

Peter Stuart to Col. McKean

40046-7

33 Fleet Street,
Thursday December 8. 1803.

Dear Colonel,

I am sorry, ashamed, and mortified, beyond description, that my Paper has sustained a very serious injury by your omitting to favour me with the Correspondence of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, &c. which appeared in yesterday's Morning Chronicle and Morning Herald. A marked preference for more than a twelvemonth, by articles of less importance in these Prints, I have noticed with some temporary vexation. I contemplated, however, these transitory misfortunes in sullen silence, not wishing for a single moment to interrupt your better avocations, and attributing such deviations from the first channel of His Royal Highness's confidence to some unaccountable accident or mistake. But a continuation of the same system, in the very same Papers, together with the very formidable shape which it now assumes, renders it incumbent upon me, to make a firm but a respectful remonstrance.

To a Gentleman of your experience and discernment, it would be an insult to your good sense to insinuate the most remote belief on my part that the Correspondence, which reflects so much honour on His Royal Highness, was not issued from and sanctioned by the Chief Officers of his Confidence; and

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and why I should be excluded from a share of the first honours of such a publication remains for those who have taken upon themselves the direction of this affair to determine. Of this fact, however, they may rest assured, that a pride of character — not a little cherished by the gracious condescensions of the Prince, through your kind medium — precludes me from remaining any longer with indifference in the back ground: I beg therefore leave firmly to urge and respectfully to maintain those claims to which my long and faithful services entitle me.

It requires no wonderful effort of memory, my dear Sir, to charge your recollection with the time when my Paper alone had the singular peculiarity of daily and uniformly vindicating His Royal Highness against the bitter and wanton aspersions of his Enemies. Pardon me for saying, that they had so far succeeded as to ^{have} produced a very great and wonderful abatement of the Prince's popularity. Another Paper also soon took an active part ^{with me} in the same cause; and the tide of public opinion was suddenly changed by the judicious and indefatigable use of these two engines alluded to.

Then why should I professionally be deprived of the distinction resulting from the publication of such a Correspondence? I have never been reluctant or dilatory in my duty to
Yours

Peter Stuart to Col. Dickhams

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His Royal Highness? Have I ever in any instance violated the confidence with which I was honoured? I say no; and defy the bitterest effort of malignity to overturn my assertion. — But perhaps this liberty may be taken with my property, because the Prince, in the plenitude of his favour, has been pleased to approve of my conduct by a certain grant of which you have had the proper and honourable management. Be it so. Then take back, I pray, that bare recollection of past services, and shall sit down in the quiet enjoyment of my independence. Let all my former exertions, and all the past sacrifices of my Paper, be at once sunk into oblivion. Let it never be remembered that I stood forward in His Royal Highness's cause when the whole tribe of Jacobins were prepared to hunt him down, and, if possible, to wound and destroy his fair game — But, above all, let it never be remembered, that the very persons who then openly reviled him, appear now — ^{to the} astonishment of every loyal and patriotic man — entrusted with His Royal Highness's confidence — at least so far as regards the subject-matter now in question. When you gave me, my dear Sir, the Account of the Apethorne Volunteers, to serve His Royal Highness and His Royal Brother, I had no idea that my property was next day to sustain a severe shock from a quarter that ought by no means to be suspected. It would certainly be irksome and disagreeable, if the cause of His Royal Highness were to suffer by the obloquy exercised against those who have

have ever been zealously and warmly bent in the vindication of
his character and conduct. — But I am so confounded
at the marked and unmerited insult, that I beg you will excuse me
for thus expressing the operation of my feelings; and believe me,

Dear Colonel,

With the most profound respect, and most
sincere and most dutiful attachment
to the Prince of Wales,

Your very obedient
and very humble servant
Stuart.

Peter Stuart

Dec. 11. 1703.

Colonel M'Elbannon.

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