

Ld. Howe to Col J. Mordaunt

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Exeter, near Nottingham
July 11th 1796

My Dear Sir

Your letter, so far from being in need of any of the apologies which it contained, is a proof of the kindness & friendship which I had studied to merit from you. To any one accustomed to weigh the principles upon which he acts, there can be no difficulty about determining the line which he ought to pursue upon any given contingency. And if he has no speculation of turning a crisis to profit by playing loose with his own sense of

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rectitude, he can have no objection to declare
what would be his conduct under the circumstances
supposed. You say, therefore, tell Huskisson dis-
-tinctly what part I shall take, should I be
in London (as will probably be the case) when
the question for a Peace comes on in the House
of Lords. I shall certainly argue against any
declaration of Parliament on the expediency
of making Peace. In the debates at the outset of
the business I stand on record as deprecating the
measures by which the Ministers appeared to be
to be wilfully & solicitously entailing a war that

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did not otherwise menace us. My sentiment on
that head has never changed. I see, however,
that war was actually begun, every other consid-
eration was to be postponed, and all parties
should have felt the common interest that
this Country should get thro' the contest with
safety at least; if possible, with advantage.
Advantage is now out of contemplation: but
safety calls our attention loudly indeed, and
I am sure it is not to be established on any
terms which the Enemy would concede in return
for the conduct of our arrival that we are too

such exhausted to prosecute hostilities further

I conceive the notion of another Campaign for
us to have been thrown out by Huskisson upon
very loose imagination of possibilities. You
know my idea that we must not decline ser-
vice where the object is deemed to be necessary
and adequate. I do not see how a sufficient
force can be allotted for the operation to
which you principally allude: but were the
situation to be this, that we should merely
command the quota of British Troops furnished
to the Army of a Foreign General, it would be a

position visible to me after the line in which it was destined I should have acted. I must be very guarded in having all circumstances made ~~very~~ perfectly clear to me before I voluntarily engage in such a business (as Lord puts all hesitation out of the question) when I reflect on the indications of deep hostility which the Ministers un-
-doubtedly suffered me to discover in them towards me in the course of my late command. I must be able also to calculate the expense, which can only be measured by a distinct view of the pro-

-jected enterprise. My last command was minor
to be beyond what you can suppose, or what
I myself could have suspected, partly from its
immediate expense; partly from its being
prevented by wiping off in due time former
encumbrances which were from the accumula-
-tion of interest amounting every day. I am
now providing for their liquidation by the sale
of considerable property in Ireland: but, as
that demands a corresponding retrenchment
in my ordinary course of life, I cannot think
run the hazard of incurring new encumbrances.

The Auditors of Public Accounts have required
 me to answer for $\text{£}360-5$ which they say appears
 from the Books of the Paymaster-General to have
 been issued to me between the 25th Dec^r 1793 & the
 24th Dec^r 1794. Will you have the goodness to ascer-
 -tain what this sum is. I fancy it must be the
 Extraordinaries of our March for Ostend.

Dean Warburton has a son whom he is extror-
 -dinary anxious to send out to India, where he is to
 meet powerful protection. But the young man
 cannot yet have to go thither without being
 in some ostensible capacity connected with the
 Service. I hear that there are some Practices

vacant in the 25th Dragoons, who are under orders
for India. Will you have the kindness to ask Barr
-ry about it; & by him, if there be one at liberty
to exhibit it from the Duke of York in my name.

The young man, name is Garnet M. Barburton.
& he is 17 years old.

The Barrack-master ^{at} ~~at~~ East-Barrack is very desirous to ~~vide~~ ^{get} the ~~employment~~ ^{employment}
in favor of Lt. Gookman for whom I have ^{long}
been striving to get something & whom the Prince
wished to serve at the entreaty of Sir P. Bunsell.

May I beg you to speak to General Delancey about
it, & to entreat it as a favor to see if it will ac-
-cord with the General's arrangements.

Adieu, my Dear Sir. Offer my best Compliments
to Mr. McMahon, and believe me with high esteem &
friendship

[your very] faithful servant] Moira.