T. Erskine to H.R.H.

Nov. 7 1805

40480 — 1

May it please your Royal Highness.

It has occured to me, that it may be most material that after your Royal Highness has from the notes taken of the conversation with — & —, made a compleat statement of the substance of all that fell from them, (which extraordinary memory can so well enable your Royal Highness to do.) it should be signed by the Duke of Sussex & yourself, in the same manner as the original notes were signed, & afterwards by — & —. which in case of accidents will at any time authenticate beyond all doubt or question declarations so fit to be preserved.

I cannot help adding that the more I think on the subject the more I am convinced of the great importance of what has been done; because independently of its laying the foundation

for future judicial proceedings of the most momentous nature, of which I entertain little doubt, it cannot fail in another respect scarcely less important to produce the best consequences which can arise from an event so much to be lamented & condemned.

I have employed blanks instead of names, not chusing to trust to the post nor to any other chance the application of what I have taken the liberty to write.

I cannot conclude without humbly & sincerely congratulating your Royal Highness upon poor Lord Nelson's most glorious Victory; & I pray God that I may live to see the day when under your Auspices & direction either as Prince, or subject so many National advantages may not be thrown away - If the blood of British Heroes is to flow only to shed a

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counterfeit lustre upon Men who had no part in their glory, & who have neither brains nor virtue to direct it to any prosperous issue, I shall soon lose my share in that universal Joy which no man partakes in at this moment with more British pride and exultation than

Your Royal Highness'

Dutiful & Affectionate Serv.

Erskine

Lincolns Inn fields
Nov.r 7th 1805

His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales.

J Erskine

Novr. 1805