

Ld.
Malinesbury
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H.R.H.

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Berlin Oct 3. 1791

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Sir,

The first object on my arrival here has been to obey the commands I receiv'd from your Royal Highness when I had the Honor of paying my duty to you at Brighton.

I lost no time in acquainting His Royal Highness the Duke of York with the Idea you entertain'd of deriving a considerable pecuniary assistance from His Prussian Majesty; with the mode in which your Royal Highness thought it might be obtain'd and the motives on which you so reasonably grounded hopes of success.

I am confident, Sir, I need not waste any of your time in saying that the Duke enter'd with the most cordial and anxious affection into every part of what I said: it would be impertinent in me to dwell on the expression of sentiments so well known to you; and

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it is equally unnecessary for me to
drene that the object in view has never
quitted his thoughts, and that it needed
no intimation from me to give them activity
had His Royal Highness seen any opening
to have come forward under any probability
of success. If any assistance from
the King of Prussia had been attainable,
it would have been effected long since
and without any intimation of mine
for altho' I would willingly believe no
one to be more respectfully & sincerely
devoted to your Royal Highness than
I am, yet you most assuredly have from
every principle & motive a much more
able advocate in the Duke of York than
either myself, or any of those who are the
most attach'd to you can presume to
think themselves.

Your Royal Highness is already
inform'd that the reports which reach'd
England of H. Pruss. Majesty's intention
to give a very large sum of money
to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of
York were ill founded; she is only to
have the usual portion of 100,000
Crowns & this sum is the only one the
Duke of York will receive on his marriage
from the King of Prussia.

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Two very powerful causes exist at present here to defeat every expectation of succeeding in an attempt to draw money from hence.

The King of Prussia has during the course of three last three years expended very large sums as well on political as on private concerns: In the great Armament previous to the Conventions at Reichenbach, in that He has been keeping up since against Prussia and by a very considerable Force still on the war establishment in Silesia, He has decreas'd his treasure more than two millions of an half sterling (16 millions of Crowns). In a Country like this where new Taxes are impossible and where repairs are not to be sought for in the wealth & Trade of the subject, but must be found in the coffers of the Sovereign, such a Diminution is a very serious consideration, and as no immediate or even apparent benefit has resulted from such an expenditure, of what is look'd upon here as the publick money, it is loudly murmur'd against, and despotick as this Government is, yet the publick will be listend to, & a line of economy must be drawn.

by

by building, by Furniture and by
entering into various expenses of pleasure &
enjoyment unknown to the late King,
and a very few weeks ago by giving near
100,000 to Monsieur de La Cour,
d'Artois, the privy Purse is completely
drawn out and it will be difficult to
provide for the expenses of the Fêtes (now
going on which are really magnificent)
without incurring debt, or without again
having recourse to the publick treasure.

I have ascertain'd these facts too evidently
to be mistaken and I certainly do not
mislead your Royal Highness when I
say that if there did actually exist
a willingness on the part of His Prussian
Majesty to grant a pecuniary supply
it would not be easy for him at this
moment to find the means to the extent
that it is wanted.

But, Sir, I must also add
& I am very sorry to add it, that the
complexion & Temper of this Court is such
just now as to place insurmountable
difficulties in the way - I is considered
here

here that England deviated from its engagements and forsook His Pruss: Maj: in the late transaction with Russia, and this defection which our ministers cannot wholly deny, they naturally chose to attribute rather to the conduct of opposition than to any Timidity or weakness of their own, or to a dereliction of the system they had themselves adopted: H. P. M: is deeply impress'd with this opinion; it is difficult to do it away and I need not say how it bears on his mind and how contrary it is to the attainment of the object so much in my wishes.

by various means also, but tedious to detail to your Royal Highness the Court of Vienna (I know as I may seem) has contriv'd to gain ground here, and the weight of the Emperor which naturally ought to be very insignificant is unfortunately sufficient just now at Berlin to give the most unfavorable ideas relative to England and to alarm H. P. M: mind with the illiberal suggestion that our object is to guide & to direct the measures of this Court with a sole view to our own interests and with a total disregard of his: This influence is too important not to be a temporary one but while it exists it operates most fatally against us.

all these circumstances taken
into

taken into consideration, and I will venture
to say I have stated them fairly and as
they really are, it did not appear to H. K. H.
The Duke of York advisable or expedient that
I should come forward with any direct
application to M. P. M. himself or to attempt
indirectly to influence him thro' those who
approach him confidentially - it was thought
that by so doing, I should committ Y. K. H.
uselessly & dangerously - uselessly because
there was not the most remote appearance
of success - dangerously because the secret
would probably transpire & be poled to
England where by misrepresentation it would
do Y. K. H. essential harm; - It was from ^{these}
reasons which seem a conclusive here & which
I most anxiously desire may also appear conclusive
to you, Sir, that it was determin'd
when I saw the King of Prussia that I should
confine myself to those strong assurances
of Friendship & regard I had in command
from Y. K. H. to you; and with these
assurances M. P. M. was highly pleas'd &
return'd the most cordial & kind answer
possible. If I should have end in what
I have shew'd or if things should take a
sudden favorable turn here, the opportunity
will not be lost - His Royal Highness the
Duke of York will avail himself of it &
in better hands the business cannot remain.

I was happy to hear from the Royal Highness that there was a prospect of a more considerable sum coming from Capet than that already obtained and I hope the conditions on which a further loan is to be raised will be as reasonable as those on which it has been obtained.

The Count d'Artois whom I had the Honor to see at Coblenz directed me to assure you of his high regard & esteem & to express his earnest desire of being personally known to you. I must by leave to refer your Royal Highness to Mr H. Meyer for what appears to be papers relative to the French affairs, I would exceed the bounds of a letter as well as ^{think} my understanding to make them clear & intelligible.

I have the Honor to enclose a letter from H. K. H. the Duke of York.

I shall always have to regret the not having seen your Royal Highness more effectually on this occasion, but I rely on your goodness to give me credit for having acted to the best of my judgement & with the truest zeal - it would give me great satisfaction if yr. K. H. would condescend by a very few words to say you do not disapprove my conduct.

I am Sir, with the highest respect,
Your Royal Highness's
most devoted & affectionate son

Madame de
Mansfield

Earl of Northampton

to

Mr. Poole of Walsby

Dec: 3. 1791.