

— Fraser to J. Capt. Payne

38768 - 9

Glasgow Nov^r 22 1792

Dear Sir

From Mr. Fraser dated
22 Nov^r 1792

I took the liberty of sending you a copy of my little publication on the advantages of the communication I projected in the county of Argyll to which I am so fortunate as to have already a fund of £40,000 and have no doubt of completing the sum required in a very short time.

The accomplishment of so important a national object without having recourse to public aid will I hope be a sufficient excuse for ^{my} long stay in this country and especially as I could have been of little service to his royal highness's affairs in Dartmore under the present arrangements.

I am glad however to hear from Mr Gray that you have been on the forest personally, and will therefore be able fully to take such measures for its improvement as you shall think fit in which you may always expect yourself of my best endeavours to serve you and his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

At present an investigation extremely interesting to the prosperity of this nation, and to the peace of the country engages my attention. Since the retreat of the combined armies a spirit of discontent has broke forth in this country, that gives much uneasiness to all friends to her prosperity and peace. A great number of associations have been formed for the purpose of bringing about a parliamentary reform and they are spreading through the whole country. They are chiefly amongst that class of people who subsisting by their manual labour or their skill and dexterity in mechanical operations are easily led to believe

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38769

that they have little to risk in ^{any} a crisis to which a resort
force to such a spirit may produce. There are not
however any people of very considerable property much
connected with them at least publicly which in my opinion
renders this tendency the more dangerous — Well persuaded
that any political evils of Britain and Ireland may
be remedied without any disagreeable consequences to
the prosperity of our prosperous nation and country by
gradual improvements I ardently hope that any dan-
gerous or violent measures will be prevented — The
direction of the helm of State at this moment is
truly delicate and arduous — If the tendency of the
people in England is the same as in this country nothing
will do but meeting their wishes in a fair, manly and
open manner — Such measures would remove all dis-
content, and strengthen the hands of Government more
amplely than ever — Would I could see a great per-
sonage come forward on such a principle at the head

of the virtue the property and talents of the Kingdom —
He would be the saviour of his country — In the meantime
I think it is the Duty of all good citizens to endeavour as far
as his influence extends to calm & soothe the minds of the people
and restrain that blind enthusiasm for indefinite re-
form which is too apt to lead people to neglect consequences
which may prove ruinous to themselves & their country.

It affords me great pleasure to observe the report of
an application to parliament on a great personage's affairs
so fully contradicted by the arrangement which it is stated
he has made for the settlement of them.

It will give me great satisfaction if I shall be
able to contribute to the peace & prosperity of the country
by any exertions you may point out and if any thing occur
in which I can serve you I beg to assure you of my best
endeavours & beg leave to subscribe myself

Dr Sir

Your most obliged and
very humble servant

Jay Fraser

My address is at Dr Gaffrins College Glasgow.