

[7 March 9 1745]

Sir

When I advert to the combination of Foreign Powers now forming against that National Dignity of this Country which your Majesty has ever with such peculiar sensibility had at heart, it is impossible but that I must give way to keen solicitude:

And recollection of the character which has always distinguished our family, unavoidably prescribes the consequent object, for which I now present myself to your Majesty's paternal remembrance.

The impending War bears an aspect so complicated as bids fair to cover great part of Europe with the Troops of your Majesty & your Allies. Under that appearance of affairs, I feel that I should be wanting towards you Sir, still more than towards myself, did I not submissively express my earnest prayer for Leave from your Majesty to serve in one of those Armies. I am aware Sir, that the proposal may at first



view startle your Majesty; as the  
practice of the Kings immediately  
preceding has not exhibited a Prince  
of Wales in the Field. But I must  
hope the adverse impression will  
fade, when it is considered that  
the motives which may have estab-  
-lished in other times any oppo-  
-sited principle on that head, can-  
-not apply to me. When the course  
of Family Succession may be hazard-  
-ed by the exposure of an individual  
to danger, I can readily agree  
that the attention due to public  
tranquillity ought to impose pro-  
-hibition; however mortifying  
to the feelings of the person so  
restricted. But I, Sir, have the  
good fortune to possess so many  
Brothers - the Nation has the  
security of so many representa-  
-tives of your Majesty to look  
towards, that the stake of my life  
can be of little political import-  
-ance. May I add, it is possibly due  
from me to this Country. At a moment  
like this, I cannot forget that former



Princes of Wales have had the happiness of supporting the glory of their Sovereigns & of standing forth the beneficial examples of that energy requisite for the general interest. Not, Sir, that unaverted as I have been in consequence I would have the public advantage resigned for any chance of acquiring personal reputation. I seek not to interfere with those Stations of Counsel which should be held by persons qualified thro' experience to discharge adequately so important a trust. My only wish, is, to be permitted so to see Service as that my Observation may fit me for the Duty which National exigency might in a future Day require for me; an experience which neither the nature of the last War, or any other Age, allowed me at an earlier period to seek. And to justify the presuming such an eventual Duty, I have only to remind your Majesty



of your own declaration to me  
during that war, that any Soldier  
of this Country would find you in  
person at the head of your Forces.

Your Majesty's justice will make  
the more equitable allowance  
for my eagerness to be thus en-  
-ployed, if you will condescend  
to reflect for an instant upon  
my situation. At a stage of Life  
which calls upon others to incline  
themselves to various pursuits, I  
find myself barred from the objects  
of application natural & becoming  
to my Rank. The chain of Public  
Affairs, whence I might have  
derived instruction as well as  
occupation, has been uniformly  
with-held from me. Implicit re-  
-signation to your Majesty's will  
in that respect, has prevented  
my ever attending myself with  
any insinuation of complaint.  
But I supplicate Your Majesty  
not to conceive this statement  
intended as an indirect resor-  
-tance. Yet I may be indulged

Sketch of a Letter to the  
King drawn up by D. Rowde





to say, that, when circumstances  
which I considered as the height  
of calamity to myself / gave the  
prospect of my being forced to  
take a temporary part in Na-  
-tional business, I felt the  
most painful disquietude in  
reflecting that my first exer-  
-cise of those functions had not  
originated from your Majesty's  
confidence. If that confidence  
has been denied to me thro' any  
jealousies which may have  
been infused into your Majesty's  
ear by men who did not per-  
-ceive the extent of mischief  
they were committing by such in-  
-correct representations, I should  
consider as the happiest day of  
my life that in which I might  
be suffered to vindicate myself  
to your Majesty; conscious as I  
am that the investigation would  
satisfy your Majesty of my unre-  
-mitting duty & reverential af-  
-fection. Should that reserve



happily spring from motives less  
injurious to me, still the effect  
is the same. I have no option but  
to lead a life which must to the  
Public Eye wear the color of an  
idleness depending on my choice;  
& which, from the sense of its so  
appearing, must sit irksomely  
upon me.

When I venture  
Sir, most respectfully to submit  
this application to your Majesty  
let me implore that you will  
not too suddenly give ear to any  
surmise of this step being taken  
from the particular considera-  
-tion that it may recommend  
me to the opinion of a high spi-  
-rited Nation. To prove that  
I hold my own Honor & Interests un-  
-distinguishable from those of the  
Public, is a motive which may  
I am sensible does, influence  
my present Desires: I dare, however,  
affirm, that in the view in which  
that motive operates it is a most



lowest one. But the primary  
motivation which distinctly deter-  
-mines my conduct in this hour-  
-of representation, is, anxiety  
to show myself in the hour  
of difficulty the most zealous  
& the most devoted of My Ma-  
-jesty's Subjects.



*W. R. Highmore  
The Prince of Wales  
to  
The King*

*Sketch of a letter  
drawn up by Lord  
Roxburgh*