

H.P. 74056-7

1891

My Lord.

Mr Grove communicated to us sometime ago some Quaries he receiv'd from your Lordship for him to answer in writing, & amongst others, the 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th & 10th Quaries, as being under the Clerks of the Households immediate Province was given to us to answer, which we have accordingly done, & send our, as well as Mr Groves answer here inclos'd. As there is no Person whatever who has the Honour to serve His Roy. Highness has more regard to His Interest, or their own Character in Life, than we have, so we are extremely glad when call'd upon to voince by our Accounts, that neither Care, nor Integrity have been wanted, & that the Encrease of Expence is owing to the Reasons given in our answer, & indeed were they not distinct, it would be impossible for us to give any sort of Reasons for Accounts in the Year 1747 which your Lordship, with their Vouchers have in your Possession, which we pass'd because right, & which you have pay'd so long ago. It is from our Books, that we can show why the Accounts come to so little in Mr Herberts time, & so much more now. Viz^t. The Encrease of The Royal Family, & the greater consumption of all Articles, as well as Diet, & the manner of dressing it. We do not know of any Fraud whatever, & if we did, we shou'd without any Favour or Fear mention the Offender, that a proper Example might be made let him be, who he will. We cannot help observing, that the Dinners for His Roy. Highness & other Tables, do by the Bills of Fare, amount to a great deal, as well as the Ingredients for dressing & when we have call'd upon Mr Reynolds about it, his constant answer has been, that he cannot dress them well without it. We send likewise A Bill of Fare of A Private Dinner At Pallmall House for The.

Prince, A Dinner & Supper At Leicester House for The Princess
& Supper for Prince George on the 22^d Day of January 1748 where
the Ingredients for dressing amounts to upwards of £4. Another
Bill of Fare of the 1st of February 1748 of The Prince's Dinner
& Supper At Pallmall of 787 with A Remove & 7 Gentlemen in
Company, The Princess, Prince George's Dinner & Supper & the Bed
Chamber Womans Supper At Leicester House amounting for that day
to £41, 14, 9 & A Christening Dinner on the 28th of March 1749 amount
to £41, 2, 8 from these Specimens Your Lordship may judge what
the Diet must amount to, of which we had the Bills drawn out at
that Time, & did then speak to M^r Grove & M^r Reynolds about them.
These vast Expences made us naturally look into the Year 1726 of
His Majestys Creditors when Prince of Wales, which is the only
Volume, we have now in our Possession, & we find it amount to the
Sum of £16650, 1, 5½. during which Time there were drank 14026
Bottles of Claret, Palm, Sherry & Rhenish, but not one single Bottle
of Champagne or Burgundy of which dear Wines A great Quantity
is consum'd in our Family. His Roy^l Highn^s Accounts for the Year
1749 which is the last made up comes to £17601, 13, 8 to which must be
added the four Quarterly Accounts of the Clerk of the Kitchen's
Disbursements, amounting with the Boardwages to the Maids of
Hon^{rs} Gents Ushers &c to £3873, 11, 9¼. but then there must be
deducted from this, all Articles which are in M^r Groves's Disburstm^t
which never were in M^r Powells, because His Majesty either
never had these Expences, or they were paid in some other Method,
& never came into the Creditors. These Articles amount as by the
Account here inclos'd to £1512, 8, 8, after deducting this Sum & comparing
the Creditors of the Year 1726 amounting to £16650, 1, 5½. & those of
1749 & the Clerk of the Kitchen's Disbursements amounting to £19962
6, 9¼. The Prince's Account for 1749 exceeds His Majestys for 1726
the Sum of 3312, 5, 3¾. All Boardwages being included on both sides.
Now your Lordship will please to consider, the different^{Manner} in which His

Majesty did, & His Roy. Highness does live, The King had only the
 Lodge at Richmond & His House in Leicester Fields. He went into
 the Country regularly for five Months, & came back punctually to Town
 on a stated Day. He never made any Partys, nor once lay in London
 & He never condescended to invite any Person to stay with Him in the
 Country, by which means all additional Expences of Cold Loaves, Diet,
 Firing & Candles was sav'd, ^{His Diet so plain} & the Quantity in his Roasts & Dishes
 so little, & the Ingredients for dressing them so inconsiderable, that by
 looking over His Bills of Fare, we observe, that upon an Average every
 common Dinner of His Roy. Highn^{ss} is above double the Expence of
 one of His Majestys. Now we desire to State His Roy. Highnesss
 Situation. First He is bless'd with a numerous illustrious Issue, which
 tho' a great Happiness to Him & The Princess, as well as a Glorious
 Prospect for the Nation, is a very great & increasing Charge. He has
 the Expence, of Clifden, Park Place, Kew, Pallmall & Leicester Houses,
 which by the frequent Removal, from One to the Other, makes a great
 Consumption of Firing, Candles, Flambeauxs & many other Articles
 His Roy. Highn^{ss} great Condescention & Benevolence of Heart, induce
 Him, to admitt Numbers, to the Honour & Pleasure of His Conversation,
 who tho' they come from Him sensible of the Favour conferr'd, yet His
 Generosity puts Him to a considerable additional Expence. It is
 certainly right, that His Roy. Highn^{ss} should please Himself in every
 thing, that He likes best, & it is for our Honour, as well as our Duty, to
 suggest, when call'd upon the Reason of the Augmentation of His Expences
 which we imagine we have done. We are as heartily concern'd as You can
 be, that they amount to so much, & should rejoice in cooperating with Your
 Lordship in putting into Execution any Scheme, that may make them less
 or prevent at least their rising higher, which we apprehend may happen.

We begg leave to mention an Example worth following, which is
 practis'd At His Majestys Board of Greencloth, which is, That after
 the Creditors, are Monthly made up, by the Clerks of the Household, they
 are every three Months brought into a Quarterly Account, & with the
 Vouchers pass'd by The Lord Steward, & no more call'd in Question, but
 sent to be paid by the proper Officer, when Money is issued for that purpose.
 By this means, when ever any Objections are made to the Accounts, the
 Answers are fresh in every Ones Memory, to give the immediate distinct
 Reply, which cannot be done, so exactly to Accounts, which have been

delivered in with their Vouchers, & paid & paid near 4 Years ago. We likewise desire your Lordship to appoint A Time to look into the Contracts, to see what Alteration may be necessary, & that fresh Instructions may be drawn out, to be signed by His Royal Highness, if He will condescend to it, & countersigned by your Lordship, in regard to All Liverys, Tables, & Allowances for us to follow, At the same Time there must be some Latitude, left to the Clerks of the Household in those Places where His Roy. Highness will permitt them to attend / for granting Allowances to those Gentlemen & their Servants, who may be invited, or whose Duty calls them to waite upon His Roy. Highness, they always taking Care to minute down the next Day at farthest, all additional Expences in their Books, & to whom Deliver'd & by whom demanded.

These are some Hints, that we lay before Your Lordship, for your Approbation, & shall be glad if we can in any degree lessen His Royal Highnesss Expences, as well as show You, that we are with great Regard

My Lord.

Your Lordship's

Most Obedient &
most humble Servants.

London. 12. March 1750/1.

To the Right Hon^{ble} the Earl of Scarborough

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Copy of a Letter
from Mr. Douglas and
Sir John Cust, Clerks of
the Household, To the R.
Hon. the Earl of Southdown
Treasurer to His Royal
Highness, The Prince
of Wales.