

The Bishop of Worcester

1st August 1787

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Hartlebury Aug. 1. 1787

Sir

Yesterday evening at Worcester (whither I went that day to attend our Infirmary meeting) I had the honour to receive the Letter, which your Majesty was pleased to send to me by Dr Langford: And I now take the opportunity of our first Kidderminster Post to make my humble acknowledgments for it.

Your Majesty's unwearying attention to the education of our Youth cannot but have considerable effects. It may be too much to expect that your Majesty can, on the sudden, make a bad age a good one, but it cannot fail of making it better than it is, which will be a great point gained. Dr Langford tells me that Eton was honoured on Monday with the presence of five Princesses, in attendance on your Majesties, which affords me the occasion of presenting my humble congratulations to your Majesty on the happy recovery of their R. Highnesses from their late indisposition.

I readily conceive the delight it will give the Duke of York to return to England, after so long

an absence, & the joy his coming will diffuse at Windsor.
Your Majesty cannot be disappointed in the hope of every
comfort from that quarter, after the full proof his R.
Highness has given of his amiable & princely conduct in
Germany. And your Majesty has, I trust, the best ground
to expect fresh satisfactions to spring up from the young
Princes at Gottingen; when the youngest of them is generous
enough to aspire to a public examination, & will certainly
be joined with pleasure by his elder Brothers in this
virtuous emulation, on a Day so memorable as that which
celebrates the completion of the first half century of the
University's institution.

As to my own health, Sir, ^{as} your Majesty condescends
so graciously to inquire after, I can only say, that I take
great pains to be well, but with less success than I wish.
Yet if perseverance may avail anything, I will not quite
despair.

I am with perfect gratitude & veneration,

Sir,

Your Majesty's most obliged & most
faithful Subject & Servant
R. Worsley

Letter from Mr Knox to Mr Pitt dated 7th August 1787
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In laying any material information before you I consider myself as doing the best I can for the public Advantage and thereby expressing my Duty and Gratitude to His Majesty in the most acceptable manner, and therefore it is that I now take the liberty of acquainting you with the history of a measure which I understand is soon to be adopted, the appointment of a Bishop for Nova Scotia, which I took much pains to promote as Under Secretary of State under a former Administration, and since the Peace as a Member of the Society for Propagation of the Gospel, and the Letter from that Society to Lord Sydney and the Bishop's Petition to the King for the same purpose were prepared by me. I did not however make that proposition as a separate and distinct measure but as part of a general plan for the introduction and establishment of the Church of England and thro' it combating and repressing the prevailing disposition of the Colonies to republicanism, and exciting in them an esteem for monarchy. My long experience in Colony affairs and thorough knowledge of their State had shewn me that the great source of all our disputes and difficulties lay in the mutability of the measures of Government, from the want

of System, and their partaking of the fashion of the times and wearing the complexion of their several authors, and therefore I submitted it to the King's Servants whose confidence I was honored with, to form a plan for the Colonies and lay the foundation so deep and wide as to insure firmness and duration to the fabric to be erected upon it. It was my duty to sketch out the plan and it was adopted by a very intelligent Cabinet, and altho it was not made an official Paper, I believe His Majesty saw it. So much of this plan as I thought applicable to the then State of our remaining possessions in America I communicated to Lord North when he was Secretary of State and I have the satisfaction to find that every step taken in pursuance of it has been judged fit to be followed up in your Administration. The appointment of a Bishop for Nova Scotia was agreed to be made, tho it was among the things left undone when the Administration was changed, as the concomitant measures had not been settled, for I was far from considering that appointment as a neutral measure not likely to do either good or harm, for on the contrary I apprehended it might be attended with very mischievous consequences if the concomitant measures I had proposed did not accompany it. The immediate & obvious effect of the appointment of a Bishop must be the superceding the necessity of sending out Missionaries from

6288(2) hence, or of Candidates for Orders coming here from America for Education and Ordination, by which one of the strongest bonds of union between the Colonies & Great Britain would be cut thro' for it is well known that the Church of England Missionaries in general exerted their influence with their congregations in support of the authority of Government in the late contest and that it was owing to their endeavours that so many of that persuasion were Loyalists, an advantage which Government is not likely to be able to avail itself on any future occasion if nothing more be done towards the Establishment of the Church of England in the Colonies than the appointment of a Bishop. May the Prelate himself if left to subsist on the Interest of the Fund appropriated to his support in the hands of the Society for Propagation of the Gospel, will probably prove a clog upon Government, for his appointment being for life and without prospect of preferment, he will be apt to consider how he may make the most of his situation and in order to obtain an allowance from the Country, attach himself to popular Leaders. To counteract these evils, I had proposed, that the Church Dignitaries of Dean & Archdeacon should take place with the appointment of the Bishops, that a Salary out of the Tenths should be allotted to every Parish Minister but to some more than others and that the Salaries of the Dean and Archdeacon should be the most considerable, but all to be given only during His Majesty's pleasure and the presentation to all benefices to be in the Governor. An addition was likewise proposed to be made to the Bishops

income, by appointing him a Salary as head of a Seminary
for the instruction of youth and qualifying them for
Orders to be established at Halifax, and as in due
time a Canadian Bishop was intended to be appointed
with larger emoluments than the Nova Scotia Bishop
who might look up to that See as a beneficial
translation & be thence incited to conduct himself with
such propriety & acquire such a habit of acquiescence
with the views of Government in his subordinate situation
as might secure his promotion & preserve him in the
same line of conduct when he became prominent.

It was not meant that either should be of the
Council, but wholly excluded from temporal affairs.

Should you be led to conceive from this represen-
tation that it would be most prudent to postpone
the appointment of a Bishop I must beg leave
to acquaint you that by doing so now the danger
will not be avoided, since Bishops have been
consecrated for the United States (the policy of
which proceeding I will say nothing of) & there
are Colleges in most of them where education can be
had sufficient to intitle the Students to the
apostolical benediction of those Prelates and such
ordination will equally serve to supercede the
necessity of Candidates for Orders coming to
England for Education or Ordination, and the
sending out Missionaries from hence as would
the appointment of a Bishop for Nova Scotia
with this important difference, that as
the mode of Education and the principles

inculcated in the Students in those Colleges must
be intirely republican, The supplying the Churches
in the British Colonies with such Pastors would
be like garrisoning our strongest Fortresses
with Troops of the Enemy - The Spirit and ability
which have distinguished your Administration
from those which have preceded it, will not
allow me to suppose that this appointment
will be suffered to remain a solitary measure.

I have the honor to be &c.

