

Ed Ashburtaen

Apr. 19 1782

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(1)

Sir

I beseech your Majesty's Pardon, for  
entreating you in this manner, to accept of my Resignation  
of the Office of Groom of the Stole; as I am sure that I should  
not be able to possess myself sufficiently, to express to Your  
Majesty in a proper manner, the severe disappointment, &  
mortification that I suffer, to find that your Majesty has  
at last dispos'd of the Four Garters that were vacant without  
designing to bestow one on me: may I presume to set forth  
to your Majesty, the Foundation on which I have so long built  
the most sanguine & flattering Expectations. When Lord  
North came to my House in November 1775 to offer me  
the Office of Groom of the Stole, he accompanied it with

saying, that I should consider, that, this Office led to the  
Garter, I could not but suppose, but that, both the Offer &  
the Suggestion was made with your Majesty's approbation.  
upon this Supposition, I presum'd immediately after my  
Appointment, to lay at your Majesty's Feet my Ardent Wishes  
for the Honor of the Garter. your Majesty was then pleas'd  
to receive my Request graciously, upon the Death of the late  
Duke of Rutland, in 1779 I presum'd to repeat to your Majesty  
my Wish, the Answer that your Majesty was then pleas'd to make  
me was too Gracious & Favorable not to make the deepest  
Impression on my Memory. it was this, I shall never think  
of disposing of the Garters without bestowing One upon you.  
after this flattering answer, I thought it would be highly  
improper to importune your Majesty any more upon the  
Subject, & therefore did not renew my Request upon the Death  
of the Earl of Temple & Earl of Rochford. Deign Sir to Consider  
how severe my Disappointment must now be, to find (after having  
had so much Reason to entertain the best founded Expectations  
for almost three Years) that the Four Vacant Garters have been  
at last dispos'd of without your Majesty having thought proper  
to bestow One upon me. I can not give to your Majesty a  
Stronger Proof of the Sensibility with which I feel this  
mortification, than being drove by it to take the Step which  
I am now about to do, as no one can entertain Sentiments  
of greater Consideration for the high Office it was your

465  
Majesty  
think  
to the  
sensible  
Respect  
will be  
your M

April,

Ld Ashburnham

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Majesty's good self to call me to, than I do. but I should  
think myself void of those sentiments which who ever aspires  
to the Honor of the Garter ought to possess, if I felt less  
sensitivity upon the Loss of it.

I shall wait with the most Dutiful  
Respect to receive your Majesty's Commands, when you  
will be pleas'd to have me deliver the Gold Ring into  
your Majesty's hands.

Permit me Sir

With the utmost Humility  
to offer to your Majesty my most  
unfeign'd Wishes for your Health &  
Prosperity

of to subscribe myself  
y<sup>r</sup> Majesty's  
most Loyal  
& Dutiful Subject

April 19<sup>th</sup> 1782

Ashburnham

2. of Roxburgh  
April 19 1579. No.