

39044-5

Mr. Dundas

3<sup>d</sup> March 1795Wimbledon 3<sup>d</sup> March 1795.

Sir,

I had the honour of receiving  
Your Royal Highness's letter yesterday morning and  
from the communication which Your Royal Highness  
condescended to make to me the preceding day, the  
contents of it did not surprize me. If I err in any  
of the sentiments I submit to the consideration of  
Your Royal Highness, it is not for want of fully  
weighing the subject, for I have thought of nothing  
else



else since I received Your Royal Highness's letter, and  
 my retirement yesterday evening to the Country has  
 enabled me without interruption to revolve it deliberately  
 in my mind, and the result of the whole is a deter-  
 mined purpose to unbosom myself without reserve to  
 Your Royal Highness trusting to Your candour and to  
 Your indulgence, that if I do not satisfy you by my  
 reasoning you will at least do me the justice to feel  
 that I cannot in any of my observations be actuated  
 by any other motive than a sincere and dutiful  
 anxiety for Your Royal Highness's character in every  
 view in which it can be rationally considered.

I begin with stating to Your Royal Highness  
 that



that I mean not to enter into a discussion of the various particulars stated in your letter, for if I have a just view of the present subject, it is the general tendency of it, and not the minute particulars which merits attention. I must however not dismiss the topics of Your Royal Highness's letter without two observations: the first is, that if there is any error in Your Royal Highness's having received the command of a Regiment without its being considered as a step to further promotion in the army, that error exclusively rests with Mr. Pitt and myself, His Majesty never having felt the propriety of Your Royal Highness's betaking yourself to any military pursuit, and having yielded only to gratify



gratify your wishes by the Command of a Regiment of Cavalry upon the importunity of others, retaining to himself a full persuasion that his conception did not promise to be attended with any consequences beneficial to the public.

My other observation is, that Your Royal Highness's whole letter proceeds upon the assumption of a principle, which it is impossible for me to subscribe to - You put your case upon the common footing of an Officer superseded by a Promotion injurious to his feelings as a Soldier - Such a view of the case descends so much beneath my ideas of the respect belonging to the elevated situation of the  
apparent



apparent heir to the Crown, that I cannot form even  
the semblance of an argument upon it. If His  
Majesty saw it proper tomorrow to promote Your  
Royal Highness to the highest rank known in the  
gradation of Military promotion, any officer who  
might utter a murmur on the occasion would be  
reckoned perfectly absurd, and I trust I do not  
argue unfairly from the same principle, when I  
contend that Your Royal Highness does not feel to  
its full extent, the pre-eminence of Your own  
elevated rank in the Empire, when you suppose  
that any degradation can attach upon you by any  
promotion whatever that can take place in the  
common



common routine of military arrangement. If your  
 Royal Highness does so feel, I can with confidence  
 affirm that your Royal Highness is the only person  
 in the Kingdom into whose mind such an idea will  
 enter. I beg however without further delay totally  
 to dismiss this view of the question, and to hasten  
 to considerations of a more delicate, and more  
 important nature; important to the public, but if  
 possible more important to your Royal Highness. I  
 should not act with candour if I was not to avow  
 my persuasion that His Majesty will not enter into  
 the ideas, which seem to press upon the feelings of  
 Your



Your Royal Highness, but on the contrary will feel that  
the Heir apparent of the British Empire ought to rest  
the glory of his life, upon pursuits very different  
from any that could result from any military  
totally occupation, or any military attainment. His Majesty  
will probably feel that in a Government formed upon  
the principles of the British Constitution, the Heir  
apparent to the Crown may gratify the wishes and  
expectations of the public and add more substantial  
splendour to his own character, by studying to culti-  
vate and improve the blessings of Peace, rather than  
by addicting himself to the manœuvres of military  
discipline.

Your  
Inight



I might here conclude my letter, and leave to Your Royal Highness's cool reflexion the considerations which I have taken the liberty to bring under Your view, but Your Royal Highness having distinctly stated to me that if His Majesty puts a negative upon Your wishes for an addition of Military Rank it must lead to a total separation between the King and the Prince of Wales, I cannot consistently with the duty I owe to both, and to the public, refrain from submitting to the serious attention of Your Royal Highness a few considerations, the importance of which I trust Your Royal Highness will be disposed to acknowledge.

In the first place  
permit



permit me to remind Your Royal Highness that You have invited an accomplished and Illustrious Princeps to be the partner of your future Happiness and Splendour, but I dare say it has never occurred to Your Royal Highness to state to the Duke and Duchess of Brunswick, that the condition of their daughter in this Country was to depend upon whether Your Royal Highness attained the Rank of Major General, and that too in a point of no less importance to her, than whether she was to be withdrawn from the Society of the Royal Family.

another consideration must immediately present itself to Your Royal Highness connected with  
the



the subject I have just referred to - The State of Your  
Royal Highness's affairs and Your future Establishment  
must immediately undergo the discussion of Parlia:  
ment, and I am sorry to be compelled to state to  
Your Royal Highness that the discussion will not  
be pleasant in more respects than one - The extent  
of Your Royal Highness's debts will undoubtedly  
attract attention, and although a coincidence  
of circumstances may prevent much observation  
in the Houses of Parliament, I should deceive  
Your Royal Highness if I were to disguise from  
You that the circumstances will produce some  
disagreeable sensations in the public mind,  
and



and I must in the same spirit of freedom and  
candour which dictates every line of this letter  
honestly avow to Your Royal Highness my conviction,  
that nothing could render the measure palatable  
either to Parliament, or the public, but the anxiety  
they entertain for the happiness of the Royal Family.

Your Royal Highness must know  
that the King is beloved by his people, and if it  
were for a moment to be supposed that the first  
fruits of Your Royal Highness's Establishment were  
to be a disunion in the Royal Family, I am confident  
neither their love of monarchy, nor the popularity of  
the House of Brunswick, would reconcile the public  
mind



mind to the adoption of those measures which must  
be proposed for the establishment of Your Royal  
Highness in Carlton House; But important as these  
considerations must appear to Your Royal Highness  
they are much short of what the subject suggests.  
The times are awful and momentous, beyond any  
former period, and in the cause which agitates  
every corner of Europe Your Royal Highness must  
feel that the personal character and conduct of  
the Royal Family in every Country forms an essential  
ingredient in the contest. The popularity of our  
own Sovereign has been a tower of strength to  
those



those in this country who have had the cause of  
monarchy to maintain. It behoves Your Royal High-  
ness seriously and maturely to consider what a  
breach in the harmony of the Royal Family in the  
present moment would have upon the security and  
permanency of those interests in which the family  
and personal concerns of your Royal Highness  
are so deeply involved. It is impossible that Your  
Royal Highness after a moment's cool reflexion on  
the subject, can put any consideration whatever  
in competition with those important interests  
which are now at stake.

Even in times less critical than the  
present



present I should have urged the same topics to the con-  
sideration of your Royal Highness, and I should have  
asked you, if ever the Character and interests of  
the Royal Family had been exalted by disunion  
among themselves - Unfortunately, this Country has  
had too much experience of such disunion at  
different times. I avoid for obvious reasons ma-  
king any reference to experience derived from  
transactions of a recent date, but I may now  
refer as matter of History and without offence  
to the transactions at Carlton House at a more  
early period, and I believe I may aver, that  
there is no person now alive, whose name is  
mentioned



mentioned in Doddingtons Diary, who would not wish  
to have that Page erased in which his own name  
is mentioned. I will make no apology for  
trespassing so long on the patience of Your Royal  
Highness. I feel myself impelled in justice to my  
own character and by a sense of every duty that ought  
to actuate me either as a public or private man,  
to submit the case as it really is, to the consideration  
of your Royal Highness, and I can venture to assert  
that there is no person, who means to give an  
honest opinion to Your Royal Highness who will  
defer from me in any position I have laid down.  
Your Royal Highness has condescended in your  
letter



letter to address me as Your Friend, I am penetrated  
with a due sense of your condescension and goodness  
the more so, as I am conscious never to have forfeited  
my title to it; But I can assure Your Royal Highness  
with the utmost sincerity of heart, that at no  
hour of my life have I ever felt myself so much  
entitled to the appellation of Friend, from Your  
Royal Highness as at the moment when I have  
found myself impelled by irresistible ties of duty  
to submit to Your consideration the various im-  
portant truths, which I have endeavoured in the  
address, respectfully, but freely to state to Your  
Royal Highness, and of course Your Royal Highness  
must



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must give me credit, when I conclude with assuring  
You, that nothing could give me greater satisfaction,  
than to learn that they have operated so far upon  
Your Royal Highness, as to induce you to allow  
me to refrain from the communication to His  
Majesty of the letter which has given rise to  
this representation.

I have the honour to be, with  
Profound Reverence and Respect,  
your Royal Highness  
most devoted servant  
Henry Dundas

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.



