

S. Percival to H.R.H.

41415 - 6

Leary. Feb. 6. 1816

Mr Percival presents his humble duty,
to your Royal Highness, and takes leave to
acquaint your Royal Highness, that His Majesty's
Confidential Servants have felt it their duty to
procure the attendance of a Medical Person on his
Majesty, whose Practice and experience have
principally been directed to that Species of
disorder, with which it has pleased God again
to afflict His Majesty: and that Doctor Powell
is proceeding to Windsor, this morning,
for that purpose.

As long as the Physicians in attendance
upon His Majesty were of opinion, that the
nature of His Majesty's disorder was such

as
His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales

35

as not to require any person of the description
above referred to, to attend upon His Majesty,
His Majesty's servants had not thought it necessary
to require or direct any such attendance. But
after His Majesty's Physicians had found it
expedient to call in the assistance of Dr Symonds,
(tho' from some unfortunate misunderstanding
they did not procure his attendance) and were
obliged, upon the spur of the occasion, to avail
themselves of assistance of the same description, tho'
without that character of medical Skill and Experience
which belong either to Dr Symonds, or to Dr B
Wheeler, His Majesty's confidential servants
could not rest satisfied, without taking care,
that whatever sort of assistance was necessary, His
Majesty should be provided with the attendance
of some person from amongst the most eminent
in that line of the Profession, whose peculiar business

re

41416

application of that assistance

It is to procure & supersede the. They therefore laboured to remove the obstacle, which had deprived Her Majesty of that assistance, which the Physicians had themselves called for, in the person of Doctor Symonds. When however Her Majesty's servants had flattered themselves, that they had succeeded in removing this obstacle, they learnt with the greatest sorrow, that Her Majesty had conceived the most violent prejudice against Doctor Symonds in this last change, as well, indeed, as against every Medical Man in the same line of Practice. They found that Her Majesty had so repeatedly, communicated his decided aversion to Doctor Symonds and others in that line, to Her Majesty, and several of the Princes of Her Royal Family, as to have led Her Majesty to feel it to be Her Duty, to urge the most earnest & most - unflinching remonstrances upon Mr. Boswell, against the introduction of any such assistance,

and

and more especially against the introduction of
Doctor Symmers, with regard to whom His Majesty's
prejudice appeared to be the most strong.

Mr Sewall humbly trusts, that your
Royal Highness will believe, that His Majesty's
Serwants would have received such Entreaties and
remonstrances, and ~~then~~ obeyed them, as the Laws
for their Conduct, in any Case, in which they
could have felt at liberty, to obey them, consistent
with what they considered to be their sacred and
indispensable Duty to their Sovereign & to their
Country. But, when they reflected that His Majesty
had been three times before afflicted with this
Complaint; that it had again assumed those
appearances, which in the Opinion of the Physician
required assistance of the description above allude
to; that two persons, most eminent in this
Branch of Medicine were within reach, and to
be obtained, under the Care of each of whom,
acting

acting with the advice of His Majesty's Physicians
 His Majesty had recovered from the same
 disorder, His Majesty's servants felt, that they
 never would have been forgiven by themselves,
 and that they never ought to have been forgiven
 by the Royal Family, or by their Country, if, heeding
 to ~~such~~ ^{these} exhortations & remonstrances, arising
 evidently out of those impressions in His Majesty's
 mind, which are too frequently known to survive
 in the minds of Patients under this unhappy
 malady, against the Persons, who have been the
 Instruments of their recovery - they had not
 persevered in calling in the aid which appeared
 to be so necessary, and which repeated experience
 had proved, to have been, heretofore, so successful.
 They, therefore, have been under the cruel
 necessity of refusing, however reluctantly, to
 comply with Her Majesty's more anxious exhortations

and

and to act in opposition to those feelings, ^{with} which,
when they were obliged to overrule them, they could
not but more deeply sympathize, and which they
could not feel more highly to respect.

Finding, however, at least imaginary that
they found, that the impressions in His Majesty's
Mind against Doctor Symmons, & being the
more recent, were the more strong, and that His
Majesty's Injunctions had been the most peremptory
with regard to him; and having an equally high
opinion of the Skill & Experience of Doctor P. White
as of Dr. Symmons, they have ^{thought it their duty} chosen to prefer
the Person, which, if not to be represented as
the most agreeable, at least appeared to them to
be the least obnoxious of the two: Their Choice,
as it seemed to them, lying between these two, as
they were the only Persons of this description, who
had successfully attended His Majesty before,

with

41418

with the exception of Dalor John Lister, whom they had every reason to believe was infinitely more obnoxious than either J. R. Lister or D. Symonds.

Having occasion to learn in the course of their anxious considerations of this painful subject, that an apprehension was entertained, that His Majesty would not easily forgive the persons, whoever they were, that might be instrumental in introducing a disclosure of this description, about His Majesty's Person, His Majesty's servants trust, that your Royal Highness will do justice to their motives for not making any communication to your Royal Highness upon this subject, till the arrangement was finally concluded, as, whatever degree of Royal Displeasure may, at any time, unhappily be excited by this painful act of their duty, or wish, by the manner in which they have conducted it, be impossible that any portion of that displeasure should fall upon any person, except those servants of His Majesty, whose unhappy lot it is to find themselves in a situation

on

which they, & they alone must be, and ought
to be considered as the persons responsible to His
Majesty, & the Royal Family, and to their Country,
for ordering and directing whatever may be necessary
with regard to the attendance upon His Majesty,
in his present disorder.

Mr Percival humbly hopes that your Royal
Highness will forgive his intruding upon your Royal
Highness this long detail of a subject which
must necessarily be so painful and disagreeing to
the feelings of your Royal Highness,

His Royal Highness,
The Prince of Wales.

Mr Percival
Nov 6. 1810