

H. R. W. G. M.

Nov. 1 1792

38762 - 3

In obedience to your Majesty's command, Lord Thurlow has communicated to me a paper, containing your Majesty's sentiments on my affairs, as they were stated by him to your Majesty. Allow me Sir, to return your Majesty my humble, and grateful acknowledgements, for those very gracious expressions your Majesty has condescended to use, of Paternal Affection. I must ever retain the liveliest sense of the great Interest which your Majesty is pleased to take, in the distress of my affairs, and of your Sollicitude for my ultimate Happiness.

Your Majesty is pleased to observe upon the general result of the Statement submitted, "that no explanation is given of more than half my Debt; except by a general Reference to the Payment of Interest, Expenses of Newmarket, Excess of Establishment, and general want of Oeconomy." When the state of my affairs rendered it necessary to make my humble application to your Majesty, either for such assistance as would be requisite for the support of my Bank, or for your Majesty's permission to retire from a situation, which my appointments would not support; I understood that your Majesty would expect to find the extent of my embarrassments stated explicitly, and without reserve. These I ordered to be laid fully before Lord Thurlow, but I did not think of ordering any detail to be made out, of the various expenditures by which they were

4.8
3

incurred; nor do I know that it is practicable. I am aware it could not ~~not~~ be collected from the mere statement of any Debts; except in those instances where they were contracted for specific purposes.

Upon the expense of Carlton House, your Majesty is pleased to observe, that you never intended to exceed the original estimate of £55,200; that the works were always carried on, under my name and Direction; and that it was distinctly explained to me, a considerable time since, that no further Issues would be made by your Majesty, on that account.

If I had understood that any certain sum had been specified, by the Vote of the 25th May 1784, or by your Majesty's intentions to carry that Vote into execution, I should readily confess myself to have been very reprehensible, when, after that sum was exhausted, I caused an Estimate of 56,950 £ for Furniture, to be laid before Treasury, as in the regular course of executing such a Vote. It has not, I perceive been suggested to your Majesty, that I was apprized of any such Ideas from the beginning; but only that it was distinctly explained to me a considerable time since. Give me leave Sir, to explain that,

I never considered the papers delivered by Mr. Holland to the Chan^{ce} of the Exchequer, on the 15th May 1784, as former Estimates, but, merely

Nov. 1 1792

38763

as rough guesses at the expence of the works, which remained unfinished at Carlton House, and of the Furniture; indeed the articles, even of the Works were too indistinctly stated to admit of calculation.

It was still more manifest that the article of Furniture, with so small a sum, as 5500 £ put down to it, was wholly unconsidered. These appear to have been regarded in the same point of view by the Chancellor of the Exchequer; for they were never laid before Parliament, but with these in his hand, the message of the 21st May, informs the House, that His Majesty will direct an Estimate to be laid before them, of the sum wanting to complete, in a proper manner, the works which have been undertaken at Carlton House as soon as the same can be prepared with sufficient accuracy. And the vote of the 24th May, humbly desires, that His Majesty will be graciously pleased to direct, that the sum of 20,000 £ be issued out of His Majesty's Civil List, on account of the Works at Carlton House, as soon as an Estimate shall be formed with sufficient accuracy, of the whole expence for completing the same in a proper manner.

On the 15th of July 1787 I caused the estimate of the Works to be completed, to be laid before the Board of Works for their Revision, and approbation. To which they answered on the 20th, that it was impossible for them to form any judgement upon it. They further observed, that it was a general description

of intended Works; and that exact estimates require
so great an insight into the intentions of the design
and such a vast detail of designs and explanation
that it was scarcely possible for One Man to value
another's compositions. This was forthwith trans-
mitted to the Chan^{ce} of the Exchequer.

On the 17th of August following, the sum of
10,000 L was Issued from the Exchequer to my Treas-
urer, lodged with my Banker, and drawn, and applied
by M. Holland to the current expence of the Works.

In the course of the two following Years 45,200 mo
had been Issued, and applied in the same manner.

It is in this sense, I presume that it has
been suggested to your Majesty, that the Works
at Carlton House were carried on, under my Name
and direction. It is also true that I have advanced
considerable sums on the same Account. If these
Transactions had rendered me accountable to the
Public or to the Workmen, I have a reason the
more to regret my inadvertence in allowing the
matter, to take this train, but I was ignorant
what was the proper course of such a Business.

On the 24th of November 1789, I
Ordered an Estimate of the Furniture requisite for
Carlton House, amounting to 56,950 L to be trans-
mitted to the Chan^{ce} of the Exchequer; and on the
3^d December following, I received a Minute of the
Treasury, dated the day preceding, in recapitular
circumstances, upon which I forbear to trouble

Your Majesty with Observations, and concludes "Under
" these circumstances, It does not appear to the Board
" that the additional estimate of 56950^l comes within
" the intention of the Resolution of the 24th May 1787;
" and the Board does not think itself authorized to
" direct a Warrant to be prepared for the Issue of any
" farther Sum, out of the Civil List, in pursuance
" of the said Resolution." It must be confessed
that the Message and Vote, taken literally, extend
only to the completing the Works which had been
undertaken at Carlton House; and not to the fur-
-niture. so that, unless the last article comes
within the Reason for which the Provision was
made for the first, it can no otherwise be said
to be within the intention of the Resolution. It
must also be confessed, that if the proposed Man-
-ner of completing the Works, or the manner of
furnishing the House, when completed, was im-
proper, that would be still more distinctly ex-
-cluded from the intention of the Resolution; be-
-cause it expressly provides for completing the
Works undertaken, in a proper manner: but
certainly this was the first intimation I ever
received, that the Papers of the 24th May 1787 were
considered as Estimates; and as the measure
by which the expence, either of the Works, or of
the Furniture was to be limited; If they had
been prepared as Estimates, and with more accuracy,
It would not be thought wonderful, that such Works

48588

in public or private Hands, should exceed their
Original Estimates.

I cannot conclude these observations, without
some apology, for the imporsen length to which
they have run: I was anxious to prove to your
Majesty, that whatever may be thought of my
discretion, I did not deal unfairly with your
Majesty, or the Publick, when I sent the above
mentioned estimate of the Furniture, to the Clerk
of the Exchequer, or when I considered it as a
surprize, that any part of the abovementioned
expenses were thrown upon me.

I should make an ill return, for
all your Majestys goodness, with the sense of
which I am deeply impressed, if I were capable
of importuning your Majesty to take any step
upon my account, even of a doubtful nature,
I have never wished that any application should
be made to Parliament for the payment of my
Debts: but I had flattered myself that an in-
crease of Income might have been fairly, and
properly proposed. My Income I have always
thought deficient to support my establishment,
as I have constantly represented to your Majesty

The Plan of my Expenses, arranging them in
departments, and ascertaining the Order of Payment
as a check to avoid future Disorders, which was
referred to, in the Message of the 21st of May 1784,

and had been prepared by His Majesty's Comrs. and
and upon the lowest scale, amounted to 99,300 £;
in the marginal Observations, it was suggested
that the Plan had been formed upon an Idea some
what too narrow — As under these circum-
stances I could not expect with confidence, to
avoid new arrears of Debt, I confess I was wrong
in undertaking to resume the proposed Estab-
-lishment on a lower Appointment; for I do
not pretend, that the narrowness of my Income
can furnish a sufficient apology for running
into Debt. However as your Majesty is ad-
vised, that nothing of that kind, can be done
properly at this time, I readily embrace the
measure which your Majesty is pleased to
recommend, and will set immediately about
executing it, in the most effectual manner

I am sensible of the truth of your Majesty's
intimation, that "It is necessary to allot a
"large portion of my Income to the discharge of
"my Debts;" without this it would be impossible
to produce a material effect, or even a serious
appearance; I have resolved therefore to live
upon the revenue of my Duchy, and apply my
other appointments to that Object, so far as in
any manner consistent with the attention, justly
due to the situation of those who in entering

into my Service, have thrown themselves out of
other lines of advancement, or subsistence

I have been anxious to submit my interests
to your Majesty, in the most open manner, in
the humble hope of meeting your Majesty's
approbation.

Copy of a Letter to the
King. Dec. 17. 1792.
written at Brighton.