

Capt. J. H. Payne to H. P. H.

July 10 1796

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Sir

Having received from Your Royal Highness's private Secretary, a Communication of Your Commands to him, to inform me, that your Royal Highness had been pleased to appoint him to be Keeper of your Privy Seal, and Auditor of your Duchy of Cornwall, I trust, that, on my Dismission from your Service, I may once more be allowed to approach you, with my Thanks, for the various Testimonies of Favour and Confidence, which, for a considerable Series of Years, Your Royal Highness has done me the honour of conferring on me.

Capt

I assure you, Sir! that proud as I have ever
been of your favourable Opinion, I have
never been so dazzl'd by the Protection
with which you have distinguish'd me,
as to suppose myself possess'd of the
smallest Degree of Title to it, which did not
flow from the spontaneous Impulse of
your own Heart. A fair, unsullied name,
a truly ^{warm,} & disinterested Attachment to your
Royal Highness's Person, & genuine Interests,
were the only Qualifications, with which I
enter'd your Family. I quit it, with the deepest
Regret and Mortification, that I have
ceas'd to be useful in it — but with the
consolation of the purest Conscience, that, if
I have been incompetent to the Situation,
in which I had the honour of being plac'd,
I at least receiv'd it unsought & unsolicited;

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and that, from the Period, at which I was first
employ'd in your Service, to the present one,
at which I am dismiss'd from it, I have,
never for a Moment, ceas'd to discharge
towards your Royal Highness, the Duty of a
disinterested Servant, in whose Mind an
undivided Care, & Attention to his Master's
Honour & Advantage, has invariably
superseded every Consideration, of the least
possible Advancement of his own private
Interest. For a proof, Sir! of the little Degree
of Contemplation which I have ^{ever} paid to my
own Interest, I am confident that I need
not recall to your Memory, my steady
Protest against the Excess of your Royal
Highness's Liberality, in originally proposing
to me a Life Appointment to the Auditorship
of the Duchy of Cornwall, on the Principle
of the general Power which I thought that

your Royal Highness ought, in Prudence, to
reserve to yourself, of occasionally dismissing
any Servant from your Family, whom you
might eventually think undeserving of a
continuance in it. Your Royal Highness
will likewise have the Goodness to extend
your Recollection, to the Occasion of my
paying my Respects to you at Rochester,
when acting in my professional Line, &
charg'd with His Majesty's Commands, when
I thought paramount to every other Consideration
upon Earth, I offer'd to lay my Patent at
Your Royal Highness's feet, on my own
Principle, & on the unhappy apprehension
of my having incur'd Your Royal Highness's
Displeasure. But Sir! there is one more
sacrifice of my private Advantage, which
it is necessary for me to make to my ^{own} Feeling.

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and this is, to decline, with every possible
Intention & Expression of Humility & Respect.
The acceptance of Salaries & Emoluments
(which Your Royal Highness hath the goodness
to offer me) of the Offices, from which I am
discharg'd. If I am unequal to the Duties of
those Offices, I am unworthy of being paid
for them. They were bestow'd upon me, with
Expressions of memorable Kindness, and I
resign them, Sir, with Gratitude, for that
Kindness which once enrich'd them to me,
and with Grief, for the Loss of that Confidence,
without which their Value ceases.

Besides, Sir: if (as every Labourer is
worthy of his hire) my Successor executes
your Business with Assiduity & Fidelity,
he will well earn the Emoluments resulting
from it; and I should blush to deprive

him of them. Or, if Sir: it be your meaning,
that I should enjoy these Emoluments; not
at his Expence, but at an additional one
to your Royal Highness, my Objection to
receive them, would, if possible, be stronger;
and I should irreticivably sink in my
own Opinion of myself, condemn'd by the
Tribunal of my own Breast, to the Acquittal
of which every honest Man must advert, as
his ultimate Comfort, could I, at this Crisis
of your Royal Highness's Affairs, consent
to become an idle Pensioner on your
Bounty, and accept the smallest Income
from your Treasury, which might so much
more worthily be employ'd, in contributing,
to liquidate its Embarrassments, and to
restore the Establishment of your

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Household, to its usual and proper state of
splendour.

I trust, that your Royal Highness
will not impute to me, the smallest Degree
of Ingratitude, or Contumacy, in consulting
what I conceive to be my indispensable
Duty, & only proper Line of Conduct, on this
occasion; and I will therefore only request
your Royal Highness's acceptance of my
devout Wishes for your Happiness, which is
interwoven and inseparable from that of a
great and loyal Nation, and your Permission
Sir; of the respect with which I have the
Honour to be

Your Royal Highness's
much Oblig'd, and
most faithful Servant

Brompton

July 10th 1796.

J. Payne.

Admiral Payne

Captain

Admiral Payne

to

Mr. Pinner of Leeds

July 10th 1796

On returning from the
Royal Hospital's
Service