

Sir J. Macpherson to L^d. Camden
27th May 1804

Private. 40177-8

Frank 27th of May 1804.

My Lord / The Statistical Survey of this Parish is to be published soon, together with the original Engagement of its Volunteer Company in the North Devonshire Legion. —

Much as I was, and still am personally attached to the late Minister & some of his Colleagues, I was not able to draw their attention effectually to those Objects: I had deprecated the renewal of the War, before this Country had been effectually secured in its interior; and had secured the best foreign Connections. — Securities, which could only be formed on the Basis of a combined anti-Revolutionary defensive System, that, necessarily, rendered the Proprietors & the Cultivators of the Land, the armed Co-operators to their own Defence; & independently of any Revolutionary Confiscation; or those convulsions in artificial Finance, to which all Finance of consolidated Debts is exposed; Convulsions meditated by the Enemy, & to produce which, in the Finance of this Country, He has systematically combined all his Continental Projects, all his destroying Arts. His late Language to Europe marks a Confidence that he has secured the ground & provided the means for the Completion of those Designs, when he chooses to put them in Force.
^{But} It is not the Conquest of this Country that even his presumption would look to. —

It is by the successive shocks of a continued systematic

Copy to

Earl Camden,

&c. &c. &c.

Private. — Frank 27th May 1804

Struggle in a War ascribed to our Government, and its rich Nobility, so as to be able, in the end, to derange our Established Revenues, & finally involve the great landed Property of the Crown, the Church & the Nobility in destructions, similar to those, which took place in France, & in every State where the Revolution has ^{planted} its Invasions. —

The Facilities, which the Enemy have progressively acquired since the Renewal of the War to carry this Project into Effect, — with the want of any Evidently counteracting and Retaliating Progress in our Armaments and Negotiations, naturally roused your Friend, the actual Premier, from Advice to Remonstrance; & called him from Remonstrance to office. — He approved of the War. — I was peculiarly Responsible for its Successful Issue. —

Had he seen what I had witnessed in Asia, from Successful War and deranged Finance: Had he travelled, from the beginning of the Revolution for near four Years on the Theatre of its continual Progress, he would have been, I think, more guarded in that approbation. He had acquired the Glory of having created for his Country, the Finance, that had carried her through the Revolutionary Battle: He was, therefore, the more interested in advising the Continuance of the Peace, of which he had so properly and so liberally approved. —

It is now pretty Evident that the financial Position of this Country is much changed, as it stands contrasted with

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that of the Enemy - They began with Paper, hypotheated upon Blood and Confiscation - but they have arrived at a Territorial Finance of Ballian; & being cut off from Employing their forces or Resources upon distant Colonial Wars they have concentrated the force of both to strike, from the wide circle of their Influence, at the heart of our Financial Existence & Empire. —

But your Lordship's Friend is at the Helm. 'T may our Parties, sensible of the danger to their Country, look more to the Enemy, and less to themselves. 'T may be able to conciliate their Patriotism to Union; & its necessary Sacrifices. — For he must be more aware of the particular Dangers which I allude to; & of course more prepared to meet them, than any other less Experienced Statesman - The Public Safety requires that those Dangers — should be more opposed than Exposed, & Especially, as the Public Mind and National Spirit never were more ardent or so Unanimous to continue the War. —

But in the height of this National Zeal, supported by an unexampled National Force - Mr. Pitt will, naturally reflect that the Cooperation of the Continental Powers will, chiefly, depend in ^{our} immediate Aid, ^{to them as its} future Continuance, upon the real Security of our Finances, and the Solidity of those ^{arr} ~~Co-~~arrangements which they see adopted by the People of this Country, for the protection of its Land, as well as Commercial Revenues.

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ye. ye. ye.
Private. — From 27 May 1804

In March last, I had the Honor of mentioning to your Lordship, the very favourable attention, that was paid by the Continental Courts - to the Survey & Military Statistical account of this Parish; which proved demonstrably, as a Local Fact, that out of a Population of only 1090 Souls 100 Men were armed and disciplined; and at an Expence of a trifling Nature to the Public Revenue, while its real Source was preservative of the Agriculture and good order, from which it Sprung. - The smallest States of Germany were convinced, that upon a Similar System they could, each, have a respectable Force ready to maintain their Independence, & to protect at once the Cultivation of their Country, & the Property of the Cultivators.

The Outrage, which the Enemy has committed against the Laws of the German Empire, in the Territory of a virtuous Prince, whose Family participates the great Thrones of the North - has roused the Indignation of the Continent - & may lead it to unite with this Country in a common cause against the new Government of France. -

But, my Lord, your Friend Mr. Pitt has, already seen from Experience, that the best Security of the British Empire is, Eventually, best provided on a System of Interior Precaution, calculated to defeat the Designs of the Enemy against that Interior. Lord Pelham can inform your Lordship how much General Andreoffy was struck, when I,

first met him at his Lordship's, shew'd him the Topographical Survey of this Parish in one hand, and the Copy of the Milanese Cadastre, (which the late Emperor gave me,) in the other - adding my Hopes "that all England would be soon surveyed in the Spirit of Both" - a Work of more facility than may be at first conceived - as all the considerable Landed Proprietors have already Regular Surveys of their Estates. —

I shall close this Letter, already too long with observing that, as far as my Regular attention to the Causes and progress of the Contest, in which this Country is likely to be long involved, has enabled me to form any opinion, that may be useful to it; - I solemnly believe, that, if the great Landed Proprietors of this Country were effectually to aid Government, in the Spirit of a General Survey & Valuation of the Land, and to encourage the Volunteering System on the Constitutional and original Plan of the North Devonshire Legion; Every Power in the Continent, that is still independent, would soon court our Alliance - The Enemy would, accordingly, see his designs counteracted - & Peace, on a new and anti-Revolutionary Basis, might be, in due time restored to Europe. —

I have, my Lord, fatigued, if I have not offended all

our Parties, in & out of Office, upon these Subjects; But
my Representations to them, shall be closed with the Publication
in Question. —

Your Lordship will, I know, pardon the trouble of
this address, and the more so, as it aims not at even
suggesting the Trouble of any Reply. —

No Person, my Lord, can more zealously, or more
disinterestedly wish your Lordship success in the arduous
Office you have undertaken than I do — having the Honor
to be with great Respect

My Lord,

Ye Ye Ye

J. Napier