain political Charlatan, who has nothing but loquacity, cunning, & confidence to recommend him. A plan for that purpose which I think would answer, I shall have the pleasure of communicating to you, as soon as I reach London.

Have the goodness to request his Royal Highness's acceptance of my grateful acknowledgements for his condescension & generosity to me upon the present occasion, & believe me, with great regard,  
 your very faithful humble servant  
 Edinburgh - 21<sup>st</sup> Octr 89 J. Sinclair



Mr. S. Sinclair

21<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1709

J. W. Payne Esqr

*[Faint signature]*



21 Oct