46480-1

Castle Hill Lodge

Sunday morning Jan.y 6th 1811.

My dearest Brother,

I trust, if, during the last few weeks, I have not called as often at Carlton House, as both my duty, and my inclination would have led me to do, you will, with your usual indulgence to me, have ascribed it to the circumstance of Castle Hill being my Head Quarters, for I at present only go up to Kensington to attend the House of Lords, and to the dreadful weather we have had of late. At the same time, I will candidly own, that I have

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felt a peculiar degree of delicacy in intruding myself upon you, at this moment, lest, after the confidential communications, and the very flattering spontaneous assurances of your favorable intentions towards myself, which you had the goodness to make to me, during circumstances similar to the present in the years 1861, & 1864, it might be thought that I wished to press the realization of the same, prematurely, upon you. Indeed, if, at this moment, I have ventured to allude to them, it altogether arises from an apprehension, lest you might infer from my silence, that the mark of favor, and confidence, which you intended for me at the above periods, and which I looked forward to with so much happiness, would be less acceptable to me now, after having passed above seven years, as it were on the shelf, and not from the slightest doubt of your thinking of me, when once the Power is placed in your hands. Under this impression, I trust you will forgive me, if I now say, that should you still place the same confidence in me now, which you did then, and be inclined to consider

me, in any new arrangements you may think
proper to make in the Government of the
Country, in the manner, in which you appoint
me, you meant to do so in 1801 & 1804, I
shall acknowledge it with more gratitude,
than words can express, as it must natu=
=rally be the wish nearest my heart, to be
placed in a situation, that will admit of my
proving to you, and to my country, my
anxious wish zealously to serve both, to the
best of my humble talents, and abilities,
the state of inactivity, in which I have
been of late years kept, having always been

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46482-3

most painful, and distressing to my feelings.
If the arrangement to which I allude, as
having been pointed out by you for my benefit,
in the year 1814 & 4, at all interfered with
the situation formerly held by a near rela-
-tive of mine, whom a most unfortunate coin-
-cidence of circumstances drove in 1809 from
his station, I should be the last man in
the world, to name it to you, but without
saying more upon the subject, you will be
aware that I allude to a Department
totally distinct from that, at the head of

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which he was placed. After saying this, it only remains for me to add, that I sincerely hope, the subject of this letter cannot give you offence, and that whether eventually successful, or disappointed in the attainment of this most favourite object of all my wishes, nothing can alter those sentiments of devotion, and attachment, which your unvaried friendship to me thro' life, has deeply impressed upon my heart, and with which, it will always be my ambition to prove, as it has ever been my pride to profess myself

My dearest brother,

your most affectionate
and ever faithful
Edward

P.S. Permit me to entreat, that whatever may be your decision on this letter, its having been written may remain between ourselves, as no human being, except ourselves, is aware of my having addressed it to you.

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Duke of Kent
Jan 6. 1811

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Duke of Kent to Col. Benjamin Bloomfield

46484-5

Kensington Palace
9 Jany 1811

Dear Bloomfield

The two accompanying enclosures having reached me yesterday evening, which was earlier by half a day, than I intimated to you in our conversation of that morning, I expected, I am enabled, before I set out to Windsor to send them to you: It is my wish that you should read them both carefully

over

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over, and, after having made yourself Master of their contents, submit them to the Prince, whenever you see a fit moment for so doing. — I think you will agree with me they do credit to the zeal and talents and good sense of the Gentleman who wrote them, especially when it is considered, that the whole was undertaken and completed by him within 24 hours. — I beg leave to enclose another Letter from the same Gentleman, as that

will

Duke of Kent to Col. Benjamin Bloomfield

46485

will explain to you how I came to be the channel of conveying the accompanying Medal to the Prince, but there is no occasion to trouble my Brother with the Letter, or to do more than just say that the Artist (Wyon) who stamp'd the Medal, had entreated me to get one of the Medals placed on the Princes Table as an humble tribute of respect, having been allowed to present one to the Queen. I have of course made choice of the

one

one of the two sent which I thought best founded. — I also avail myself of the present opportunity to communicate a letter I received a few days since from General Dumouriez, which I think will please the Prince, as from something he dropt at the last dinner, at which I sported at Carlton House, I have reason to believe that he saw the manner of Lord Wellington just as the Veteran does. — I should observe that his remarks were regarded by me upon two letters

I

46486-7

I had received by the last Lisbon Mail
from my worthy Friend Manbel
Binford, and every intelligent
Gentleman of the name of Ogilvie
who is at the Head of one of the
Branches of the Commissariat, of our
Army in Portugal: — I have
now only to request a line in
acknowledgement of this, addressed
to me post at my Apartments
at Windsor Castle by this night
Mail, and if you would add,
how the Message I requested you to
deliver

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deliver together with my Letter this day, was received, I would be conferring a particular obligation on him, who ever is with unalterable friendship and esteem,

Dear Bloomfield

yours faithfully

Edward

Col Bloomfield

46487

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P.S. Allow me to request that you will inform me, if possible in your letter, at what hour the Prince's answer will reach the House of Lords tomorrow, as I should not wish to miss being there at the time it arrives. —

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[cf. date on letter]

Duke of Kent

19th Jany 1811

? Princess of Wales

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H. R. H.
The Duke of Kent
11th Jany 1811.

46488

Kensington Palace
11 Jany 1811

Dear Bloomfield,

Conceiving that the Prince may like to have a copy of my Letter to Lord Liverpool in which I declare my objections to have my name inserted in the Commission, which Ministers propose signing the day under the Great Seal for opening Parliament, I herewith enclose

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enclose the same to you for that purpose, and avail myself of the opportunity to express my kindest acknowledgments for your favor of Wednesday, which I received in due course per post, yesterday morning at Windsor: —

Believe me ever to be with friendly regard,

Dear Bloomfield

Yours faithfully

Edward

Col. Bloomfield

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Duke of Kent to Ld Liverpool

[Enclosure]

46489-90

Kensington Palace
Thursday 10th Jany 1811
5 o'clock P.M.

My Lord

I am this instant returned from Windsor, and having found on my Table a communication from the Duke of York, containing the copy of a Letter from your Lordship to him, in which you acquaint him with the measures proposed of proposing this day a Commission for opening Parliament, to be issued by

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the Lord Chancellor under the Great Seal, grounded on the resolutions of the two Houses, and request to be informed whether those Members of the Royal Family, who are Peers of Parliament, feel the same objection, which were made in the year 1789 by the Duke of York, and the other Princes who had Seats in the House of Lords, to their names being inserted in such Commission, I lose no time in apprizing your

Lordship

46490

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Duke of Kent to Ld Liverpool

[Enclosure]

46490

Lordship for my own part, that as I, upon the fullest conviction, that I was acting right, opposed those resolutions, at the time when they were discussed in the House, so now considering the whole proceeding unconstitutional, and in direct violation of the laws of the Country; I cannot but declare my unequivocal objection to have my name included in the Commission. —

I remain

my Lord.

Yours most sincerely

The Earl of Liverpool (signed) Edward

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H. R. H.

The Duke of Kent

10th Jan.y 1811.

46491-2

Castle Hill Lodge
Thursday Nov. 7th 1811.

My dearest brother,

After the very confi=dential communication, which you had the goodness to make yesterday, at Carlton House, to those Members of the Family, who were assembled in your Room, after the Council, I am perfectly sensible how impossible it must be for you, at this moment, (however favorably you might be inclined) to adopt that arrangement for my benefit, which I took the liberty of alluding to in a letter I

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troubled you with some weeks since. But being fully convinced, from every mark of affection, I have so repeatedly experienced from you, that you would be disposed to do any thing you could, that would contribute to my comfort, and happiness, I am sure you will forgive me for pointing out, that, at this moment, it so happens, that you have it in your power to make that arrangement, which, of all others, would most contribute to both. I mean, by nominating me to the Command of the forces in the Mediterranean, at present filled by Sir John Stuart, but from which situation, I know from positive direct authority, that that officer has solicited his recall, which, in all probability, will immediately be handed over to you by Sir David Dundas. You are, I believe, aware that this situation has very long been the object of my most anxious wishes, and, as my holding it would not occasion my undoing at Gibraltar, (for it is probable that Head Quarters would be established at Malta) I flatter myself, that you will feel no difficulty in acceding to my Request, upon the ground of my return to that Fortress having been negatived by Her Majesty, upon an application made to him, I think 3 years since. To you, who so warmly espoused my cause, when I was so cruelly used in

1803

I am sure I need not say, what a comfort it would be to my long deeply wounded pro-fessional feelings, were I to receive this flatter-ing mark of approbation at your hands, on your first assuming the Reins of Government, & therefore I will not add one word more, than the earnest request, that if you should think proper to comply with my solicitation, you will condescend to let it appear as the spontanious act of your kindness to me, which would doubly enhance the value of the benefit conferred, or, if (most unfortunately for me) you should put a negative upon it, that, in that case the circumstance of this application may

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remain for ever a secret to the whole world, except ourselves.

It may perhaps be right for me to state, that I have been thus prompt, I should rather say early, in addressing you upon this subject, from understanding, that a new Arrangement for the Army in the Mediterranean would be one of the first military Subjects submitted to your consideration.

Without attempting to apologize for this intrusion, which I am sure you, goodness of heart, and long tried kindness to me will readily forgive, I shall take my leave of you

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by repeating the sentiments of unalterable devotion, and attachment with which I shall, to the latest hour of my life, remain

My dearest brother,

Your ever most affectionate and faithful

Edward

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46494 - 5

Kensington Palace
15th March 1811

Dear MacMahon,

The recent appointment of Vesey to the Sicilian Staff, which must necessarily occasion his departure for the Mediterranean, at no distant day, has added, as you will easily conceive, very considerably to the anxiety, I have felt for some time past, to learn the final decision of the Prince upon the earnest solicitation, I took the liberty of

addressing

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addressing to him, immediately after his assuming the functions of Regent, that I might be nominated to succeed Sir John Stuart in the situation of Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in the Mediterranean, from which, I knew from undoubted authority that Officer had requested to be relieved; I trust therefore, it will not be asking too much of your friendship for me, to request, that you will take as early an opportunity as you can with propriety,

of

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of entreating my Brother to come to a determination in that head; and, if I adopt this mode of communication in preference to that of writing to him myself or speaking to him upon the subject, it is from an anxious wish not to intrude my concerns upon him, at an improper moment, and that the matter may be brought before him, at such time as his mind is perfectly free from other more important Business: — The appointment of Lord W. Bentinck to be

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be Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Palermo, and to serve as Lieut General in the Mediterranean, exclusive of the Garrisons of Gibraltar & Malta, & their respective Dependencies, I humbly conceive cannot, in any way, clash with the Situation I am so solicitous to obtain, as that must necessarily include the posts that are excluded from his Commission, whilst my wish to be authorized to fix my Head Quarters at Malta, most clearly proves my intention not to interfere in any of the

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46496-7

the interior arrangements of Sicily, which I understand it is meant should be confided solely to His Lordship: On that head therefore I should hope every difficulty would be obviated, and if He judged necessary, that I should subscribe to any other restrictions, so as to render that point still more clear, I beg of you to state, in the most pointed manner, that the Prince has only to name, & I shall instantly subscribe to them, being

satisfied

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satisfied that he never would sanction
any that would be derogatory to my
Honor or injurious to the Public
Service. — With regard to
Gibraltar, I certainly cannot deny
that it would be the Pride of my heart
to return there, with Eclat for reasons
that are well known to the Prince
& I believe not disapproved of by him
but of political reasons precluded that,
I shall consider the appointment I
have proposed, and to which perhaps
might

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46497

might hereafter be added by exchange, the Government of Malta, as the next most satisfactory arrangement that could be made to heal the severe wound my feelings have experienced:- Having said this, I will only add that I have two further motives for urging to be employed in the Mediterranean, the first of which is a predilection to a moderately warm climate above any other, and the second, a knowledge that, in point of accommodation,

Malta

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Malta affords every thing. I could wish

I remain with every sentiment of friendly regard and sincere esteem,

Dear Macmahon

ever yours faithfully

Edward

Colonel Macmahon

&c &c &c

12 May 1811

46498

P.S. I believe I need not mention, (as it is well understood) that, in point of finance, employment abroad, at this moment, that would add to my income, would be a matter of very great accommodation to me, and therefore that, altho' nothing would be so repugnant to my wishes as returning to North America, I should think twice before I declined even that offer, in the event of my fond hopes & anxious expectations of

the

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the Mediterranean Command being

disappointed. — E.

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46500-1

Kensington Palace
25th March 1911

Dear Macmahon,

In acknowledging your kind Letter of yesterday, I beg to say that as the Prince has not expressed any particular wish on the subject of my attending the discussion of the Reversion Bill in the House of Lords, it is my intention to keep away from it for more reasons than

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46500

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them me, which your own good
sense will point out —

I presume that I am to
infer, from the other part of your Letter
that, for the present, the arrangement
being that Lieut General Campbell's
Command at Gibraltar, Lieut General
Oakes at Malta, and Lieut General
Lord William Bentinck in Sicily
should be all three distinct from
each

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46501

each other, it is not intended to nominate a Commander-in-Chief for the Mediterranean, and therefore that I can no longer entertain, at least for the present, the hope of seeing that favorite and anxious wish of mine gratified: — Under this circumstance and adverting to the communications which I have before had with you, I of course am compelled to turn my thoughts, from the peculiarity of my

situation

16501

situation, to the proposal that was once suggested by the Prince to me of the Governor General ship of British North America, and the Chief Command of her Forces in those parts, and notwithstanding the extreme degree I have to the severity of the Canadian Climate, and the immense distance of that station from home, to state that I should now wish to be informed of the footing on which it is intended to offer those situations to me, in order that I may be able to make my mind up

46502 3

up on the subject before General Nugent takes his departure for Sicily, it being of the utmost importance to me, in case of my going out to America this summer, that he should not be out of my reach, as being the only person who could accompany me in the situation of my Confidential Secretary: — You will therefore particularly oblige me by submitting my request to the Prince, that he will authorize

you

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you to make some communication
to me on this head that will enable
me afterwards to consider and discuss
the point with you; and in the
mean while I hope he will not
be averse to your having a letter being
written to Sir David Dundas, to
say that it is his wish that Br
General Keary should not be turned
out to Sicily for a few weeks to
come, in order to give time for the
consideration

46503

consideration of this subject. — I have to thank you for what you have been so good as to say respecting General Grey, in regard to Bermuda, which I shall not fail to communicate to him on his return from Bath, being sure that he will appreciate it, as I do. — With sentiments of the most friendly regard, and of the truest esteem,

I remain
Dear Macmahon
ever yours faithfully
Edward
E.

Col Macmahon

VC203

H. R. Highness
The Duke of Fife

March 25
1911

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46504-5

VAH

Castle Hill Lodge. July 31st: 1811.

My Dearest Brother,

If an anxious wish not to intrude on you with my individual concerns, at a time when I deeply felt how cruelly you must be hampered by those degrading restrictions, which Mr Perceval, and his Colleagues (notwithstanding the united exertions of the whole family, and of all the most independ=ent of the hereditary aristocracy of the country) were enabled to impose upon you by their Regency act, has hitherto kept me silent relative to myself. I am certain you will now, with that indulgence I have so often experienced from you, and with that affection which it has ever been the greatest pride of my life to merit, kindly listen to an humble representation of my feelings, at a time, when a continuation of that si-lence, might be construed a want of that proper sense of my situation which I trust I never can cease, but with my Existence to entertain.

Without adverting to Events that passed more than eight years since, and which I am sensible must be needless, after receiving such reiterated proofs, as I have done, of the sentiments you then so strongly expressed relative to the treatment I experienced, remaining unaltered, or taking up your time with a

detail

of all I have in consequence suffered, I will only beg leave, for a moment, to recall to your recollection the single circumstance, that, upon my return from Gibraltar in 1803, when you saw how deeply my feelings were wounded by every thing I was compelled to submit to, you condescended to afford me the only comfort I was then capable of receiving, in the spontaneous declaration on your part, that whenever the power was in your hands, you would see justice done me; and having said this, I am sure I shall stand acquitted of presumption in your mind, if I add, that, relying implicitly on that assurance, the first object of this letter is most humbly, yet most earnestly to solicit, that I may be sent out by you, to the Mediterranean, in that situation, (which alone can prove to the World, that however my conduct at Gib=raltar in 1802 & 3 was viewed by those in office at that time, it was not then, nor ever has been since considered by you, as meriting censure) I mean that of Commander of all the Forces on that station, which appointment would of course, as I am Governor of Gibraltar, in=clude that Fortress, and its dependencies, together with the whole extent which it has always comprehended prior to the recent nomination of Lord William Bentinck, on which occasion I understand that Malta was necessarily excluded from his Commission.

Having thus submitted my request,

46505

I must further solliciet your forgiveness, if in this place, I unequivocally state, that the Mediterranean Command is the only one abroad, which I can reconcile it to my feelings to accept of, and that upon the ground of its being the only one, that can again restore me to that place in the opinion of all my old professional friends, to gain which, during the 14 successive years that I passed in the vicissitudes of various climates, was, next to the happiness of being thought well of by you, the first object of my most zealous exertions.

It may be right for me here to add, that nothing is farther from my wishes than to go from England should it be your kind intention, upon an opening offering, to realize the expectation which in 1801, and in 1804 you encouraged me to entertain, of being chosen by you to fill the distinguished Office of Master General of the Ordnance, which ever since that time I have naturally been led to look up to as the summit of my military ambition, as, in that case, my mere nomination in the first instance to the Mediterranean command, without even going out at all to join it, (should such be your pleasure,) would answer every wish of mine, as my subsequent appointment to the other situation would satisfactorily account to the world for my not proceeding to my destination.

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Having thus endeavoured to com=
=prise in as few words, as possible, my humble representation respecting
myself, and having studiously avoided introducing any extra=
=neous subject into it, I shall take my leave of you by saying, that
it is my intention to call in the morning of tomorrow to see you,
under the hope that you will then condescend to communicate to me
your sentiments upon the subject of this letter, and candidly to tell
me how far I may be warranted in looking forward to your deciding
favorably upon it.

In the mean while I shall only venture to
express the confident hope that I may never lose that place in your
affection and good opinion which it was has been, as it was must
be the first object of my life to preserve, being with the firmest
attachment, and the truest devotion

My Dearest Brother,

ever your most faithful

and affectionate

Edward.

31 July 1811

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31 July 1811
Duke of Kent

46506-7

Private

Memo

In applying to the Prince Regent for the Situation of Comr of the Forces in the Mediterranean, the Duke of Kents first object is to obtain the high gratification of being placed by the Prince, who so kindly expressed his sense of those professional injuries he had experienced on his recall from Gibraltar in 1803, & the subsequent refusal to give him an opportunity of vindicating his conduct during that twelvemonth he commanded the Garrison, / in that situation

situation of all others, that would most clearly prove to the world the Prince's continuance in the same sentiments, and his having availed himself of the first moment, he had in his power, to heal the deep wound that had been inflicted on the Duke of Kent at the time alluded to. What has ever since preyed on his mind ——

His second. That, by being nominated to the general superintendence of the Forces serving in the Mediterranean, he would decate any interference on his part with the particular

46507

particular arrangements
at present judged necessary
for the Civil Government
either Gibraltar or Malta,
or for the particular command
of that proportion of the
Army allotted for the
defence of Sicily, which is
at present vested in the
General Officer recently
appointed to be Minister
Plenipotentiary to the
Court of Sicily:
As third, That by fixing
Head Quarters at Malta
he would be able by the
late arrangement of the
Packets, to receive constant
communications from
the General Officers Comm.
at all the different posts
and

and become the channel of transmitting them home, while at the same time it might successfully have the different Regiments of the Mediterranean Army under his eye

The fourth, That at Malta there would be a very respectable Establishment for him as the Palace of the Grand Master in Town and his Houses at St Antonio & la Boggetta in the Country, afford every accommodation he could wish, while General Oakes, as Commandant would occupy the Houses

which

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46508-9

which General Villettes had at the time when Sir Alex Ball assumed command had those Quarters which it is presumed would be given up to the Duke of Kent

His fifth That the climate particularly in Winter, is such as the Duke is very partial to & the confine=ment would not be so great as that which is experienced at Gibraltar.

In point of emolument, the addition, which the Duke of Kent would derive would be simply this, the augmentation of his present Staff pay, as General

General of £6 per day
(which by His Majesty's
particular order he
continues to receive), to
£10 that attached to
the Commissioner & Commander
of the Forces, the Batt
Forage which is attached
to that Rank, amounting
to about £900 per
annum, and the allowance
of his Table, which it is
presumed could not be
under £5000, that
being the amount
recommended by the Duke
of York in 1807 to be
granted to Lieu Dalrymple
when appointed Commandant
at Gibraltar, & which would
then

46509

them certainly have taken place but for some mismanagement or backwardness on the part of Sir Hew in explaining why the allowance of £ 3500 was not adequate to keeping his Table at Gibraltar when called upon to state the same: —

If this arrangement were made in the Duke of Kent's behalf, which he considers the most desirable one of any, his idea would be to proceed in May next, to Malta, & to continue there (presuming his health to continue unimpaired)

untill

until the Prince having
the whole power in his
own hands either by the
demise of the King, or
Her Majesty's unfortunate
mental disorder being
declared incurable, should
condescend to recall him
to fill that situation
of confidence at home
which has long been the
height of his ambition,
his expectation of being
nominated thereto having
originated with the
spontaneous declaration
to that effect made by
the Prince first in
February 1805 &
successively in Feby 1804.

Buck

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46510

But if the Prince
showed just the prospect
of being able to appoint
the Duke of Kent to
the Master Generalship
shortly, when the mere
nomination at present
to the Mediterranean
Command and his
returning at for such
time as might elapse
before the other arrangements
could take place, would
in such case, even
without his going out
fully meet his wishes &
satisfy his feelings. —

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46513-4

Commissary in Chief, as he was well aware of the necessity of the measure, and it was his general plan to break up the system of leaving Commissarys long stationary at any one place; how far Mr Herries may or may not proceed upon the same, being an entire stranger to him, I cannot pretend to say:— The next point that comes under my view is your attention to the concerns of that worthy old friend of ours Major Aldridge, for which I feel more obliged to you than I can express, as the relief the good old Man has experienced from the supplies which you have extracted for him from that Rogue Abrimes, has quite renovated him & have no doubt added many years to his life, from the few comforts it has enabled him to add to his existence; you cannot oblige me therefore more than by continuing to follow the matter up, and compelling this retentive Gentleman to discharge all arrears as speedily as possible: And here I am led on to speak upon the subject of Mr Levy that follows next in the order of dates,

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I dare, in consequence of the good natured remark you expressed me having been made by the Lovers of scandal on the Rock upon the interest which I took in her welfare, in order that I may have the opportunity of stating on my honor, that I never set eyes on her to my knowledge in my life, & that I have uniformly prevented every attempt on her part to be admitted to speak to me, which you will admit was fortunate, after such a construction had been put upon an action proceeding God knows, from no other motive than considering it a duty, to provide for the Widow and fatherless Children of an old Public Servant, who lost his life in the faithful discharge of his duty, but I have caused her to be apprized of what has been thus said, and that it must preclude the possibility of my trying to render her any further Service: all this I have before mentioned the due sense I feel of the warm attention you pay to my interests, I

am

46514

am naturally led on casting my eyes over your Letter of the 24th April, which enclosed a Bill of Exchange for my two months pay due to that day, on which there was a gain of 132.. 3/4, to express how much I am obliged to you for suggesting the arrangement that has enabled you to act so beneficially for me: It may perhaps be right to observe that the same Letter contained a Bill for 175£. in favor of Pellager & Aldridge: — I have to thank you for your communication respecting Elizabeth Clay, my quondam Servant at the Convent, in consequence of which I have strive to get her Sons release, but there is nothing so difficult at this time, as no discharges are granted except from inability to Serve, but upon finding two Substitutes: I should do myself to General Very, if I did not state to you the very great regret he expressed, at being deprived of the pleasure of seeing you as he passed Gibraltar, indeed on my own account I was much grieved at it, as he would have

told

told you much about myself which it is impossible to commit to paper, I had also relied on him for explaining to you the cause of my long silence, which I now much fear he had not the opportunity of doing: Adverting to what you mention in your letter of the 2 June of the reports then current of the probability of my return to the Mediterranean, I have no hesitation in saying to you, that, but for the intervention of Lord Liverpool, who represented the appointment of Lord William Bentinck to the Chief Command in the Mediterranean combined with the Embassy to Sicily, to the Prince Regent as a measure sanctioned by the King before his illness, I conceive I should certainly have been nominated at that period to succeed Sir John Stuart & that my Command would have embraced Gibraltar & Ceuta, as well as Malta, the want of authority over which sufficient to enable him, to move a body of Troops

from

46515-6

from thence to Sicily, was I believe one of the chief causes that induced Lord William Bentinck to adopt the singular step of coming home, but if upon the retirement being taken off I should not succeed in what I conceive I have every right to expect, my appointment to the Master Generalship of the Ordnance, I shall again renew my endeavours with every energy I am master of, to get out again to the Mediterranean, & I should hope then with every prospect of success: — I am extremely concerned that I should have been so remiss in not attending until now to the request contained in your letter of the 26th June, that I would send you out a fresh power of attorney to enable you to receive Mr Parkers pay, but if it does not accompany this, it shall without fail follow by the next packet, and I propose themself writing a few lines with it to thank you for your kind attention

to

to his extents :— Your Letter of the 4th July I think it right next to notice, as it mentions your having remitted two Bills to Messrs Coutts, the one for £662..10, the other for £671..10..0 — In like manner your Letter of the 9th of the same Month remitting the amount of Mr Parker's pay for the 6 Months previous thereto :— I regret much concern in your letter of the 13th July of your having been visited by the Shock of an Earthquake on the 11th, as from the novelty of such an event in the Rock, I fear considerable alarm must have been created — You are of course aware that a similar thing occurred at the Cape about 18 Months since, when I believe it had been equally unheard of before ; I perceive you had a repetition of the same afterwards, & that the Town of Almeria had suffered greatly from the former Shock, — I sincerely hope you may have no recurrence of it at Gibraltar,

and

46516

and above all that no mischief may be produced, should that Phenomenon again visit you. You mention the circumstance of a large number of German Deserters constantly coming in; should it happen that amongst any future lots that arrive a first rate Clarinet player could be procured you will particularly oblige me by procuring General Campbell's sanction to enlist him for my Band, & to send him home in a Man of War, as I have lately been obliged to discharge the best performer I had on that Instrument on account of a rupture; how shocking it is to hear the fate which the Spanish Officers are left at Cuta, and we cannot wonder under such circumstances that any of them should commit acts of desperation. Having named Cuta I am naturally led to desire my best remembrance to General Fraser in return for his polite attention to me, as mentioned in your Letter of the 26th ult:— Having now noticed every passage in

your

your several Letters which seemed particularly to call for acknowledgement from me, it remains for me only to add, that every letter I have received from you, has been franked & forwarded in the manner you wished, and that I shall always be happy to do the same whenever it suits you to send other. I have now been resident at Castle Hill, almost uninterruptedly since the Summer of 1838 having made use of Kensington only as a Pied a terre, having found very great benefit from living in retirement since the unfortunate events which deprived me of the Services of our mutual worthy Friend D— C. which you are aware most unjustly drew down upon me very great obloquy at the time, but I think about the first of February of taking up my Residence at the Palace for the next 3 Months during which I think it must be decided whether I may ever again expect to be employed Professionally, or in Public life — I remain with

Sincere

46517

Sincere regard & esteem

Dear Wright.

Yours faithfully

Edward

Dr Ed Wright

&c &c &c

P.S. I am quite vain to think that I should have neglected in the body of my letter to express to you the united thanks of Madame de St Laurent & myself for all your kindness to poor Celestine & her wife, the latter of whom arrived here about 9 months since alone (her husband having in a fit of insanity thrown himself overboard) & employed as a washerwoman in my household –

I enclose to your care two letters for Mr Walker

83

From the Duke of Kent
Dec 22nd 1811
Received Jany 17th 1812
Answered the 25th.

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Duke of Kent

Feby. 14. 1812.

? Duke's mistake in date of 2 following letters

46518

The Lodge Castle Hill
February 13th. 1812.

My dear Macmahon,

Having in vain sought, for some time past, an opportunity of drawing the Prince in conversation to advert to those strong pretensions, which, during his Majesty's two former illnesses, he encouraged me to form upon the Master Generalship of the Ordnance, in the event of his exercising the Regal Functions, I have felt it a duty I owed to myself, as the day is so fast approaching, when the restrictions expire, to recall them to his recollection, I hope, in the most delicate terms I could make use of; but that you may be the better judge of this, I send you herewith annexed an accurate Copy of the accompanying letter, intreating you to return it to me, whenever the Prince authorizes you to favor me with an acknowledgment of the original, which I now commit to your good offices, intreating you to make choice of the most favorable moment, to deliver it yourself into his hands. As after perusing my letter you will be sensible that every thing most dear to me in life, my character, my comfort, nay I may add, even my honor now depend on the favorable decision of the Prince upon the purport of it, it would be superfluous in me who have so often received from you the most gratifying professions of your attachment, to recommend my interests at this most

important moment to your kind attention, I shall therefore now take my leave of you requesting you to state to me, whenever you will have found the opportunity of delivering it, and whether the Prince condescends to express himself after reading it with his usual kindness, and indulgence to me. With a thousand apologies for thus intruding on your time at a moment when I am sensible what an overpressure of business you must have on your hands, I remain ever

My dear Macmahon

Yours most faithfully

Edward

I cannot express to you the painful anxiety under which I shall await my brother's decision, for tho' I know I may safely rely on his word, I cannot help from the importance I attach to the Event, being in a state, while the thing is pending, which no language can convey./

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46519-20

The Lodge Castle Hill
Friday February 14th 1812.

My Dearest Brother,

The moment being now near at hand, when those Restrictions will expire, which, notwithstanding the united zealous Exertions of all your friends this time twelvemonth, the formidable Phalanx of the ministerial Party succeeded in imposing upon you, I am sure you will forgive me, if, previous to that day, so anxiously looked forward to by all those, who (like myself) can have no expectations but from you, I once more obtrude my personal situation upon your attention, and solicit your favorable recollection of those pretensions which your goodness to me led me to form successively in the Years 1801 & 1804, in the event of your having then assumed the Regency of the Country, and by the change of administration (which you then had in contemplation) the Master Generalship of the Ordnance consequently becoming vacant. In thus venturing to recall this to your recollection, I trust it can scarcely be necessary for me to declare, that nothing is farther from my thoughts than entertaining the most distant apprehension of your having forgotten the circumstances, under which, with a degree of spontaneous Warmth and Kindness, which greatly enhanced the value of the promise, you were

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pleased to communicate to me the highly flattering views you had in my Favor; but I have in truth suffered so much anxiety of mind, ever since the year 1803, when, notwithstanding your best cautions to ward off the blow, my professional character was so cruelly, and (as you well know) so unjustly stigmatized, that it is more than I am capable of, under the extreme agitation I experience, as the moment approaches, which I am looking forward to for the accomplishment of all my hopes, to remain silent, and I hope it is not presuming too far on your indulgence, thus candidly to avow the impression, under which I am prompted to address you. Indeed, I am sure, that possessing that high sense of honor you do, it cannot have escaped your attention, how much more important to me the attainment of this object must be at this, than any other moment of my life, the events, that occurred in 1809, having attached at least a latent stigma on my character, the confirmation, or removal of which, now wholly depends upon the manner, in which you may be pleased to distinguish me in the new arrangements. The Duke of York already owes to your protection his restoration to that distinguished active situation in the service of the Country, which, but for your support, must have been lost to him for ever; may I not then confidently hope, that I shall not be less fortunate, and that the auspicious moment, which places you at the Head of the British Empire, with unshackled Powers, will be that of restoring to my deeply wounded

Not to be filmed.

46519A-46520A

Copy

The Lodge, Castle Hill
Friday Feby 14th 1812

My Dearest Brother,

The moment being now near at hand, when Your restriction will expire, which notwithstanding the united zealous exertions of all your friends this time twelvemonth, the formidable Phalanx of Ministerial Party succeeded in imposing upon you, I am sure you will forgive me, if previous to that day so anxiously looked forward to by all Those, who (like myself) can have no expectations but from you, I once more obtrude my personal situation upon your attention, and collect your favorable recollection of those pretensions which your goodness to me led me to form

sincerely

successively in the years 1801 & 1804, in the event of your having then assumed the Regency of the Country, and by the change of Administration (which You then had in contemplation) the Master Generalship of the Ordnance consequently becoming vacant: In thus venturing to recall this to your recollection I trust it can scarcely be necessary for me to declare that nothing is further from my thoughts than entertaining the most distant apprehension of your having forgotten the circumstance under which with a degree of spontaneous warmth & kindness which greatly enhanced the value of the promise, you were pleased to communicate to me the highly flattering views you had in my favor, but I have in

truth

Not to be filmed.

46519A-46520A

truth suffered so much anxiety of mind ever
since the year 1803, when, notwithstanding
your best exertions to ward off the blow, my
Professional character was so cruelly, and (as
you well know) so unjustly stigmatized,
that it is more than I am capable of,
under the extreme agitation I experience
as the moment approaches, which I am
looking forward to, for the accomplishment
of all my hopes, to remain silent, and
I hope it is not presuming too far on
your indulgence, thus candidly to
avow the impression under which I
am prompted to address you. Indeed
I am sure, that possessing that high sense of
honor that you do, it cannot have
escaped your attention, how much more
important to me the attainment of the
object

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object must be at this, than any other

moment of my life, the events that occurr

in 1809, having attached at least a latent

stigma on my character, the confirmation

or removal of which, now wholly depends

upon the manner in which you may be

pleased to distinguish me in the new

arrangements. The Duke of York already

owes to your protection his restoration to

that distinguished active situation in the

service of this Country which but for your

support must have been lost to him for

ever; may I not then confidently hope

that I shall not be less fortunate, that

the auspicious moment which places you at

the Head of the British Empire with

unshackled powers will be that of restoring

to my deeply wounded mind that comfort

and

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46519A-46520A

and tranquillity, to which for the last nine
years I have been a stranger. – Forgive
me if I have said more than I ought
but you have taught me from my
earliest Infancy to look upon you
as my first friend and Protector, &
my heart is too full at this moment
to admit of my drawing that distinction
which I am nevertheless fully sensible
I ought between the Prince of Wales and
Prince Regent, for, though our relative
situations are now changed nothing
can alter the fervor of that devotion and
attachment, which this life has been
my greatest pride to profess towards
you, and which never can cease but
with

with the contents of him, who now
subscribes himself with all their
fortunes

Your most affectionate
and faithful
(signed) Edward

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46520

had in my mind, that comfort, and tranquillity, to which, for the last nine years it has been a stranger. Forgive me, if I have said more than I ought, but you have taught me from my earliest Infancy to look upon you, as my first friend, and protector, and my heart is too full at this moment to admit of my drawing that distinction which I am nevertheless fully sensible I ought between the Prince of Wales and the Prince Regent, for tho' our relative situations are now changed, nothing can alter the fervor of that devotion and attachment, which thro' life it has been my greatest pride to profess towards you, and which never can cease but with the existence of him, who now subscribes himself with all these sentiments,

your most affectionate
and faithful
Edward.

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Duke of Kent

Feby 14. 1812.

46520

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85

5th March 1812

from The Duke of Kent

46521-2

Kensington Palace
5th March 1812

My Dear Colonel

I have duly received your two favors of the 7th & 21st Jany the former on the 20th of that month & the latter on the 9th Feby, and have to thank you for the remittance of Bills to Messrs Coutts & Co for £2359 on account of my Gibraltar allowances up to the 24th of December last, as mentioned in the first letter. — Your communication of the melancholy and distressing event which has deprived me of

many

my highly valued friend Percy was the first intelligence I had received of it, – you know the warm attachment I felt for him too well, to render it necessary for me to express to you all the grief I have suffered from the deprivation of his services and friendship, which is the more severely felt as I have no longer the happiness of enjoying the advantage of those talents, and from attachments, which I shall ever admit were precious in the character & conduct of Capt

Dodd

85

5th March 1812
From the Duchess of Kent

46522

Dodd while I intimately knew him
I am glad to find that you have
received my letter, and that it was
a circumstance so gratifying
to your feelings, but it is due to
my own to assure that if it
were not for the multiplicity of
Letters which daily flow in from
my home Correspondents besides
other necessary engagements, I shew
from the friendship I bear you pay
a more regular & punctual
attention to the esteemed favors I
receive from you — My last
communication will have explained
to

to you more fully, the unsurmountable
obstacles, which exist to prevent
my getting a Commission in the
Line for Mr Smith, thro' any
direct means, as I know the Comr
in Chiefs list to be so crowded with
Candidates, that no hopes could be
entertained from any recommendation
in that quarter, I therefore want
your permission to get him a Commission
in a Militia Regt. as the best chance
of getting him into the Line with a
Quota of Volunteers; thro' this means
there are very considerable hopes of
success, but thro' any other, I must
say there are none — I shall write
to

46523-4

to know Mr Smith's address if you allow me to act in his behalf in the best manner I am able — I appreciate as I ought your kind wishes to see me at the Head of the Ordnance, but I much fear the continuance of the present Ministers in power will furiously operate against the accomplishment of that point, if however I do succeed you may rest assured that either prior or subsequent to my appointment I will take care to see justice done to that much injured Officer Capt Dodd — I

I thank you much for your
most kind attention to the
interests of poor old Major
Aldridge, and feel fully the
necessity & propriety of the line
of conduct you pursue in regard
to his arrears of pay or emoluments
from his situation. The bill
of exchange for 54 ½ which
was enclosed to me has been duly
forwarded to him — I have
also to repeat my grateful
acknowledgements for the beneficial
arrangement

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46524

arrangements you have made in regard to the remission of my Pay & Allowances from Gibraltar. I feel clearly the great advantage I derive from it & how much I am indebted to your friendship for being the original suggester of the plan — Ere this, you will no doubt have received a Power of Attorney to enable you to receive Mr Parker's pay, and was forwarded [illegible] from your letters for your brother have been regularly franked & I am

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am always happy in attending to
your wishes of that nature —

Upon reading over your letter of the
7 Jany again I perceive I have
neglected to notice your remarks
upon Col Skerrett as being at the
Defence of Tariffa, and in doing
so I feel it right to assure that in
England the affair of Tariffa is
considered to reflect the highest credit
on the Colonel, as well as the Troops
generally under his command, and the
popular voice is decidedly in his favor
it will therefore I think be an ill
judged thing in General Campbell
to act in any shape under the
unfavorable

46525

unfavorable impressions he appears to have
imbibed concerning the conduct of that
Individual, as I am of opinion the
voice in his favor here is so strong that any
fair & just attack upon him, would
only recoil with injury upon the Accuser
I give this hint from the best of motives,
I am sure therefore it will be received
as such by those to whom you may
communicate it — I have now only
to assure you of the friendly regard
& sincere esteem with which I remain

My Dear Wright

Yours faithfully

Edward

Lt Col Wright

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46528-9

Kensington Palace
28 Augt 1842

Dear Wright,

I do myself the pleasure to acknowledge your two Letters of the 31st Ult. & 5th inst, received on the 25 & 27th inst, with their respective enclosures which I have duly frank'd & forwarded — I am in no hurry about the draft of the Cottage, but wish much to have it complete in every respect, as well Elevation as ground Plan Out Buildings Offices &c, and you have my full sanction to act in my name to the Commanding Engineer, & the Governor to obtain it: — I then repeat my wish for the completion of the Road from the Cottage by Europa advance to the

hole

hole in the Wall, upon the plan
on which it was began in March
1802 by the late Lieut Ince, and I
request you will press Lieut General
Campbell with all your influence
on that point —

I thank you for the
further communication contained in
yours of the 5th inst. relative to the
affairs in your Neighbourhood,
and have to express the satisfaction
I derived from finding that Ballesteros
Army had not been annoyed again,
as it had been apprehended would
have been the case, and I am no
less pleased to find that such
sanguine expectations are entertained
of

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46529

of the effect to be produced by the Force under General Maitland —

I have now only to assure you of the friendship and esteem with which I remain

My Dear Wright

Yours faithfully

Edward

E

Lt Col Wright

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92

Digbey Recd

28 Augt.

Recd 26 Sepr

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93

His Royal Highness
3d October Recd 6 Nov

46530-1

Kensington Palace
3d Oct 1812

Dear Wright,

I have now before me your Letters of the 1st & 9 ulto received within a few hours of each other yesterday: — The perusal of our friend General Riss's Letter was extremely interesting & I am much obliged to you for it — From what he says, I think one may infer that, with respect to General Maitland one may say the same that has heretofore been said of my worthy friend Sir Brent Spencer

Spencer and of a great many others,
that is, that although a most excellent
executive Man under an able
General, he is not equal to the
responsibility of Commanding in Chief.
To me I own it does appear very
extraordinary that, with an Army
of 10,000 Men, which you state
him to have amounted to when
General Ross joined him, General
Maitland could not prevent
Joseph Bonaparte from joining
Suchet, and that, after making
a very short an advance he should
return

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His Royal Highness
3d October Recd 16 Nov
1812

46531

return so abruptly to Alicant — I
sincerely hope that this failure in
cutting off Joseph, may not interfere
effectually with Lord Wellingtons plans,
should he have built upon the success
of it, but if Soult should also effect
his junction with Suchet, it will
form a very formidable Mass to oppose
His Lordship, & may perhaps prevent
him from following up his pursuit of the
French towards Burgos which, from
the last Letters I have had from the
Army, it appears was then His
Lordships project — I learnt with
very great concern how severely poor
Downie

Downie had been wounded at the Capture
of Seville, for exclusive of the regard
I entertain for him, as a very fine
enterprising character, I really
think the loss of a man of his
intrepidity at this moment, at the
head of any portion of the Spanish
Force is a very serious calamity; I
sincerely hope his recovery will be
rapid. - I can easily conceive how
satisfactory it must have been to
you to have had the opportunity of
visiting Ceuta with your friend
Sir Sidney Smith, particularly
adverting to what passed at the Convent
of

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46532-3

of War, when the attack upon it was the subject of discussion:— his elder Brother, a retired Officer of Dragoons, who is married to an elder Sister of the late Mr Harding, & Mrs Bayretti, has just been appointed to supersede Governor Desbarres of Prince Edwards Island, which I think proves the disposition of Government to be civil to him:— The Letter of Major Aldridge containing the Bill for £ 114 which, through your friendly exertions, has been received of him from Mr Abrines,

was

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was delivered to him yesterday, & I have no doubt but that the good Old Man will shortly express his acknowledgements to you for it — The Letter for your Father and for Exeter, I was obliged to send unfranked owing to the suspension of the privilege of franking during the dissolution of Parliament, but have noted upon each of the covers — I am much obliged to you for the promised Drawing and plan of the Governor's Cottage, & shall hope in

Generals

46533

General Campbells next Letter, to hear from him, that he is going on with improving the Road from that Building by the Europa advance to the hole in the Wall :- I had hoped before this, to have been able to tell you that our poor friend Dodd had been restored to his Rank, & obtained that retirement for which he is naturally so anxious, with his honor restored; indeed I may say I had every expectation, as the Treasury have at length abandoned their project of Prosecuting him, that it would

without

without further difficulty have been
accomplished, since the Master General
had declared that, when once that point
was set at rest, there could be no
military objection to his restoration,
but somehow or other, the Corps have
been set on to raise a new subject
of attack upon him in their
animadversions, which I ever shall
say, were illiberally & unjustly cast
upon him by Lord Ellenborough at
the Court of King's Bench, and thus
the matter stands at this moment, but
though I may be calumniated, no
exertions shall be wanting on my part
to

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46534

to get justice eventually done him: —
Every one here is full of anxiety
according as their different Politics
run for the issue of the new
Elections, I am told that Ministers
will lose 15 Members by them, but
of course my information comes from
an Opposition man, and is to be received
with as much caution, as a contrary
opinion from a Government one
would be entitled to: As to myself —
I naturally must wish to see the
present people out, as they are
the same who used me so ill
in 1803, & have continued to do
so —

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so ever since, but I don't know what to think fit, as the present era has produced events so completely out of every ones calculation—

I remain with sentiments of friendly regard & sincere esteem

Dear Wright

ever yours faithfully

Edward

E

Lt Col Wright

&c &c &c

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46535-6

Kensington Palace
20th Oct 1812

Dear Wright,

I have just received your favor of the 2d inst, in which you acknowledge the safe arrival of mine of the 15th & 20th Augst – I am glad to find that the plan of the Cottage is complete, and shall be happy to receive it by the first safe opportunity – I sincerely hope you will spare no pains to convert my good friend Lt General Campbell to our joint sentiments in regard to the Road from his retreat to the hole in the Wall, as it is a point I own I have much at heart

and

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and I am convinced if one who
would take the trouble of walking
or riding over the ground, with
a determination to weigh the pro
& the con, he would be fully
satisfied that not the slightest
danger could attach to rendering
it as perfect a Turnpike Road
as any in England as it would
unquestionably be enfiladed, the
whole way from the turn at
Europa Lane to the entrance
through the Wall at Windmill
Hill: Tell him from me that
I beg he will give his attention
to this, & recollect that I ask it
not as his Governor, but his friend,
& that I do not scruple to acknowledge
upon this point & the excavating
a subterraneous footpath to
communicate from the Cave to
Windmill

46536

Windmill Hill; I am a little
Hobby Horsical, & therefore shall
feel much gratified by his
acquiescence with my wish on
this head — I am glad you
keep up your Correspondence
with our mutual friend Sir
Sydney, and highly applaud
his having delayed at Carthagena,
in consequence of the state in
which he found things there,
& our worthy Friend Ross's indisposition
which however I sincerely hope
will not be of duration — Your
account of Downie's convalescence
& of his being at Seville is peculiarly
gratifying to me, as a letter
from one of his friends with
Lord Wellington which I received
two days since had led me to
conceive that he had been a

Prisoner

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Primer with the Enemy —
Having nothing new to
communicate from this, I
shall take my leave of you
repeating the sentiments
of friendship & regard with
which
I remain
Dear Wright
ever yours faithfully
Edward

Lt Col Wright

P.S. It will be a particular convenience to
me in my financial arrangements
here if you can manage to transmit
immediately after the 24th Dec the
2 Months pay & the half years Civil
allowance £

24 October 1812
Recd 16 Nov

46537-8

Kensington Palace
19th Novr 1812

My Dear Wright!

I had the pleasure of receiving yesterday your favor of the 3d inst, in which you apprize me of having, by the same opportunity, transmitted to Mr Coutts a Bill for my two months pay up to the 24th Ulto –

I cannot describe to you, how deeply I feel the death of our ever to be lamented friend Ross, in whom the King has lost a most faithfull

Servant

1812

Recd 17th Decr

Ansd 27th Decr

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Servant the Country ever felt most
zealous defender, and a friend
whom I valued more highly than
language can convey — I was in
some degree prepared for it, by
hearing the Duke of York say,
a few days ago, that General Cooke
had, in his last Letter, mentioned
him as being in very imminent
danger, but I own I had hoped,
from the excellent stamina he had
heretofore evinced, that he might
yet have been spared to us — I
fear at this moment, and in the
station

46538

Station in which he commanded his loss will be doubly felt, for we never stood more in need of energetic Officers in the Peninsula, the recent failure of the attempt on Burgos and the evacuation of Madrid of which we have just heard rendering a fillip to our reflections upon the State of things in Spain at this moment peculiarly desirable — I have not heard at present of Lieut Campbell's arrival in England, but the moment I do I will certainly send for him, & shall esteem myself

happy

95

Duke of Kent 29th Nov 1812
Recd 17th Decr
Answd 27th Decr

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happy in the opportunity of obtaining
such direct information of all
matters in your vicinity, concerning
which I still retain the same
lively interest, which I did at the
period of leaving you though
nearly ten years have elapsed
since then, how time flies!!
I shall at present only add that your
Letter to your good Father was
franked by last night's mail, &
that I am ever with sentiments
of sincere regard & esteem

Dear Wright
Yours most faithfully
Edward

Lt Col Wright

46538

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46539

PS I open my Letter again to inclose you one that has just reached me from old Mons de Sully, together with my answer to it under a flying Seal, requesting that you will communicate both to my worthy Lieut Governor, Leaving it optional with him to deliver my answer or not —

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