

Duke of Portland to H. H.

May 11 1804

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The Duke of Portland is quite unable to express the Feelings which  
Your Majesty unparalleled goodness has given rise to, — he trusts that  
there is no sentiment which the most dutiful & gratefull Attachment to  
Your Majesty can suggest that is not most deeply, & indelibly, impress-  
-ed on his Heart, & of after such accumulated Favours as Your Majesty  
has been pleased to bestow upon him, it might be permitted him to  
request one more at Your Majesty's Hands, it would be, that Your  
Majesty would be so gracious as to be the Interpreter of those Sentiments  
which

which it is necessary to present Your Majesty's Consideration & Goodness  
to form a just idea of.

Devotion to Your Majesty's Pleasure, & a most grateful sense of the  
honours which have suggested to Your Majesty to offer to the Duke of  
Portland such a mark of Your Majesty's Partiality as he considers  
the employment of Chamberlain to be more especially under the same  
honours which Your Majesty is pleased to attach to it, ought to have  
decided the Duke of Portland to accept it, had not the state of his  
health, to which Your Majesty so graciously adverts, & his time of life  
forbad him to believe that he could fulfil the Duties of that Station  
in a manner which would be satisfactory to himself. I think, as Your  
Majesty

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His Majesty very justly observes, the High Office which he now holds by  
Your Majesty's Favour, was not, at the time of his being placed in it,  
so agreeable to him as that which he quitted (& which Your Majesty  
will allow him to say he asked your permission to quit with a view  
& hope only of furthering Your Majesty's Service) He has now reconciled  
himself to it by three years experience, & the uniform assistance he receives  
from the most able & learned Counsellors; & has moreover acquired an  
attachment to it from the opportunities it affords him of paying his  
Duty to Your Majesty - opportunities as he conceives at least as frequent  
as if he was invested with the Office of Lord Chamberlain.

The Duke of Portland therefore hopes Your Majesty will permit  
him to remain in his present Office, unless there should be any other  
of

of a more active nature in which it may appear to Your Majesty that  
he may be employed with a greater probability of advantage to Your  
Majesty's Service; & that he may be suffered to flatter himself that  
the Request which he now humbly makes to Your Majesty to permit  
him to decline Your Majesty's most gracious offer of the Chamberlain's  
Staff & Gold Key will not affect to his prejudice the favourable opinion  
which Your Majesty is pleased to entertain of his most gratefull  
& dutifull Attachment to Your Majesty's Person & Government

Paulington House

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 1804

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writing to Home  
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