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Sunday evening
Dec 23, 1824.

Sir

The Prince of Wales having hap-
-pened to inform me that your Royal Highness
is at Windsor, I venture upon the great liberty
of writing you to lay the enclosed before
the King, as I know not what Officers are
at the present in attendance upon His Majesty
-ty. I could not be justifiable in this request
did I not state to your Royal Highness what
the Letter contains, which will at the same

line explain that necessity of avoiding delay
where I have been urged to retreat you con-
-sisting to be the Channel.

The Chancellor was with me at two o'clock
this afternoon; & then I for the first time learn-
-ed that the King was waiting for an answer to
a Paper transmitted to the Prince on the 23^d of
November, & that I had been summoned from
Scotland to expedite that answer. It immedi-
-ately occurred to me that His Majesty must
suppose me guilty of gross neglect / if it was really

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imagined that the furthering of the answer and
depend on me / when I had been in town since
betwixt & nothing further had been heard
on the subject. I held the piece for the
rejection of an inattention so contrary to all
his feelings, & humbly to profess my utter want
of exception that such had been the object for
which I had been called to London, is the purpose
of the Letter which I had been to write to
Your Royal Highness's care. You will know, Sir,

That business in a matter which His Majesty had at
least would not have been considered by me as
venial in myself: but surely it was not natural
that I should imagine this to be the point for which
I have been brought hither when a matter of that
restricted nature could as well have been despatch-
ed by letter from Edinburgh. Indeed, I have taken
the liberty of saying to the Chancellor that I do
not see how the business is to advance at all
by any formal answer which can be given: for, the
same necessary delicacies which have thrown an
obliquity on certain points will still continue to

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prevent an adjustment unless his Lordship will
privately explain what cannot fitly be stated
in an official document. I rejoice to say to
Your Royal Highness that the Prince is in the
kindest disposition possible, & every way desirous
- as to please the King if he can do it with-
- out incurring an appearance which His Royal
Highness thinks he has reason to dread & the
bearing of which His Majesty does not perceive.
It is miserable that a matter which the King
has so much at heart should be suspended
& even put to the hazard of final failure from

a want of complete understanding on points where I
am persuaded there could scarcely be a difference
of sentiment or of wish.

Pardon me, Sir, if I add a word which is
scarcely referable to my own concerns. I should never
think it a sacrifice to trouble on any view of my
own when I could render a service to the King.
It is superfluous to say that I am ever ready
to attend His Majesty, when & where he pleases,
& to give every explanation in my power: of course,
as long as I can have a supposition that His Majesty

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right wish to see I should not propose
to leave town. If, however, His Majesty has not the
purpose of seeing me, there could be no reason

to impede my going to Leicestershire. Because
every thing is settled with the Prince & the Chan-
cellor that seemed to require an agreement, &

I should be here again in a day if any unexpected
question arose. If, therefore, it be not too great

presumption to ask it, I should be particularly
obliged to your Royal Highness if you could
convey to learn whether it be His Majesty's

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intention to have me with an audience at
present; which I heartily think might remove all diffi-
culties.

With infinite respect, I remain

Sir

Your Royal Highness's
Most obedient
and humble servant

Thos

Edw. Howard
to Mr. Spencer on 23rd

H. K. H.

The Duke of Kent

to be

P.S. The answer from the Prince will go early tomorrow
to the Chancellor