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The Duke of Portland

23^d Oct: 1792

Sir

Your Royal Highness's gracious acceptance of the tribute of applause & gratitude, which I felt it my duty to offer you, for the communication of the measure, which your Magnanimity, had determined you to take, for the arrangement of your affairs, ought perhaps to satisfy me that the weakness I had acknowledged upon that subject had not deprived me of the rank, which your Indulgence had suffic'd me to hold in your good opinion. & that the Fortitude of your Royal Highness's mind, had not yet taught you to require, an equal share of that Virtue, in all those whom you are pleas'd to distinguish by your confidence.

confidence - But, Sir, it is impossible for me to contemplate the exertions
which Your Royal Highness has made on this occasion, not to wish, to owe,
the favourable sentiments you are pleased to express of me, to your Justice
rather than to your Favor, give me leave therefore, Sir, to protest against
being included in that description of persons whom, Your Royal Highness's
sensibility, has led you to infer, it was my intention to represent as ready to
advise you to accept relief from His Majesty upon any terms; & to entreat
your Patience while I endeavour, as shortly, as I can, to convince your
Royal Highness of the impossibility, of my having, entertained such a
thought.

Great as the Conceptions are, which, I have repeatedly, ventured to represent
to your Royal Highness, I conceived you could make to His Majesty, not
only

without subjecting your conduct to criticism, but very much to the advantage
of the publick, & certainly without prejudice to those you wou'd send to learn
with your Protection; I am certain that a very little reflection will dispose
your Royal Highness, to believe that it would not occur to me that at
the moment I was supposing the King employed in devising the means of
relieving your mind from one great distress, I would also be supposed to
think His Majesty occupied in imagining measures which would render that
relief incapable of being accepted by your Royal Highness; for your Royal
Highness could not have availed yourself of it, had it been accompanied with
conditions which would have affected either your publick Principles or your
conduct. Could I recollect no other instance of that conduct than in
the transactions of the year 1789, I should say that alone was an
insurmountable

insurmountable obstacle to any suggestion of the nature ^{of that} which has
alarmed Your Royal Highness. But, Sir, when in addition to that
Great Example, the Declaration, Your Royal Highness thought
proper to make last Session in the House of Lords, is still vibrating
on my ears; when Principles, which are considered as the basis of
every Good to the present happy Establishment, were so reasonably
avowed & so ably maintained by Your Royal Highness, I am
firm in my belief, that You will acquit me of the possibility, of
having intimated & even of having entertained an idea, not less
extraneous than impracticable, under the circumstances which I have
made bold to advert to. It is superfluous, I admit, & I fear it ^{was}

may seem impertinent, but I flatter myself, Your Royal
Highness's Candour will forgive me for adding, that, I have always
held & known, the Purity & Splendor of Your Character, to be an
object of such high National Importance, so essential to the
Tranquillity as well as to the Glory, of this Empire, which You are
born, some day, to govern, that, I trust, there is not a man, permitted
to approach Your Royal Person, more anxiously, interested, in
upholding that Character, than I am, or more jealous & circumspet
of the tendency, of any, measure which should be recommended to Your
consideration. And I have no difficulty in saying, did such an
hazard exist, that I should much more fear to incur Your Royal

His Majesty's displeasure, for the Capity, than for the severity, of my
advice.

As your Royal Highness knows, & is pleas'd to admit, the justice of
the motives, which I have assign'd, for my silence respecting the late
Conversations on the subject of a Ministerial arrangement. I will only say that
the direct communication, upon which you seem to lay some stress, was properly
an effusion of zeal on the part of the Noble Person by whom it was made.
His Opinion of the benefit of such a measure coincided very nearly, if not
exactly, with that which I, in common with several other Friends, entertain'd of it.
I had a conversation with Him upon the subject. He conceiv'd that the communi-
-cation of that Conversation might be neither unpleasing, nor unusefull in the Courts
& might have its weight with the Principal of His Majesty's confidential
Servants.

Servants - He thought he proposed the means of making that communication
with effect. His Delicacy made him doubt whether he was at liberty to report
what had passed between us; he asked my consent to do it, should there
appear to him a proper opportunity; I gave it without hesitation & empowered
him to make the communication to whomsoever & whenever he should judge
it might be useful. - This is the true history of the direct communication
which your Royal Highness has undertaken to take notice of; & which
I was so apprehensive to me so little likely to be productive of serious consequences
that I doubt whether I should have troubled your Royal Highness with the
mention of it, had I happened at the time to have received your commands to
attend you. Had there indeed seemed reason to suppose, that the King had in
contemplation to form a strong Administration, or that his present Servants had

any serious wish or intention of recommending such a measure to His Majesty, should most certainly have thought it my Duty to have acquainted Your Royal Highness with the probability, of such an event; But your Candor & Justice will not let you blame me, or think me wanting in attachment or attention for having foreborn to importune you with reports of vague, unconnected & groundless speculations.

I must humbly beg Your Royal Highness's pardon for this unreasonable abuse of your Patience. The Friendship, of which you have condescended to give me such liberal & unreserved assurances, ought to have prevented it; But it is a Distinction, Sir, which I wish to deserve, as well, as to possess. And I will venture to assure Your Royal Highness, that if my Honor,

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my Integrity & my Attachment to Your Person, & to the Principles you
profess, appear to entitle me, to your Confidence. You will never be
disappointed, or have reason to think that Confidence misplaced.

I am with every sentiment of
Devotion & Attachment
Sir

Your Royal Highness's
most Dutifull Servant

Bulstrode

Tuesday 23 October 1792

Lorkard

Book of Ireland
on the Princess
visiting to Paris
in 1792