

Duke of Rutland to A.R.H.

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Belvoir Castle

Dec^r. 25th 1790

Sir

Impertinent and intrusive as this liberty may appear, it is impossible for me to anticipate in silence the great honour which your Royal Highness intends to confer upon this old House and its inhabitants on the 3^d of January. Most ungrateful indeed should I be, were I not to feel the highest and most grateful sense of the many instances of flattering and condescending friendship with which your Royal Highness has honoured every part of this family. The only observation that I can make in favour of myself, and in return for such distinguished partiality, is, that I trust my conduct will never degenerate from the principles instilled into my early mind by my late father, and that your Royal Highness may never find me ungrateful for the favour which you have shewn to me. I could wish Sir, that it were possible to receive you here in a manner

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suitable to your rank, and to my wishes; the tottering state
of this old pile, will I fear prove an effectual bar to this
object; but your Royal Highness's condescension in deigning
to give us the honour of your presence under such circum-
stances, and in disregarding the inconveniences ^{of this house}, will prove
doubtly valuable to myself, and to every member of my
family. Should there be any circumstance that could
render your Royal Highness's visit more agreeable to
yourself, you would perhaps desire some one to give me
a hint of it, & nothing on my part shall be wanting
to obey your commands. This troublesome frost seems
likely to last, but should there be a favourable change
in the weather, & your Royal Highness should wish to
send down any of your horses, or (if the offer be not deemed
impertinent) to try any of mine, I trust we could
shew some sport in the foxhunting line; — allow me

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To add also Sir, that our shooting, though not very good, is nevertheless by no means despicable.

It would be trespassing too much upon your Royal Highness's time and patience to add any thing farther; Allow me Sir, to end as I began, by assuring you how deeply engraven on my heart is the impression made by the numerous marks of your friendship; & that to deserve them in future, will ever be the greatest pride of him who has the honour

To subscribe himself
with every respect

Your Royal Highness's
Most faithful

His Royal Highness and obliged humble Servant
The Prince of Wales
Rutland

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Decr 25. 1790.