Kensington Palace
5th September 1839

Dear Wright,

This being Gibraltar Packet day, and happening fortunately to have a few moments leisure, I avail myself of the opportunity to acknowledge your Letters of the 29th June, 13 & 20 July, the former received on the 5th and the two latter on the 17th ult. as also another of the 31st July with postscript of the 7th August, which has this instant come to hand. — The correctness of the opinion conveyed in your Letter of the 29th June, upon the measure of covering to Mr Frere

on

on the Subject I have state so much at heart to effect (my return to Gibraltar) is proved by that Gentlemans answer to Veale, as copied into your Letter of the 31st July; I only hope that from the potentials of the answer, and the just precaution you took to get Veale to impress on his mind the communication as Confidential, we may be warranted in inferring that he will keep the secret, and if he could not promote the matter, that he would do nothing to impede it. — You are of course apprized that the Junta have authorized their Minister here to state to Mr Canning their wish that Her Majesty would direct me to resume the Command at Gibraltar, & to continue my residence there during these critical times,

and

and to add that if the King would condescend to grant their request they should consider it an additional proof of the interest he took in the success of the endeavours of the Loyal Subjects of Ferdinand the 7th to maintain his rights against the attempts of the foreign Invader. But I fear it has not yet produced any effect, altho' from a conversation I recently had with Mr Canning I have reason to hope that he is disposed, as far as lies in his power, to promote my views: I therefore by no means give the matter up, indeed I never shall to the last as my return to my station, always will be the first wish of my heart, on every account. I moment much that I have the acquaintance with the Marquis of Wellesley, as I am well

aware

aware that if I could get him to take the thing up he would not abandon it till he had carried the point, but my being an entire stranger to him you must be aware precludes the possibility of my addressing myself to him, which otherwise I should have had no hesitation in doing.

I am truly concerned that it did not suit my old Friend Sir John Craddock to remain in the Command at Gibraltar, for I agree with you entirely in opinion that there never was a Man better cut out for it, from his mild and conciliatory measures as well as for his good sense and judgement. At present General Paget is named to succeed him & Major General Fraser, the one legged one who is famous for his

defence

defence of Gore, to be under him. — The Paget Family in general, are remarkable for their hauteur, at least such is the character of the 3 Elder Brothers, but I believe Edward, the one now destined to be my locum tenens at Gibraltar, is different from the rest, & that besides being a thorough good Soldier, he is a perfect Gentleman. I am not however on any terms of intimacy with him; as to Major General Fraser, I have but a slight knowledge of him, but he is well spoken of as a Soldier. — My last letter from the Duke of Orleans, were from Cagliari, on the eve of his embarkation for Palermo, where he was indeed to repair from hearing that his Friend Prince Leopold, was going to embark as a Volunteer

with

with the Sicilian Troops attached to Sir John Stuart, arising from an anxious desire to see a little Service with him, but I apprehend this expedition must have been over before he got there. — From what you say of the plans of Mademoiselle d'Orleans, I conclude it is settled between her and her Mother, to make Malta their place of Residence, which I always was of opinion they would prefer to England: In that case I am apt to think the Duke will not much longer protract his return to England, when he finds he cannot get into active employ by remaining in the Mediterranean: I have to thank you for the paper you have sent me, containing the Kings order in Council respecting the Fees heretofore taken by the

the Officer Commanding at Gibraltar; how
singular it is that the arrangement which
was ordered to take place in March 1843,
should only have been put into Official Form
in May 1844, and that till the arrival
of the great Sir Hew, two Superior Commanders
should have been suffered to go on with
impunity, receiving their identical Fees, in
defiance of a positive order to the contrary
from the Secretary of State, sheltering themselves
under the absolution promised them by Mr
Cuttland, because forsooth, he had not received
a Treasury order to carry them to the credit
of Government. — I shall be delighted to
find that your expectations as to the appoint-
ment of my worthy friend Cartanos to the
Command at Algeciras, may be realized,

for

for I am certain he will spare no exertion with the Junta to effect my return, knowing from experience the harmony that would result from it. — Having now replied to every part of your Letter, I shall only add that if I have been silent upon the subject of our mutual Friend Dodd, it arises solely from a conviction that he will have communicated to you all those details which have half broke my heart, and which I am sure have been most afflicting to him; but both he and I must use as our motto Spero meliora, or le bon tems viendra. —

I remain ever with sincere regard

Dear Wright

yours faithfully

Edward.

Lt Col Wright

Kensington Palace
9th Sept. 1839

Dear Wright,

I have this day received your Letter of the 18th ult. covering one from Mr Brown: My last will have apprized you of the correctness of the inference, which you had drawn from the perusal of that Gentleman's communication to Vedé, and that the Supreme Junta had authorized their Minister here, to press my return to my Government, as a measure that would

would be peculiarly acceptable to the Spanish Government in every Sense; but altho I have reason to believe that the Despatch containing the Instructions to that effect, was sent here full a fortnight since, I have not yet had the most distant hint given me from any Quarter relative to it, which I con with both surprising & dubiantenny; But it is possible, that the atchievements of our Expedition against Antwerp, and the critical position, which Lord Wellington has got into, may so occupy the attention of Ministers, whom plans must be shaken by these events, as to oblige such

minor

manner seems to be at this time overlooked.
I have just been reading your Letter
to Dodd. relative to Mrs Levey, and
have instructed Mr Parker to answer it,
but I think it right to add here, that
I never saw that Lady's face to my
knowledge, in my life, and that
all the interest I have ever taken in
her welfare, has arisen first, from the
opinion I have of her deceased Husbands
long & faithful services, and secondly
from the strong solicitation of the
Honble Miss Vernon, Maid of Honor to
the Queen, whom I have known from
my earliest childhood, and with whom

she

she is in habits of great intimacy;
but after what you have said of
Mr Levey, should Miss Vernon ever
ask anything more for her, I
shall send her the extract of your
Letter to Dodd, which I have kept
for that purpose, as an excuse for
not complying with it —

I remain with sincere regard
Dear Wright
ever yours faithfully
Edward

Lieut Col Wright

Kensington Palace
9th Octbr 1809

Dear Wright,

I have at present before me your Letter of the 21st August, which I received by the hands of my dd and highly esteemed friend Sir John Craddock, on the 27th ult, and another of the 7th September which arrived punctually 4 days later. — I had great satisfaction in a long conversation I had with that excellent man, this day sennight, and again yesterday, which he dined with me. In talking of you, Graham, I can assure you he speaks in the very

very warmest language: I should not
omit adding, that General Drummond,
who dined also at my House, joined in
saying everything that I could wish of you
to Major General Campbell your future
commandant, whom I invited to meet
them, and he leaves this strongly prepossessed
in your favor. But, altho' he would
wish to retain you in the situation of
Secretary, I fear that will very soon be at
an end, Lord Castlereagh having in the
most unbecoming and illiberal manner
as one of his last acts before he quitted office,
when he found, I presume, that no proof
of criminality could be adduced against
Capt Dodd, or that there was any ground

for

for his removal contrived to get the Situation altered by a Treasury Minute, from a Military one, as it always had been heretofore considered, to a civil one, thus placing it on the same footing as the Secretaryships to all Her Majesty's Colonies, the patronage to which he was thereby enabled to assert as Colonial Secretary of State, and to confer the nomination on Col Rutherford, late of the Engineers, who I hear is preparing to go out, but all this I only know by a fine word, altho' you may depend upon it as being the case, not one word of communication having been made to me by any Department upon the subject. In short there never was any man worse used

on

on the occasion than Captain Dodd has been except myself. For the injustice to him is only to be equalled by the great liberality that has been shewn to me: But I fear Dodd's connection with Colonel Wardle and Mr Clarke, which I deeply lamented from the hour I first knew it, has been the occasion of bringing this Business to this termination, as but for that I do not think that Monsieur would have dared to commit so flagrant an act of injustice as turning him out of his place without ever informing him of what he is accused of or giving him the opportunity of defending himself, while every step was taken to collect the evidence of his enemies against him: Your new Commander highly spoken of as a Gentlemanly man,

and

and a capital Batty & Parade Officer, he has also served with credit in Ireland during the Rebellion, but it is said that he is very warm in his temper, you will therefore for the security of taking care to be on your guard, so as not to create any appearance of that by any act of yours, especially as I am convinced he goes out more than well inclined towards you: In health he is a great invalid, but likes a warm Climate, and looks forward to his Residence at Gibraltar, as affording the best prospect of recovery to him. — Both Craddock & Hammond as well as myself have warmed him against Jephson, and think, if that Gentlemans petulance comes in contact with the Generals Highland

blood

blood, it will create a flame that will soon occasion the Judge Advocate to pay the necessity of taking himself off.— I do not think it necessary to say anything again on the subject of Mrs Seward, having so fully explained my sentiments relative to her in my last letter, I will therefore refer you to that for my answer to what you have said respecting her both in your former letter to Dodd, and in that to me now before you :— I sincerely hope that your expectation of seeing our excellent Friend General Cathcart replace Curtis, may be realized, as perhaps it may give a helping hand to my Business, which my Friend Mr

Cannings

Cannings returning from Office, has at least for the present paralyzed, but he assured I never will rest till I have somehow or another accomplished it, be it in one two three, or even ten years hence. —

It is not thought that the present rump or patch work Cabinet can stand, if the two parties of the Opposition, now designated by the appellation of the Old & new Whigs should unite to turn them out; God grant! this may be the case, for surely there never was a set of Men collected together, who possessed less personal talents, or the confidence of the Country: — I have now only to repeat those sentiments of friendly regard & sincere esteem, with which

I

61

Ever am,

Dear Wright

your most faithful

Edward

Lt Col Wright

Kings Lodge Weymouth
October 13th 1809

My dearest Brother,

The melancholy Catastrophe of Monday last, when poor Sir Harry Burrard's son was drowned literally within view of the drawing Room Windows, having so unhinged both dearest Mamma and Amelia as to prevent their writing to you since, I am commissioned by both to explain to you the cause of this silence, in which they are sure you will from the regard you entertain for the father of the unfortunate boy, participate with

them. I wish I could give you any thing of a comfortable account of our poor sufferer, but this horrid cold weather prevents her gaining ground at all; yesterday was a very indifferent day, the pain on the side peculiarly troublesome, the chest very tender, and a good deal of fever, the night too has been far from good: I find her return homewards is decided upon, but no exact time yet fixed for it, certainly not before a fortnight or three weeks. This is my whole bulletin about poor Amelia; as to dearest Mamma, she is, as usual, every thing that is heavenly and together with our angelic patient joins in most affectionate and warmest love to You. As to myself I shall be home on Monday or Tuesday and certainly with you on Wednesday. Till then I shall now take my leave, and only entreat you to believe that while I exist I ever shall be with unalterable and devoted attachment,

your most affectionate
and faithful
EDWARD

The Duke of Kent
Oct. 13th 1809

Kensington Palace
20th Oct 1809

Dear Wright,

I write these lines to you so late as the 8th inst, as I am very averse to let any accumulation of correspondence take place. I resume my pen to day, for the purpose of acknowledging your Letter of the 1st which has just come to hand, in which was enclosed a copy of a recent Order in Council, respecting the Trade of Gibraltar, for which I am much obliged to you, as I consider everything that regards that place, peculiarly interesting to me: I have already read it over with attention

more

more than once, and I own, as far as I am acquainted with the several subjects to which it relates, that it appears to me not only a very clear, but also a very equitable one, particularly that part of it, which relates to the Importation and Exportation of American Tobacco, upon which my Friend Sir John Craddock himself, with whom I had a long conversation on the subject, appeared to entertain an opinion precisely similar to that, adopted by Government, altho', from the representation of some of the Resident Merchants of Gibraltar he was thrown into doubt how to act: — A Petition I have received from one of the Coffee House Keepers of the name of Antonio Repetto, formerly a

a Gardeners Boy, at the Convent, and to whom I gave his license, as an act of charity towards his widowed Mother, seems to intimate that Government have of late ordered all the Wine Houses, Taverns, and other licenses of a similar nature to be sold to the highest bidder at Public auction, is it possible that so injurious a measure can have been authorized? for if that be the case, what check will there be upon the Publican, who offends? as the purchase of the License becomes a Civil contract for the time to which the purchase extends and during the continuance of which I presume it would be dangerous to withdraw it: —

From Lt Rutherford having called a week since at Castle Hill Lodge, while I was

was from home, I concluded that, altho
not gazetted, he is actually Civil
Secretary to the Government of Gibraltar &
maybe now on his passage out, but is it
not most extraordinary that, to this
hour, neither Dodd nor myself have
received the shadow of a communication
upon the subject of his supersession or
rather the annihilation of the office
of Secretary to the Governor. I conclude
by this time, Mr General Fraser from
the Island of Guernsey will have arrived
to succeed Mr General Smith in
the Command, and as I have heard
nothing more of Genl Campbell
and he dined with me on the 7th I
suppose he must have sailed; under
that idea I send you the enclosed for

their

him, which I will represent of you to
put into his hands. — Having nothing
further at present to add. I shall
conclude by subscribing myself with
sincere regard and esteem.

Dear Wright.

ever yours faithfully

Edward.

P.S. I enclose also a letter for my old
servant Coleston, whom you must
remember my Cook, but I am told is
now Mess Man to the Royal Engineers. E

P.S. 21st Oct. Not having yet sent off my
letter of yesterday, I open it again to
acknowledge

acknowledge the receipt of your 3. Letters of the 6th, 14th & 21st ultimo, together with the enclosures contained in the 2 former, which were all brought to me this morning; the two former containing such very singular matter I shall think it right immediately upon concluding this to forward to my friend Sir James Graham, who was under Secretary of State to Mr Wyndham at the time the Letter in question was written, and is perfectly master of the whole subject, in order that he may shew them to that Gentleman, and apprize him of the presumption of Mr Lowtland, which it will be well he should know, if he again comes into Office, which I trust will be the case ere long, as it is not conceived that an Administration so composed in the present one can possibly stand

stand, but I should not wish at present any reference to be made to the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, as I perfectly recollect at the time when Lord Castlereagh recalled Mr Wyndham, that His Lordship wrote a letter to me to apprize me that His Majesty's Government had thought it right to cancel Mr Wyndhams order about the returns of Expenditure in the several Public Departments being sent to me, which I know originated in a representation from Sir Hew Dalrymple to the Commander in Chief, which I conclude met his approbation :— To advert now to the different subjects named in your last Letter, I have to tell you that in point of fact you have judged perfectly right in regard to the failure of the application which the Junta ordered the Minister to make

respecting

respecting me, but I think had not the unfortunate misunderstanding arisen between Lord Castlereagh & Mr Canning, which has ended in the retirement of both from office, I had gained so far upon the confidence of the latter, that he would have endeavoured to offer my return upon the grounds of personal esteem and regard, and if he comes in at the expected change of Ministers, when Parliament meets, I rely much upon his good offices: — What you say of his Friend Mr Frere is quite droll; who would have thought that the name of Judge Bragg would ever have been brought forward in such a manner!? — Upon the subject of Dodd I cannot tell you all I have gone thro', for to this hour I am as warmly attached to him as ever, and indeed I firmly believe that that personal sentiment never can alter

while

while Sir, as it is grounded upon my conviction that, notwithstanding the appearance of his connection with Col. W—e and Mrs C—e, he is not guilty of having ever abetted the attack upon my Brother, which no man in the Country would disapprove of more than myself, and that nothing can be ascribed to him but the imprudence, when in my Family, of keeping up habits of intimacy with those who were actually employed in working his ruin, an imprudence arising from his own unsuspicious nature. — As to the separation being only a temporary one I wish I could bring myself to think, that that could be the case, but from what has since passed in confidential

confidential communications between him & Mr Parker, who writes this, and has for some years past been his assistant as my Private Secretary. I fear his resolution is bent upon retirement, and that no consideration would induce him, notwithstanding his unbroken regard for me to resume his former situation; but be that as it may, until such time as it is proved clear as the day, that he has been, active instrument in the hand, of those who conducted the attack on my Brother, (in which case I must reprobate his conduct, as he was fully apprized of my sentiments being diametrically opposite to it,) my friendship for and opinion of him (except in respect to his imprudence, as regarding myself well

will remain unmoved: — I perceive that the last paragraph of your letter in some measure explains the circumstance alluded to in the Petition of Antonio Repetto, and from the opinion I have of your judgement, I am ready to think that the alteration, since it originated in a suggestion of yours must be for the best, but I should wish to understand what provision has been made to enable the Commanding Officer of the Garrison to check these breaches of orders on the part of the Venders of Liquors, which they ever will commit, and which constantly lead the Soldiers into scrapes. — E.

62

Kensington Palace
10th Novr 1809

Dear Wright/

Altho' I have nothing new or interesting to tell you of, I won't let the Mail go without thanking you for your Letter of the 23d Ult.o, which has this instant come to hand. I learn with pleasure from it, that Ma. General Fraser has arrived, and that he appears to be so pleasant and well informed a Man. I had the pleasure of seeing him once at Kensington, and have had occasion to correspond with him once or twice since, about the

transfer

transfer of a man from his Regiment (the
York Rangers) to mine, when he shewed
me every possible attention and politeness
so that I am naturally inclined to be
prepossessed in his favor: General
Campbell I understand, must by this have
reached that Rank also, and if his
conduct be as respectable as his appearance
I would fain hope that you would
find very comfortable with both; only
with the latter I apprehend it will be
necessary to guard against a temper
naturally very warm, if what is said
generally on that head be credited,
indeed if I recollect right I gave
you this hint in a former letter: —
As you will hear all about the present
arrangement

arrangement of the Cabinet. It will be unnecessary for me to allude to it further here than to say I hardly see how such a composition totally void of the confidence of the Country can possibly hold together long, and it is devoutly to be hoped they will not: — At present we are in ignorance whether Lord Melbourne will take Office or not, Canning and his Friends appearing to imagine he will not, while the rest speak with confidence of his accepting the Foreign Seals, which at present are only held by Lord Brougham an attendant: Should the expected change take place & Mr Wendham returns to his old Office, I am inclined to think that Mr Sutherland will

will not be pushed to remain very comfortable in his monopoly of Office, for Sir James Cockburn, thro' whom I communicated what you said to me in your last about his appointment respecting a certain Letter, told me he was more offended at the falsity and impudence of that wretch called Knapp: —

Remember me particularly to Vialé & believe me ever to be with sincere regard

Dear Wright

Yours faithfully

Edward

Lieut Col Wright

Kensington Palace
23rd November 1849

Dear Wright,

Your Letters of the 16th & 20th
Nov. reached me safely on the 17th & 18th
inst., and having a few moments leisure
to day, Mr. Shaw is not packet
immediately about to sail for the
Mediterranean, I take up my pen
to acknowledge them forthwith. If I omit
doing it now I should not have time
to write any Sunday before the
Mail is made up: — The first
of them relating exclusively to the lively
interest you take in Steaming the
discharge

Discharge of your friend Major Coghlan
of the 61st Regt. and to your security, that
I would, when an opportunity offers, exert
myself to effect it. I shall only have
to assure you that no later than to
day I will write in the strongest manner
to Sir Robert Gore, President of the
Transport Board, upon that subject, and
most happy shall I be if shortly
I can
shall be instrumental in returning
him earlier to his Country and friends
than would otherwise be the case. I
rejoice to hear that my old Friend
Moore passed a day with you during
the time he was detained at Gibraltar
on his passage from Sicily to join his
Regiment

Regiment in Portugal, and that you thought him so much improved in his looks: — Poor fellow. I think he has been cruelly used, for he is now brought away from a respectable Staff situation under his Friend Sir John Stuart which he was particularly promoted to hold under the Duke of York, to join his Regt as Major where he will be under the command of an Officer the Lieut Colonel of the Corps, who, I believe, was not in the Service when Moore had long been a Captain — The report you communicate of having arrived at the 20th ult. from Capt McDonnell respecting the plans of the Duke of Orleans and his Sister have lower offered me infinite astonishment, altho I cannot deny

having

having understood from my Mentioned
friend that both the King and Queen
of Naples had intimated their wish
that he might marry the Prince their
Daughter, yet, from the manner in which
he spoke of that Officer, I never conceived
that he would accept it, and am at
this moment rather inclined to be incredulous,
but wonders never cease, and I do not
see why this event, so commended, should
not take place, as well as any other
that one is least prepared to expect:—
as to the Marriage of Mademoiselle with
Prince Leopold, the disparity of age is
the greatest, yet the only objection to
it, but there are precedents for similar
ones, in many of the Catholic Courts, when
it

it is the custom for Uncles and Nieces, Nephews and Aunts, & vice versa to enter = marry: Only hope of the thing is to take place it would be farther ~~[illegible]~~ happy, for I am very friendly attached to the Duke, and his sister I have always heard spoken of as a most amiable young woman. Long to see the Persian from your description of him, for by your account he must be a very striking figure: I hope on his arrival Government will be able to adopt such measures as to put down the influence of France which for some time past has been alarmingly increasing at the Court of Ispahan as there can be nothing of greater moment to the safety of our possessions in India

Adverting

Adverting to what you say of Mr
Spencer Smith, I am led to inform
you, if you think not be yet apprized
of it, that Sir Sydney himself has at
length tied Benedict, having recently
led to the altar the gay widow Lady
Rumbold, relict of our quondam
Minister at Hamburgh, whom the
French seized and carried off with
his papers some years since. Her
Marriage is altogether very odd, for he had
for years been supposed to have obtained
all he could wish or expect from the
Lady, was rendered the more singular
by her drawing out from church where
he was married, to the Lover, to be
presented

pressed upon his Marriage; — Having nothing further apprehend to add than that I immediately granted the endorse for your father, which came under my cover, I shall conclude by repeating these sentiments of friendly regard & honour wherein with which.

I ever am.

Dear Wright

yours faithfully

Edward

Lt Col Wright

Duke of Kent
23d Nov 1819
Recd 30 Dec

Kensington Palace
11th December 1809

Dear Wright,

I have now before me your Letter of the 10th and 20th ult., the former received on the 3d and the latter on the 8th inst: - I can easily judge, from my own feelings, which you must have experienced at learning the cruelly unjust suspension of our friend Dodd in the Secretaryship by the joint act of Mr Perceval and Lord Castlereagh, which was aggravated if possible by the mean dirty subterfuge they had recourse to of changing the nature of the place, from Secretary to the Governor to Civil Secretary to the Government, the motive of which is self evident, for they dared not address me on the subject, who they knew well had the exclusive right to the patronage; indeed I never should have received any positive information upon the subject if Colonel Rutherford had not been advised by a mutual

friend

found of his and mine / Sir Thomas Dyer / to
wait on me as a matter of decorum, when
the new Secretary candidly told me that
Mr Pennant had of his own accord sent
for him and offered him the place, of which
he was altogether ignorant, and consequently
he never could have taken a single step
to obtain it, which I think proves more
strongly than anything else the wantonness
and villainy of Arthur's conduct: In
fact they were put to a nonplus when
they found that, notwithstanding all their
illegal and inquisitorial proceedings
against Dodd, they could not substantiate
their accusations, which that jealous and
revengeful man Sir Hew had laid to
his charge, and not daring openly to avow
that they owed him a grudge for his
apparent intimacy with Lt Wardle, and
on which ground alone in fact they were
determined to make him smart, they
had recourse to that truly petty pettifogging
subterfuge of altering the nature of the

the Suspicion to cast him. — God knows how I feel upon the subject, for I am in my Soul convinced that Dodd is perfectly innocent in both points, as knowing my Sentiments so fully as he did. it is morally impossible that he ever would have joined in any measure to degrade a Member of my Family, and therefore, altho I am unavoidably silent now, I live in hope that a time will yet come, when I shall be able to confound his Enemies, and restore his character to that state of estimation, in which it ever stood before with every one who knew him, and which I am sure he never has done anything to forfeit: — When I say this, I don't mean that I can approve of his continued intimacy with Colonel Warde after the Public line that Gentleman took in Parliament against my Brother, for as belonging to my Family and knowing the Professional differences that had subsisted between my Brother and me, he ought to have been aware that such a line of conduct,

at

at such a time, must inevitably throw suspicion and call down the shaft of calumny upon me, but I believe he is more than punished for his culpable imprudence in that respect, by the knowledge he has of all the affliction it has occasioned me, and the severe attacks we have both, in consequence, experienced from the vile pens of hireling scribblers, who delight in nothing so much as spreading far and wide the seeds of mischief and confusion: But I must break off from this subject, on which, at the most painful and distressing to me, whenever I enter upon it, I should write volumes, were I not to check myself, and proceed to express the satisfaction it affords me to find that the terms in which I mentioned you to General Campbell and in which I was well founded by my old and highly esteemed friend Sir John Craddock, have placed you on so pleasant a footing with that Officer, which, I trust, nothing will occur to interrupt, while

you

you continue under his Command: of course you cannot think of moving until Colonel Rutherford arrives, and then I am sure General Campbell will wish you to remain sometime to get him a going: you will then do well to weigh maturely how you mean to dispose of yourself, for I hardly think that if you give up your Situation in the Revenue and of Commandant of all the Batteries in the South at Gibraltar to each subaltern, if I mistake not, 10s a day are attached, you will easily get been equivalent any where else, or if your object be to return, you can hardly expect that the former would be kept open for you! I am sure you will do me the justice to believe that the only motive which induces me to name the subject, is your own good, for, after so long an absence, I shall be sincerely glad to shake hands

with

with you on the terra firma of old England, having little or no prospect of returning to the Rock while the present people are in Office, altho' you may depend upon it, that I will never omit a single opportunity of urging my right to resume my Command. —

I have to thank you for the very clear explanation you have given me of the grounds on which you recommended to Sir John Craddock to let the Wine Houses by auction, of the expediency of which measure, when they are open to the Troops, I am now perfectly sensible, but I never can admit, that it was a measure tending to discipline to open them by an authority, in itself not legal, after the benefit arising from the Soldiers being confined to their Regimental Canteens, and those Canteens being regulated under Military authority, had been both felt and admitted by every Commanding Officer who

who had witnessed the regularity and good order which that System produced: — I rejoice to find that there is a prospect of our worthy friend General Castaños being appointed Minister of War, altho' I fear he will have a very arduous task to do justice to the duties of that situation, but I hope he will remain steady to his resolution not to take office until the Spanish Government shall have first declared publicly that his conduct had been free from even the shadow of blame during his command of the Spanish army: — Should my friend Moore repass thro' Gibraltar, or you have occasion to write to him, pray remember me particularly to him, only add, that I am very angry with him for being so idle a correspondent: — I have now only to request that you will present my best regards to Mr G. Campbell & Frazer, as also to Vialé, from whom (by the bye) I have not heard for ages, and that you will

will believe me ever to be with the most friendly regard,

Dear Wright

Yours faithfully

Lucas A. Wright

P.S. The Letter for your Father was franked by yesterday's Mail: By the by. I have forgot to mention that I saw your Brother of the Engineers this day week when I heard with concern that your good Mother was no more. —

P.S. 12th Oct. — I open my letter again, in the first place to apprize you, if you should not have heard before that your Friend Major Coghlan has made his escape from the hands of

the

the French, and actually as I write by the Packet list of to day, has reached old England from Lisbon, so that I trust his wound has been less serious than you had heard it was, and that you will soon have the satisfaction of hearing that he has quite recovered his health. — I think it right to add that I attended yesterday 12 hours in the Court of Kings Bench, at the trial of the famous Mrs Clarke, and her two upholsterers, for a Conspiracy against Colonel Wardle, having been subpaned to appear to the character of Captain Dodd, but not being called upon, I had not the opportunity of doing him justice; but between ourselves, I cannot to add that our old friend did not appear upon the occasion at all like himself, and I fear much that upon quitting the Witness Box he left a disadvantageous impression upon the minds of those that were present

present, besides doing himself material injury: Glenie too made but a bad figure, and left a little worse impression. —

65

The Duke of Kent 11 & 12
Nov 1809 Rec.
30 Dec 1809 —

Moore Street
2nd January 1840

Dear Wright

Your of the 15th of Novr only reached me four days since. I was happy to find by it that you considered the fever as totally extirpated, but Culfoth, whom I met a few minutes since, tells me, that it had again shewn itself, on supplying some Persons to land from Cathgena. This I hope is not the fact. I am really rejoiced to hear that you have been able to obtain an extra Situation for Culfoth, and that the Gingerbrandies have the good effect of keeping off his Gout. We have here a newly introduced

medicine from France which is generally reckoned a specific in that disease — Mrs Wright left town suddenly for Portsmouth about Ten days since, I was out of Town that when she opened me, & by that means her letter did not reach me for some days but now I imagine she has rallied, and I trust you will shortly meet her in good health and spirits — On a Division in the House of Commons last night, respecting one of the points of the Irish Ministers were in the minority — they may nevertheless carry through that House most of their restrictions but I think they will be foiled in the

is
in that
w and-
n days
when
means
for some
has
tly
thinks—
C—
ounts
the
h that
s but
the

houses of L— indeed I am not clear that hitherto the P— has made up his mind to accept of a regency so shackled as the one proposed—as I said before I am still unable to guess if the D— of K— will be bettered by any change that may take place, his name permitted me that he ordered the Silver gilt badge which was sent to Barcelona, but I have since paid for it, so that the gift is from me, and I hope he will not regard it the less— I can scarcely describe to you the prevalent gloom in the City, many of the first

houses

are tottering, and it is thought that, before the Month of May two out of three will fail - Indeed I am told to day, that so scarce is Money in the Exchequer, that they cannot spare to the Bank enough to pay the Dividends due in a few days time - Things certainly look most unchearing - except now my sincere wishes and those of my family for many happy returns of the New Year, and believe me

Dear Wright

Yours most faithfully

H. Dodd

Kensington Palace
March 7th 1810.

Dear Wight,

A multiplicity of occupations & engagements have, for a considerable time past, prevented my writing to you, although each succeeding Packet, it had been my intention to do so. To day however having a leisure half hour, I cannot employ it better, than by acknowledging your several letters of the 27th Nov, 4th 8th 15th 24th & 31st of January — the first of which arrived on the 19th of December, & the remainder five, between the 23 Ult^o & 2d Instant, according to the order of their respective dates.

I shall commence by observing that my letter you transmitted to me, either for your Father, Dod or any other friends, were immediately forwarded in conformity to your wishes, so that I have no doubt, but that they will all have reached their respective addresses in safety.

You will be so good as to express to Maj. General Campbell, to whom, pray present my best regards, my kind acknowledgements for his attention to my request in behalf of Celestino Dias, & also for the assurance he gives me, thro' you, that if he can serve with propriety, Antonio Repeto, he will do so. You may add that I had written to him along letter by Lieut Col. Barnes, commend the 3 Batn of my Reg, that was embarked in the greatest haste on the 5. of this Month, after a notice of only 48 hours for Gibraltar, but their destination, I lament to say, was altered on the 5, to when they were instantly ordered off, I believe by Telegraph for Lisbon. I regret this change the more, as you inform me that the General was doing his best to introduce a system of discipline into the Garrison, and I was in hopes that my 3 Batn, altho' far inferior to what I could wish it to be, according to my idea of Military perfection, would have met his

approb
other de
Portuga
of the 6s
come
nam
Office a
I a
of his
circum
as Lieu
I f
having
to wish
a Dist
falls v
the pre
-ment
be appo

approbation. I was very happy in receiving the other day a polite letter from Major Coghlan from Portugal, at which time he was in the command of the 60th Rifs, never having as you justly observe, come over to England, altho' I certainly saw his name erroneously inserted in one of the Post Office lists of arrivals from Lisbon per Packet.

I am much obliged to you for informing me of his merit & shall be truly happy, if hereafter circumstances should enable me to bring him in as Lieut Col, to one of my Battns

I feel how natural it must be for you, altho having been successively 25 years in foreign service, to wish now to get home & obtain the command of a District in the United Kingdom when one falls vacant, but I foresee in the midst of all the present bustle, especially should the Coverng=ment at Berlin take place & Maj. Genl Frazer be appointed to the command, to whom I

avail myself of this opportunity to desire my best remembrance / You will not wish to take your leave, even if it should be sent out to you; in the mean while however, should a change take place at the Ordnance & any friend of mine succeed to the Master Generalship, I will certainly endeavour to secure you the refusal of any situation of the nature of those, you have alluded to.

Your friend Dodd, I am unwilling to say anything more than what I have before expressed in all my late letters, I mean my deep regret at the unfortunate turn which circumstances had taken respecting him, & the unavoidable termination that has put to our intimacy, while at the same time I cannot help feeling how cruelly he has been used from the moment of the first attach[illegible] Lie Dew[illegible] upon him, until the present time; I fear however that the impression which has

been made upon all parties in regard to him, from his unfortunate intimacy with certain characters, will long, if not for ever, preclude the possibility of getting justice done him.

The circumstances you intimate relative to Col.e Rutherford's Commission, are certainly extremely curious, and a convincing proof of the mean & dirty manner in which the unjust supercession of poor Dodd took place.

Adverting to what you have communicated respecting Cantes, I shall just observe that I almost lament our friend Jacome was not nominated to that, in preference to the Command at Algeziras, for I am sure he would have met our wishes in every thing in his power, whereas another may not be equally well disposed to do so. I do not know whether young Mr. Turnbull, whom you saw here, mentioned having had an interview with his Father here, before he left England, at which

whom I pointed out to them both, of what impor-
-tance the occupation of Ceuta must be to this
Country, as a Depôt for all the Merchandize of
Gibraltar, in the event of that place being besieged,
they seemed quite confounded, that the idea had
not struck them before.

I have duly rec^d the Bill for Mr. Penrud's pay for the
last half year, in Original & Duplicate; it is very
satisfactory for me to learn from you that there is
no chance of his being struck off, so long as Genl
Campbell remains in the Command, which
I sincerely hope will be the case on many acc^ts
tho' my old friend Sir J. Craddock told me the
other day, that now the Lt Government was vacant
by the removal of Lt Gen. Fox to the Government of
Portsmouth, he should not dislike to return thro'
Should you succeed in obtaining the augmentation
to the pay of the Clerks, which it appears General
Campbell has proposed to the Treasury, it will

4643

I am
you to
it is n
behalf,
remar
I sa
the Di
event
his app
Sicilia
obtain
him t
by wh
again
aware
to be u
shoul
his at
we hav

I am sure, be a very gratifying circumstance to you to have effected that before you left the Office, altho' it is no more than I applied for 8 years ago in their behalf, when my representation, if I mistake not, remained wholly unnoticed.

I sincerely hope that the marriage of my friend the Duke of Orleans will turn out as fortunate an event for him as he merits it should, and that his appointment to be Commander in Chief of the Sicilian Force will only be the forerunner of his obtaining that weight with the Court that will enable him to urge them to alter that informal system by which they have indisposed all the natives against them - and of which no one is so well aware as himself. Indeed nothing is so much to be wished for by this Country, as that he should have unbounded sway there, for with his attachment to England & his genius & activity we have fair reason to expect that he will totally

alter the face of things there.

I rejoice to see the merit of our friend Castanos again estimated as it ought to be, for like you, I have the greatest confidence in his abilities & integrity, but certainly he does not possess the quickness of talent requisite to cope with the present French General and I fear, if he had, they have deferred too late calling him forward. Looking forward, tho' not to the subjugation of Spain, yet to the general occupation of it for a time by the French, were if we can contrive to hold Cadiz, I fully expect that Bonaparte will make a grand push against the Rock, & though we sincerely hope that the blowing up the Spanish Lines and all the defences of the Island of Algazinas, that serve as a protection to the Gun Boats will not have been deferred till too late; yet to which I should like to have seen my favourite project of insulating the Rock, by cutting a channel across the Isthmus being undertaken.

Of course after all that has passed with regard to myself, when last I applied to be allowed to go out to Gibraltar, when at the commencement of 1808, it was expected that it would have been attacked, I cannot take any fresh steps till the report is actually received that the French Army is arrived before the place, & then I shall certainly make a strong push, but while the present people are in Office & the same invisible hand regulates the movements behind the Curtain, I apprehend the Bugbear of my unpopularity & the danger of entrusting me with the Command, will be kept up, and of course I shall meet with a refusal. When the other party to come into power, I should then entertain sanguine hopes of returning to my post.

I have now only to repeat the sentiments of regard and esteem with which I remain

dear Wright. ever yours faithfully.

EDWARD

Lt. Col. Wright.

The Duke of Kent

7th March. Received

Answered 8th April

1810

Kensington Palace
March 15th 1840.

Dear Wight,

Since writing to you a few days ago, I have had the pleasure of receiving your interesting letter of the 14th ult. which contained the welcome information of the destruction of Fort St. Philip & Barcona, as also of the levelling of the whole of the Spanish lines. After all that has passed between you & me in conversation during the year that we were together upon the Rock, you will easily believe how gratifying it must be to me, to see my own plans carried into effect, and therefore I shall say little more on this subject than that I am glad the execution of them was not deferred until too late, which I own I had my fears about. What a curious circumstance it was that the French should be marching into Algiers at the very moment the forts were blowing up!!

I lament that the Navy should have meddled with

the Island of Algeziras at all, before the party from the Garrison arrived to take possession of it, as it would have been highly desirable to have been able immediately to put it in that state of respectable defence, that would for a long time check the Enemy, from turning the occupation of the Town to their benefit, & I fear must from the destruction of all the Barracks & Buildings by the Navy, that there will hardly be time to do this, before the Enemy will have brought down a Battering Train, that will compel our People to abandon it.

I can easily conceive what a worrying time you must all of you have had, while the remains of Ackdrajas's Army were passing thro' the Garrison, when of course it was quite out of the question to allow them to tarry. Your Account of the Spanish Officers coincides but too well with every thing I had heard of them before, and one cannot wonder that even the finest Men should go to the devil when they have such leaders.

I am happy to find by the papers of Yesterday that the temporary disappointment that was experienced in regard to the occupation of Ceuta, was so immediately got over, upon the Governor being informed of the state of things at Cadiz. You will easily believe, how much the battle of the present critical moment in your vicinity, adds to my deep regret at being kept from my Station, where I think at this time, I might be particularly useful.

I cannot help feeling much for the situation of poor Jacome at this moment, being posted to the most important Command possible for a Spaniard, at such a critical instant, without any means at his command of doing justice to it.

As to what is going forward before Cadiz, it is impossible for me who am unacquainted with the minute details of the place & Country round about it, to pronounce any opinion as to the probable result of the contest, but I do both hope & trust that, if we are obliged to abandon

badly to the Enemy, we shall take care beforehand to bring away the Fleet & to insure to us the occupation at least of Minorca & the Canaries, besides that Cuba, so that, if the Enemy shuts us out of every Port in Europe, we may at least turn the Tables upon them, by depriving them of every Port out of it.

I will now not take up more of your time, but conclude by desiring my best regards to General Campbell & Frazier, & subscribing myself with sentiments of friendly regard & sincere esteem

dear Dright,

Ever yours faithfully

EDWARD

Lt. Col. Dright.

72
16 April
1810.

Kennington Palace
16th April 1810

Dear Wright

The only letter of yours which I have by me at this time unanswered is that of the 2 Ult.o received on the 31st in which you informed me of the Peasantry in your vicinity having attacked and succeeded in cutting off the whole of the Fourth Detachment in their retreat, from St Roque, with the exception of Eighteen who took shelter in the Convent in the Cork Wood, and who you expected would be roasted in it by the Peasants setting fire to it if they did not meet

Lieut.t Coll. Wright
Royal Artillery
Gibraltar

their destruction before. I rejoice to find that Major General Campbell has been so liberal in granting the requested supply of ammunition upon the application of the Deputies from the Towns in the District surrounding you, as altho' we dare not hope that the Levies of the Armed Mass can effect anything sufficient to overcome the Enemy opposed to them, the continual harassing warfare they will thereby be enabled to keep up upon the detached Parties of the French wherever they shew themselves, cannot fail of considerably retarding their progress. Of the excesses of the French as detailed by you I was not-

46440

Lieut.

surprized to hear, as your account of them exactly corresponds with every thing I had heard of them from other quarters before, and the Spaniards treat them but as they merit, in given them no Quarter. I sincerely lament the misfortune that has befallen Madame Gonzales; and feel much for her Husband whose politeness in his offer of the Rosquadilla through our friend Viale I shall always remember with gratitude, but really in fighting with the French now a days one has nothing to expect but the same treatment that was formerly experienced in Warfare in the Barbary Powers

Lieut.t Coll. Wright

Royal Artillery
Gibraltar

I shall long to hear how Joseph Buonaparte continues to extricate himself from the perilous situation in which you state he had got into between St Roche & Ronda; surely if the Spanish Peasantry had but a leader of talent, in whom they had confidence, he might have been cut off. I sincerely pity the position of our worthy friend Gen Jacome, in being so surrounded as he is, for, with the very best and most zealous intentions, such as I am sure his are, nothing can be done where there is no one to guard them. I shall anxiously look for your next communication. Notes of its appriging me

of there being a British Garrison in Ceuta, for I am sure it is high time that that important fortress as well as the Island of Minorca and the Canaries were in our possession — As to Ceuta you know it has been long my hobby Horse, and I yet live in the hope of being named Governor of that conjointly with Gibraltar, and if being allowed personally to superintend its improvement, which I agree with you, if properly and judiciously proceeded upon, would, in a very few Years, place it at least upon as a respectable a footing (as a fort.) upon Gibraltar.

The Public Prints will inform you of the shameful Riots we have experienced for a few days past in the Metropolis, but all is now quiet, and I believe likely to continue so; but I fear the effect will be the giving the Ministry a degree of temporary stability, which considering their weakness is much to be lamented.

I remain with every sentiment of friendly regard and sincere esteem

Dear Wright

yours

faithfully

Edward

Lt Colt. Wright.

Kensington Palace
April 21st 1840

Dear Wight

Since I did myself the pleasure of writing to you, on the 16th instant, your letters of the 24th, 27th & 29th have reached me, the first on the 17th and the two latter on the 20th inst., and as I happen to have a leisure moment to day, I intend immediately answering them, altho' I have not yet seen Capt. Campbell, who, I conclude, has been too much engaged by the Secretary of State, since his arrival

to be able to spare time to come
out to me, for, altho' I date all
my letters from Kensington Palace
from wishing all my friends to
address theirs to me there, I am
in fact principally resident at
Castle Hill Lodge. I shall not
attempt to convey to you the satis-
faction I experienced from learning
that, at length, we had obtained
a footing in Ceuta, as you, with
whom I have so often discussed
the importance of that Fortress
being occupied by us, as an append-
age to Gibraltar, are well apprized
of my sentiments on that head.
I am aware that Genl Campbell
and yourself must have had very

many obstacles to contend with before this essential point could be accomplished and more especially as in Mr B. F., from whom you had a right to expect every cooperation, you met with so very lukewarm an assistant, but, thank God, the matter is now accomplished without him and I sincerely hope ere long His Majesty will be possessed of the sovereignty of that place for himself and his heirs for ever, as it is of the utmost consequence, in the present situation of the French Empire, to hold it on those terms. Of course it cannot have escaped the General's good sense

and your excellent judgment
of what infinite moment it
is to cultivate the friendship
of the Emperor of Morocco, and to
reconcile him not only to see
with pleasure an English Garri-
son united with Spanish Troops in
the defence of that Fortress, but also
to induce him, by making him
feel the good effects, that would
result to himself and his Country
from our having a footing there
to take an interest in our event-
ually holding it for ourselves.
I trust therefore, that no time
will have been lost in taking
the necessary steps to have from
my able & intelligent Man

employed at the Court of Morocco
to manage this delicate matter.
I own I should like for us to
obtain from His Barbarian
Imperial Majesty a grant
of a certain extent of territory
beyond the foot of the Glacis.
with a view to be able to establish
there a farm upon a very exten-
sive plan for the breeding of Cattle
& raising of grain & hay sufficient
to supply the Garrison of Gibraltar
and Ceuta and our fleet off Cadiz
at all times, as also to have
Gardens for furnishing them with
Vegitables, as then we might
bid defiance to all Buonaparte's
attempts upon the old Rock we

be to combine every effort to re-
-duce it. This idea I would wish
to carry still further, by obtain-
-ing, under some pretence or
other, the sanction of the Emperor
of Morocco to run a wall by way
of separation at the extremity
of the Portion of Land I allude
to, with the ostensible view
of preventing any subsequent
Dispute or question about it,
but in reality to enable us
to avail ourselves of it to
construct an advanced Work so
as to keep our Neighbours at a
Distance when we think proper
and to prevent them plundering

our farm or otherwise annoying
us, which, from their predatory
disposition we should otherwise
always be exposed to. All this
I would have you talk over
with the good General and
consult with him what can
be done to get this important
negotiation in train. Perhaps
you may know a Mr. Abbott
a friend of Sir Sydney Smith's
who some years ago was strongly
recommended to me by that able
Man and Mr. Rumbold, as understanding the mode of treating
with the Moors, better than
almost any Man, and if I

mistake not he went out to the Mediterranean at the same time when Mr. Turnbull jun^r. embarked; were he within your reach when you get this, I think it might be as well to broach the matter to him, as I have no doubt but that he would be able to give you some very useful hints on the subject.

All you say of the initiated principles of the higher Ranks in Spain most perfectly accords with the manner I view them, and it therefore becomes the more essential to put that important Place in the Profession

of those, upon whose fidelity in the defence of it better reliance can be placed.

I have many thanks to return you for your able management of my Staff Pay, and in the event of your leaving the Garrison, I will thank you to explain to Viale (whom I mean to take your place as my Agent) the plan you have proceeded upon, in order that he may be able to follow the same.

I am truly concerned to find the sort of answer returned by the Late Master General to your most reasonable application for leave of absence, and if

his successor (who is not yet named) should be a Man whom I can speak to, you may depend upon my renewing it, being well aware how anxious your good old Father must be for your early return at his advanced age, when in the common course of human events the duration of Life must be so precarious, as that affords him the only certain prospect of being gratified with the sight of you, before he closes his Eyes.

I am glad to find from your account, that there has been no obstacle to the return of my friend Lieut.t Col.l Moore to Sicily, in

consequence of his Regt having been sent home from Lisbon as it would have been a sad mortification to so old an Officer, upon joining his Corps, to have had to encounter, at the first outset, the painful circumstance of another Lieut. Colonel being put in over his head.

I read with great pleasure, as you may imagine, the favorable account you give of the operation of the insurrection against the French in your Neigh-bourhood, and I only wish you had it in your power to supply them with Arms as well as Ammu-nition for it appears that in that

point is the great difficulty.

I am not at all surprized at what you tell me of that fire brand J— s conduct, only I trust the General will be firm with him and then we may have a chance of getting rid of him, and I am well satisfied that till we do, no one in the Command of Gibraltar can have a possibility of going on in Peace.

I am much obliged to you for the very proper and comfortable provision which you have obtained the promise of the good General to make for Joe King in case of our retaining Cuba (of which I cannot bear to entertain

a doubt, and I really believe that a more proper person could not have been found for the situation you destine for him.

I have now only to add that I by you will assure the General, that my best exertions shall not be wanting to endeavour to get him the appointment of Lieut. Governor, and his for the Brevet of Major which I feel both ought to have as his conduct, in all the important charge that has devolved upon him appears to merit those marks of His Majesty's Favor, & personally I feel most-

grateful for his attention to those requests with which I have had occasion to trouble him

Believe me ever to be with friendly regard and sincere esteem

Dear Wright

yours

faithfully

Edward

P.S. I form my letter again to request that you will mention to the General, my having received a visit from Col. Wright.

a most heart breaking letter from the Widow of poor Lieut. Colⁿ Lyons, who states her being in the greatest distress with her Daughters, in consequence of having been obliged to leave St. Roque, upon the arrival of the French, and that one of the smallest Subaltern's detached Quarters would be the greatest charity to her; I shall therefore feel myself under particular obligation to the General if he can do this, in consideration of the uniform attention of her deceased husband to all our Countrymen either in Peace or War who had occasion to pass through St. Roque

during the Nine and twenty Years
he was Town Major of the Camp
At the same time I will thank
you to give her five and twenty
Pounds as a donation from me

E.

13

21 October
1846

Kensington Palace
2 July 1840

Dear Wright,

I have now before me your letters of the 7, 8, & 9th April, as also of the 7 & 30th May, the 3 former of which I received simultaneously on the 21 & 23d of that month, & the 2 latter on the 30th ult. by favor of Mrs Wright. — The first of your letters relating altogether to your Ward Mr W. Smith, I will answer by candidly telling you, that from the nature of the answer returned by Lord Mulgrave to an application, which I made at the request of your worthy Father, in behalf of a Grandson of his for whom he wished to obtain admission into the Royal Cadet Academy I am well convinced, that, were I to make a similar application in behalf of your Ward, it would be altogether of no avail; I have therefore judged it best simply to send in your letter to the Master General without any comment of mine upon it, but should the

answer

answer be in the negative, as I feel confident it will be, from the circumstance of Lord Malgrave having stated that he was saddled with so long a list of Candidates from Lord Chatham, as to preclude the possibility of bringing forward any of his own for a considerable length of time, I will immediately note him on my list of Candidates for Engineer in the Royal, to one of Perkins, if you are willing to purchase for him, he can immediately be nominated, but if that should not be feasible you may depend upon his being brought forward in his turn, as I have put his name down on my list from the day, on which I received your letter; but unfortunately there are 10 or 11 before him in that class. — I hope and trust he is a native of North Britain, for, as far as depends upon me, I strive to keep the Corps as National as possible, however, if he be not, it shall make no difference in regard to the promise.

I now proceed to your letter of the 8th April, from which I rejoice to find, that everything is going

going on so smoothly at Ceuta, tho' I lament that, as yet, the negotiation, that was so predicting set on foot, to gain admission for another Regiment into that Fortress, has fail'd of producing the desired effect. Perhaps in me, it may be a degree of vanity, that is inexplicable, but I will candidly own to you, that I am of opinion, if I had been in the active command of Gibraltar, there would have been no difficulty in obtaining the sanction of the Spanish Government, especially, as it is now compared, for the entire occupation both of that place & of Minorca. For the Spaniards have as you know, a vast deal of pride of Birth about them, and they will cede many a point to a person in my situation, which they would not to any one even of equal Rank with the highest of their own Nobility: Indeed, at the present moment, I think the point, to which you and our Fund Viol's ought to direct your sole attention, with the view of effecting the grand Object I have so much at heart, my

return

return to the Mediterranean, should be to suggest the expediency of their entering into accept of the appointment of Governor & Capt General of Cuba and the Balearic Islands, perhaps also of the Canaries, as in that case the Spanish Government might reasonably solicit Her Majesty to permit me to accept of it, and urging my going immediately out to assume that important charge. — Could this point be carried probably it would be thought expedient to send an Officer of Rank, upon this special Mission, so that the communication might be made at the same moment to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and to myself thereby precluding the possibility of the thing being smothered in the communication between Her Majesty's ministers & himself — as was the case when before the Spanish Minister here was instructed to express the wish of the Junta that I might be desired to

return

return to Gibraltar: weigh all this well, & then act to the best of your judgement, observing that, to ensure success, the act must appear spontaneous on the part of the Spanish Government. Not to proceed from me: I should think in the first instance, that no one should be spoke to but General Castaños, on whom attachment for me I know I may rely: —

I am much concerned to find that you have been delay'd to recall the English Officers, who had been sent, at the request of the Gallant & active Peasantry in your vicinity to conduct them in their attacks upon the French in your Neighbourhood. For, by your account of the Spanish Officers, there is nothing but Cowardice and Treachery to be expected from them: As you have not mentioned the withdrawing the three light Companies, who were to be sent to Tarifa, I hope they are still there, and that they make good use of those Quarters from which I conceive

they

they may carry on a very active petite Guerre, which must be attended with the best effects in keeping the French at a respectable distance from the Bay; the more we hear from Spain, the more occasion have we to deplore the depravity and apostacy of the higher ranks there. Nothing I think can be a stronger proof of this than the circumstance you mention respecting General Abedeo, and which you communicated to his relatives Castanos: Now I shall long to hear how he acted upon it, as also upon the other fact of one of the "junta of Cadez being an Agent of Joseph Buonaparte's: — I approve very highly of the two works that are now executing on upon the suggestion of Major General Campbell viz: the carrying the mundation by a deep cut to the foot of the Rock at Forbes's Barrier, & the fortifying Windmill

Hill

4645

Hill
will
Inva
confe
feaw
comp
entan
a m
the
his de
mysle
mu
Lisbon
came
his, a
your
lutwe
have
dow
of it
the S
to des

Mile & Europa Pass, but I hope the good General will not lose sight of my suggestion for Insulating the Rock altogether, as I am confident that is a matter which is extremely feasible, & which could be effected at a comparatively moderate expence, which it certainly never could be attempted at a proper a moment as the present one: Pray thank the General most kindly from me, for his obliging message respecting the 3d Bn of my Regiment, whose destination I regret must long change from Gibraltar to Lisbon by every account!. You may, at the same time, add how much I am gratified by his humane attention to Mrs Lyons. At this your accounts of War having taken place between Russia & France respecting Poland have not proved founded in fact, you have done most wisely in availing yourself of it to circulate proclamations to induce the Poles & Germans in the French Service to desert. & that will ensure in I hope a

number

number of excellent Recruits to fill the Ranks four Fine Corps: — after what you have said respecting Mr Abbot I am fully convinced that he cannot be employed in the way for which I had conceived him to be well qualified; for my own part I never saw him but once, when he was introduced to me by my old friend Mr Trimbell, who at that time thought very highly of him, and having found him perfectly au fait, or at least appearing himself to be so upon every point on which I enquired of him respecting the Barbary Powers I naturally thought him a fit person to conduct a negotiation with them: — You mention the return of Captain Campbell to Gibraltar, which I cannot deny has surprised me a good deal, as the young Man after the interview he had with me at Kensington Palace, promised to come out and breakfast with me at Castle Hill Lodge previous to his going back, so that I might avail myself

of

of that opportunity to write to his Father. Pray tell him from me how much he has disappointed me, for his appearance had prepossessed me very much in his favor & I really wish much to know more of him. Pray remind him also of the promise he made me of sending me an accurate plan of Cuba as soon as he could procure one.

I have now replied to every part of your four Letters, and have therefore only to add respecting myself that I have recently been very much annoyed by a Publication which no doubt will find its way to the Rock, & that, whenever it may be credited, to confirm any unpleasant impressions that may have been taken up by prejudiced and illiberal persons against myself & our unfortunate friend Dodd, but I believe a few lines which in conformity with the wishes of my Family, I put into the

Public

Public papers upon the subject of that Publication will satisfy every liberal mind as to its atrocious falsehood: to you who know the honor & veracity of Dodd it cannot be necessary even to hint at the possibility of the assertion of the most infamous woman in Society being put in competition with him, yet all these calumnies and dirty works, do incalculable mischief by again calling into public attention a subject which for the sake of all who have been named in it, but more especially of my elder Brother who has suffered so cruelly from it ought for ever to be buried in oblivion: I shall now take my leave of you desiring my kindest remembrance to Neale, in case I should be unable to write to him by the present occasion, which however I fully mean to do if in my power, and by subscribing myself with sentiments of friendly regard and sincere esteem

Dear Wright

ever yours faithfully

Edward

Ed Wright

Kensington Palace
15th July 1840

Dear Wright,

Having very recently answered your letter of the 31st May, which was brought by Mrs Wright together with all the others, which had been prior thereto, & had been at that time unanswered, I have now only to acknowledge your favor of the 7th ult. received yesterday, in which you confirm me of the arrival

arrival of Colonel Rutherford on the
1st June, and of the favorable opinion
which you had formed of him during
the short period you had been occupied
in initiating him into the Duties
of his Office; I fear however he will
find a difficult task to equal you &
your unfortunate predecessor in
zeal, activity and perseverance in
the discharge of them: Were it not
for the very cool terms, upon which I
am with the present Master General,

I

I would immediately urge the justice of your having leave of absence to return to England after the 8 Years spell you have had on the Rock, but I am rather apt to think that any interference would do injury than good, however as Sir John Cradock is very much your friend, let me suggest to you to write to him to interfere with Lord Melgrave, and I think that will ensure your success. I am very thankful to Jemima

Fraser

Fraser and Lord Blaney. For their obliging remembrance of me, and will than. you to assure them of my sincere return. A Letter I have just received from the Duke of Orleans at Cadiz dated the 25th ult. appriz's me of his arrival there, after having visited Tarragona & being received there in the most flattering manner; I long to hear of his further progress, and whether his former pupil and, with the French Army, will be the means of rendering very large number of the

troops

Kensington Palace
20th August 1815

Dear Wright/

Having now by me your 3 Letters of the 30th June, & 7 & 22d July, which, together with their respective enclosures I successively received on the 1st, 3, & 13th inst, I shall do myself the pleasure of replying to their several contents, according to the order in which their dates respectively follow each other, and commence, by thanking you for your obliging repetition of the suggestion contained in your favor of the 25th June, relative to the expediency

of

of my obtaining an order from the Treasury to move my Revenue allowance of £2000 per annum at par, in the same manner that the General Officer in Command gets his Table allowance & the Civil Secretary his Salary. — I believe I mentioned in my last, my other having made the application accordingly, or my intention of making it, but altho' a considerable time has elapsed since then, I have not as yet received any further communication from the Treasury upon the subject, tho' that they would take it into their consideration, & there the matter rests. —

It

It is however my intention to refresh the recollection of the Sentry in the course of a few days, if I do not hear something before the expiration of that time: — I am highly gratified to find, that you continue to go on so comfortably with the good General, upon whom appointment to the Lieutenant Government of the Garrison, & the Local Bank of Saint Jerome, which appeared in the Gazette of the night before last, I have done myself the pleasure of congratulating him in the letter that accompanies this: — Pray don't forget now that he has a personal interest in

it

it to remind him of the fire place in the large Room, to the South, which I should think, set about, would be executed in time for him to feel the benefit of it when the autumnal Season sets in. — I think too, it would be a kind for him to make the attempt to get something done to the Lieutenant Governors House, which in the event of my returning, (and I fully mean again to make a dead set about it ere long) it would be very desirable for him to have in readiness for his own accommodation:

The Bill for Mr Parkin's pay for the last half year, has been transmitted as usual with his Indorsement at the back of it, to

Messrs

Messrs Coutts & Co. to enable them to remove the amount for me, as I regularly advance it to him: This fact leads me to enquire whether poor old Aldridge still continues to hold the little sinecure place of Guager, which I gave him, and to receive the emoluments of it, which if I recollect right, used to be between 90 & 100 £ per annum: — I am induced to ask this question from having some recollection of your saying to me that the Hero of Cintra had threatened to strike it off, & from having no means of ascertaining the fact from the poor old man himself, who from some singular infatuation savouring of insanity, chose without rhyme

or

or reason to withdraw himself in the Spring
of 1004 from my House, after being an
inmate of it for above 4 years, upon some
alledged absurdity of an affront he chose
to conceive had been offered him about a deal
of Coffee: - At the same time however, as
I have entreated every one in Calling not to
alter either their attention to him, he has not
suffered materially in his Comforts from it
I always take a lively interest in his welfare,
I perceive with concern from your Letter
of the 7th July that Brigadier General
Bowes Secret Expedition had returned
from Off Malaga, without being able to
do anything, for every circumstance of
that kind I always think tends to

Keep

hold us up as objects of derision to the French. — I approve highly of your proclamation to encourage the desertion from the French Army, and I hope in your next to hear that it has produced the desired effect, as a large Batch of Poles, Swiss & Germans would be a very valuable acquisition to fill up the Ranks of the 60 Regt, the Swiss Brigade & the Kings German Legion & other Foreign Corps, who, for a long time have been dwindling to very low numbers for the want of the means of Recruiting. Your success of the French doing at least as much towards gaining the Contest by their Pens as by their arms. I have

long

long subscribed to, and I heartily wish
that we could take all the advantage
we might of fighting them with the
Pen, as I am well convinced of all
the good that would result from that
measure, were it adopted with
energy. — Adverting to what you
say in regard to your Protegé Mr
William Smith, it is necessary that I
should tell you candidly, the number
of Candidates on my list for Engineers
without purchase, is so large that I
can't, at the present rate of advancement
in the Regiment, hold out any reasonable
expectation of his coming to his turn
to be brought forward, for much longer

than

than a twelvemonth, tho' if he were to be recommended for promotion, I would do it at once. You had better therefore decide, if you have any thought of purchasing for him, to do it at once, on account of the very great advantage it would be to him to enter now with 6 vacant Engineers below him: — after all you have stated to me in regard to the equivocal position in which Cutanos has placed himself by his unjustifiable conduct with respect to General Abadia, I own I see little chance of his spontaneously proposing

the

the arrangement I suggested in my
last, nor, if he did, do I forese
any chance of success, unless the
proposal could be transmitted home
thro the Spanish Minister, without
Mr Wellesley having any knowledge of it,
as we all know can believe when they
sent the Letters to the Duke of Orleans
& the King of Sicily, or certainly Mr
Wellesley would have endeavoured to
thwart it. For as right you should
know that on this side of the Water
that family has gained such an influence
that they will never if they can help
it, suffer any one to be placed in competition

with

with Lord Wellington, whom I believe they almost aspire to make Regent of not King of Spain and Portugal: It is this sentiment & not other that operates against the acceptance of my excellent friend the Duke of Orleans, & against me it is combined with many other causes; as such, I am not unaware of the Herculean task it will be to carry my long desired object of getting back to that Rock; but yet I shall never give the point up, or leave anything untried to effect it: I shall therefore only say to you with a reference to my late communication that

I

Leave it to your own good Sense and
Judgement to act as circumstances
may require, being assured that
you will never lose sight of prudence
I am pleased at what you tell me of
Abadie's appointment to the command
which poor Jacomé has himself wrote
me word. He was obliged to relinquish
from illness, but confident that General
Campbell will be on his guard as
to too much intercourse with him,
at least that he will keep a very close
look out upon all communications
that may pass between him and the
Garrison: — I am much obliged to
you for letting me right about Captain
Campbell

Campbell, whom from not having heard of him for so long a time, I now I had conceived to have returned to Gibraltar forgetting his appointment with me: I have recently had occasion to write to him, about a Scotch Servant whom I had discharged, and offered himself to go out to the General, and in so doing I availed myself of the opportunity to remind him of his promise of coming out to Castle Hill Lodge, to see me before he leaves England: —

I am glad to find that you view the Statement which I felt myself compelled to Publish in my defence

against

against the late libellous attack made
upon me by that female fiend in
the human shape, in the light in
which I did myself, as you know
I place great reliance on your
Judgement, but I own it has fretted
me much, as you justly say both
for my own sake and for Dodds, as
I fear it has added greatly to the
weight of obloquy, that has already
fallen alas! (from his impudence) to
his share. — I am very happy
to find that Jephson has met with the
check he so richly merited, for his

abominable

abominable conduct, and I hope soon to hear that it has been recommended to him to retire from his situation, in which he has invariably been an annoyance to every Officer in Command: — The measure of reinforcing Tampa, is a most judicious one, and I hope we shall never resign possession of that or Cuba while things continue as they are now. You have done perfectly right in communicating my ideas to Lt General Campbell respecting the cut across the Isthmus; all I would wish here to do at present is

also think it over well, & consult the Commanding Engineer upon it, then if it is thought a wise measure, to forward it home, where I think from the importance which the possession of Gibraltar is now held, it will receive very serious consideration we can work, and a sufficient number of men (Campanioded would be fit out / probably convicts / to execute it) were it once decided upon. I have now only to assure you of the continuance of my sincere regard, & to subscribe myself, Dear Wright

Ever yours faithfully

Edward

Lieut Col Wright

77

Kensington Palace
Sept 7th 1810.

Dear Wright,

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 18th Ultimo, by Packet, on the 5th Instant: It appears to me perfectly unaccountable upon what principle the Master General can refuse you leave of Absence after being more than 8 years on the same Station without being one hour away from it, unless it be that you are considered as connected with our unfortunate friend Dodd, and from the Party being very inveterate against him, it is wished to keep you from meeting him, at least so one has a right to infer from this wanton illiberality.

In regard to your friend, Mr. Smitt, if he can

contrive to support the expense of a Cavalry Office I am apt to think I could almost immediately get him a Cornetcy of heavy Dragoons in a desirable Regiment from my acquaintance with the Colonel of it, but if you do not wish him to go into any other Branch of the Service than the Line, I will strive to get him appointed to some other Regt in the first instance, as I fear the length of my List of Candidates for Commissions in the Regal is too long to hold out any prospect of being able to bring him forward as early as you might wish or expect. I can afterwards probably contrive to get him into my own Corps by a change either as Ensign, or what perhaps will be preferable, when first he has attained the Rank of Lieut.

In regard to the views I had respecting myself, which I mentioned in former communications,

I am
Meanth
views
that c
that I
be acc
useful
confi
illus
from
Spani
added
com
letter
I am
of Gre
of his

I am perfectly convinced now, that I am quite
master of the Wellesleyan intrigue and the ambitious
views of the Marquis for his Brother Lord Wellington,
that every possible obstacle will be opposed to them by
that Junta of Brothers, and therefore if they cannot
be accomplished in spite of them, it would be quite
useless to pursue them for the present. I am
confident the same cause operates against my
illustrious friend the Duke of Orleans, but I do hope
from his energy, his abilities, his knowledge of the
Spanish Language and the cleverness of Broval,
added to his presence in Spain, that he will, if he
can stand his ground until the Assembly of the
Cortes, carry his point against the Wellesleys, &
I am sure, for the sake of the Spanish cause, it is
of great consequence he should, for unless a Man
of his Rank & Talents is brought forward, there

never will be an end to the vile dirty Jealousies that are heard of daily amongst the Commanders of the different Armies & the Members of the Government.

Having sacrificed a great deal when he took the determination of embarking for Spain, I do not think that the Duke will readily be persuaded to return to Sicily, and indeed I hope he will have nerve enough not to do so until driven to the last extremity.

If when you receive this, you have not got the two publications I named to you in my last, I would by all means have you write to your Book seller to send them to you, for as you have the one that contains the attack, you should also have the other, poor as they are that contain something like the Defence.

Remember me particularly to my good D. Governor & believe me ever to be with the most friendly regard & the truest esteem, dear Wright, Yours faithfully

Edward

Col. Wright.

Kensington Palace
Sept. 13th 1840.

Dear Wright,

Altho' I wrote to you but a few days since, I resume my pen to day, having just rec. your letter of the 28th Ult. As in mine above alluded to, I have replied fully to your communication of Lord Mulgrave's denial to your request for the admission of your Ward, Mr. Smith's name upon his list of candidates for Cadetships at Woolwich Academy, I shall have no occasion to say more on that subject at present, than that I await your answer to my observation on that head. I am not surprized at Viale having as yet received no answer to the letter he wrote to General Bartanos upon the subject in which, as you justly remark, I am so much interested, for I fear the good General is at least lukewarm,

and, as I mentioned in my last, if M. D. Wellesley has got wind of my wishes, I know they will meet from him with the most strenuous opposition, as militating against the ambitious views of the Marquis for governing Spain thro' the joint means of his Military & Diplomatic Brother. When you get my last letter you will fully perceive that I was aware of a similar opposition on similar grounds being made in the same quarter to the Duke of Orleans being appointed to the Command of the Spanish Armies: I only hope that his own energy and talent will overcome that obstacle by making the Regency sensible of the attempt that is there made by our Government to dictate to them in their interior, at the very moment they are professing their determination not to interfere in any points of that nature. Your information relative to the Sentiments of the British Cabinet towards my

illus
cause
talen
objec
Fam
hatre
ag con
brus
him
Place
of he
Dub
and
the
ade
last
Not

illustrious friend is perfectly correct, and it is easy to account for it; In the first place, his superior talents, experience & judgment, have made him an object of jealousy to the senior Members of the Bourbon Family, who still most unjustly retain that envenomed hatred against the Son, which they justly imbibed against the Father, and I know they have been busily engaged, & have gone very length to injure him here since he has been absent; in the second Place, his Marriage with the Daughter of the Queen of Naples, who is understood to have refused the Duke of Berry, Son of the Comte d'Artois, has been another subject of recent burning to that Branch of the Family, and excited the Members of it to an additional degree of inveracity against him; lastly his representation of the sentiments of his Mother in Law which is in direct contradiction to

Wellesley
meet from
litating
governing
plomatic
le fully
tion on
Quarter
Command
on
te by
that is
them in
e professing
y points
to the
my

what is supposed to have been that of Lord Amherst and I believe also of the Sicilian Ministers here, who as well as some of those at Palermo are not friends to this Royal Mistress, have made him an object of suspicion to this Government, whose principle is is to consider his Majesty as leaning to the French, because his Favourite is a Frenchman: However he must combat all this, and I trust he will be able to do so successfully in the long run, only he must firmly resist every attempt that is made by side winds to induce him to leave Spain. I am not surprized that his Sister should mention in her letter to you, that so much alarm was entertained at Palermo on account of Murat's threatened Invasion from Calabria, but I own I have that confidence in the activity & intrepidity of our navy

Navy, that I am most sanguine as to the result if the attempt were to be made.

I have now only to add that the several letters from you that were enclosed under my cover, will be immediately forwarded according to their respective addresses.

I remain ever with sincere regard

dear Wight,

Yours faithfully

Edward

P.S. 15th Sept.

Having just rec. the inclosed from Mr. Arbuthnot which is more pointed as to the issue of my extra allowance from the Revenues of Gibraltar at Par, I open my letter for the purpose of annexing it — E.

Lt. Col. Wight

Gibraltar —

P.S.

P.S. I inclose Mr. Corbutha's letter to me, this moment rec'd in order that you may, as my Agent make such use of it, as you may conceive will be beneficial to my Interests; You will of course understand altho' it is inaccurately expressed, that the purport of it is to apprize me of the Treasury having sanctioned my Application to be allowed to receive my extra Allowance as Governor of £2800 per Annum from the Revenues of Gibraltar at Par. E

61

Kensington Palace
13th Octr 1840

Dear Wright/

I had the pleasure of receiving on this day your favor of the 15th and on the 10th that of the 10th ult. – You judged perfectly right in conveying Lieut Governor Campbell to be much gratified with my letter of congratulation on his promotion to the Local Rank of Lieut General & appointment to be my Lieut Governor, for I had yesterday an answer to it expressing strongly how much he felt my kindness, and I have just been replying to it in terms commensurate with his: – I gather from what you state relative to the Drawing Room at the Convent that the good General has been anxious to prove that he was not

commendful

mindful of my wishes, and tell him that you will say to him that I feel particularly obliged to him for this fresh mark of attention: — I can't tell you how pleased I was to find from your answer to my Letter respecting poor Old Aldridge, that the Hero of Cintra had not displaced him from his situation, and if I am enabled to do it by the present conveyance, I will by the next transmit to you, the good old man's Power of Attorney, to enable you to get for him the whole arrears that is due to him from that blood Sucker J. S. — By the bye, as I have named that pattern of honesty, is there any truth in the report that he is to be tried by a General Court Martial for fraudulent conduct in regard to the meat Contract? for as it comes directly from the Commissary in Chief's Office, I am inclined to

magine

imagine that there must be some foundation for it: How gratifying it must be to you to see such complete proofs attend your suggestion for issuing a Proclamation to encourage the desertion of the Foreign Soldiery serving in the armies of the Foreign, and I think Government ought to be very much obliged to you for it, as it has afforded them such ample means of filling up all the Foreign Bns at comparatively a most trifling expence: — In regard to your Ward Mr Smith, I only wait for your answer to my last communication to know if you will accept of a Cornetcy for him, as I think I can easier get him that than an Ensigncy, but if you should determine on waiting for the latter, I will spare no pains to procure it for him as soon as may be practicable: — The accompanying papers I send you in

in order to have to Lieut Governor
Campbell, under the conviction that he
will feel himself authorized upon reim-
bursing, to order Scotland to pay my
Revenue allowance in future at Par
even if the Treasury or the Receiver General
should have neglected furnishing him
the necessary authority for that purpose
I am leads me to express my best
acknowledgements to you for the
kind care you take of my interests in
constituting every arrangement that is
most for my advantage. — I can
easily continue the operations started by
the Naval Officers to the cut across
the Isthmus, which I suggested, and
perhaps it may be very deserving of
attention, but should that prove otherwise
the minimum time and labor it would
take to get a foundation for the steam
Wall, which as you justly observe must
be built on both sides of the Channel to
retain

retain the rain from falling in, would at this time prevent the possibility of undertaking it. — I perceive with infinite pleasure that our worthy friend General Jacomé has been nominated a Member of the Council of War, & that upon the occasion he has been placed in the Rank which he was so cruelly & unjustly deprived of thro' the intrigues of that old Villain St Helain, in 1802 — I am sure he will have gratefully acknowledged your gift to him of my print, as no doubt he lost upon the occasion of his flight from Seville, that which I had made him a present of upon his leaving England: — I rejoice to find that your good Lieut Governor appears to appreciate his worth: What a lamentable thing it is, that at such a period, the Duke of Orleans, after being invited to come over to Spain, should

thro'

this the dirty intrigues of the Mogullian Party, be kept from rendering that distinguished Service to the great Cause, which I am well satisfied he would do were he placed in a situation suitable to his Rank and Talents, yet I would fain hope that as he proposes very great Addrs, and is so ably seconded by Broval, he may gain an influence with the Sects that will at length overcome that obstacle powerful as it is — You are quite right in urging Lieut Genral Campbell to exert by all means in his power, every attempt to get us out of Cutch what it is of such very great importance to retain. However fortunately the knowledge you have of Abadia gives you fair grounds

to

to suggest the expediency of keeping a good look out upon the Correspondence between that Gentleman & the Governor of Ceuta, & by that means I hope you will be able to counteract any tracking. I have now only to desire my best regards to General Fraser, with many thanks for his polite attention in deciding to be mentioned to me, and to assure you that due care has been taken of all the letters that came enclosed in yours to me. —

I remain ever with friendship & esteem, Dear Wright,

Yours faithfully
Edward

Lieut Col Wright

— — —

P.S. I inform [illegible] that I have received his letter of the 15th ult., but am prevented acknowledging it by this Packet in consequence of my frequent visits to Windsor to see the Pss Amelia —

Duchess Kent 19th October 1840
Aug 6 & Nov 1840

82

Kensington Palace
20th Oct 1840

Dear Wright,

I have just received your letter of the 2d, from which I perceive with real satisfaction, as I rely so much on the correctness of your judgment, that you are of opinion the affairs of Spain begin daily to assume a more favorable aspect, notwithstanding the weakness and apathy of the Regency: I learnt however, most sincerely, in which sentiment

Instinct I am sure you will coincide
that the first act of the Cortes, if I am
to believe what was yesterday told me
from the highest authority at W— r
should have been to order my Illustrious
Friend back to Sicily, and that too
in a manner calculated to wound
him in the tendrest part: At all
events I find he certainly sailed for
Palermo from Cadiz at 24 hours
notice on the 2d and Broval left
that Place for Falmouth on the
7th which he landed on the 16th. I
conclude he will have reached Town
by

leythes, & that he has letters for me, but being detained almost altogether at Windsor, on account of the sad state of my poor Sister, I have neither sent them, or received them: — I am highly gratified to find that the detention of the Germans, Poles and Swiss, from the French Armies, continues to so great an extent, as it provides a most important addition to our strength, and that of the most desirable sort, while to the Enemy the loss must be very serious: I applaud highly the very judicious precautions

precautions you are taking to exclude from Gibraltar the very alarming Fever that has shewn itself at Carthagena, and that appears of a nature similar to the one you suffered so dreadfully from in 1804, for with the very great mass in your population, of which you tell me, the consequences were it to break out on the Rock, would be most dreadful indeed: Yet should such a calamity arise, notwithstanding every precaution to prevent it, I hope strong measures of prudence will be taken at once to check it, and that

that Service not be tempted with, as it was in the days of Jerry Sneak, (alias Sir J. F—) and of Block B. — :- Nothing of a long time has given me more pleasure than the intelligence your Letter contains of that Establishment of Gun Boats, (which from 1803 I have been as you know preaching up to ministers) being at length set on foot, and placed under the Charge of my old & highly esteemed friend Pulteney, than whom a better choice could not have been made: — Pray remember me

me warmly to him and tell him
that if anything could add to the
deep regret I feel at being in these
times absent from my post, it is
the mortification I experience in the
reflection that I am thereby debarred
the satisfaction of living with
him: — Before I conclude this,
Sir, let me beg of you to enquire
whether there is any when in
Gibraltar, a plan of the Roads on
the Rock, as projected to be executed
between the late Duke of Kent and
myself, and which I put into

General

General Fox's hands on his going to take the Command at Gibraltar, upon his promising to follow it up, for, if it is in existence, I should wish to have it sent back to me: Pray also remind General Campbell of my particular wish to have an accurate plan of Ceuta: Remember me particularly to your worthy Lieut. Governor, & to old General Fraser, and believe me ever to be with the most friendly regard, & the truest esteem, Dear Wright,

yours faithfully

Edward

Lt Col Wright

E. P.

P.S. I have taken care of the letter for Mrs Wright, and our unhappy friend. — E.

To
Lt. Colonel Phipps
Pad: 20 Dec

10