Earl Spencer.

Admiralty 1st Sept. 1797.

8599

X

Earl Spencer has the honour of laying before your Majesty the Sentence passed on the Mutineers of the Royal Sovereign, and humbly to propose to your Majesty that it should be carried into Execution with the least possible delay; for which purpose Earl Spencer has presumed to give the Messenger the necessary Order for Execution addressed to Admiral Lord Bridport which if your Majesty shall be pleased to approve of the Measure he will carry on to

his Lordship in Torbay for Weymouth. There being no doubt an Interval as possible between the Sentence and the Execution will have a very good Effect on the rest of the Leaven in the Fleet, which is the motive for this Marine unusual mode of Proceeding, and if your Majesty shall be graciously pleased to sanction it, it will be necessary that directions shall be given to the Messenger to proceed accordingly.

Admiralty 1 Sep: 1797.

Earl Spencer.

Admiralty — 1st Sept. 1797.

8600

Earl Spencer is most concerned in being obliged to lay before your Majesty the accompanying Papers containing an Account of the Failure of an Attempt made by Rear Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson on the Town of Santa Cruz in the Island of Teneriffe, in which though the Valour & Intrepidity displayed by the very gallant Officers and Men concerned in it cannot fail to reflect great Honour on them and to merit your Majesty's Approbation, it will be impossible not to contemplate

with extreme regret the severe loss which has been sustained on the Occasion.

Admiralty. 1 Sep: 1797.

1st Septr 1797 8601

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The Humble Petition of the Magistrates and Town Council of your Majesty's Royal Burgh of Annan in Council assembled.

May it please your Majesty.

We your Majesty's loyal and dutiful Subjects, the Magistrates and Town Council of the Burgh of Annan, impressed with the warmest affection for your Royal Person, beg leave to express with becoming Humility, our Disapprobation of an Act, intituled "An Act to raise & embody a Militia to serve in that part of Great Britain called Scotland," now attempted to be carried into Execution, and which meets with the general Abhorrence of this Burgh and County, and is considered by us as a most dangerous Experiment at the present Juncture; And which, if put in Execution by Force, may have the Effect of alienating the Minds of your Majesty's loyal Subjects, from your Royal Person & Government, and plunging the Country into the most dreadful Excesses: as those who fall under the Description of the Act, tho' equally loyal with any other Class of your Majesty's Subjects, feel and express, an insuperable Aversion to become Soldiers on Compulsion. And as your Majesty is authorized to supercede by Order in Council, absolutely, or for a limited Time the Said Act.

We therefore most humbly pray, That your Majesty may be graciously pleased to supercede the said Act Absolutely which will quiet the fears, and fill with Gratitude & Joy the Hearts of all your Majestys Subjects, in this part of the Kingdom And we as in duty bound, will ever pray &c.

In presence & by Appointment of the Council

Geo: Pool Provost

Petition

Petition
of
The Magistrates and
Town Council of
Annan
1797

8601

Magistrates & Town Council of Annan. Petition

Sep. 1 1797

Petition
of
The Magistrates and
Town Council of
Annan
1797

Ld. Grenville

Sept 2 1797

8602

Downing Sept. 2. 1797. 11. AM.

Lord Grenville has the honour to transmit to Your Majesty a letter from Count Woronzow containing the same request, which Sr Charles Whitworth mentions to have been made thro' him, that Your Majesty would be pleased to permit Admiral Duncan to accept the order of St Alexander. Lord Grenville presumes that Your Majesty will think proper that an answer should be returned in the Affirmative, which however

&c

he would not presume to do without Your Majesty's permission: and he ventures humbly to submit whether Your Majesty would not be graciously pleased in return to confer the order of the Bath on Admiral Hannicoft, and to direct that some suitable mark of Your Majesty's favour should be given to the other Officers of proper rank: which Lord Grenville imagines would include the Captains.

Duke of Portland

Sep. 5 1797

The Duke of Portland is convinced that the concluding paragraph of the Lord Lieutenant's Letter of the 30th August in which he describes the present state of the public mind in that Country will be so satisfactory to Your Majesty as to render it unnecessary upon the Duke of Portland's part to lay the whole of it before Your Majesty although it only contains observations upon the intelligence & character of the

persons

persons mentioned in Mr. Richards's despatches, copies of which were transmitted to the Lord Lieutenant by virtue of Your Majesty's gracious permission signified to that effect by Lord Grenville to the Duke of Portland —

The Duke of Portland also humbly begs leave to lay before Your Majesty all the information & correspondence relative to the late disturbances in Scotland on occasion of the Militia Act, which he hopes Your Majesty will not think him too careless in considering as in a fair way of being completely got the better of, & that the persons

Duke of Portland

Sep. 5 1797

8604

prospect of the Restoration of Order & Obedience to the Laws is at so great distance & fully within the compass of the power employed for that purpose

Walcheren Tuesday 5th Sept. 1797

30 m. 3. p. m.

Duke of Portland.

Whitehall 5th Septr 1797.

Mr Pitt
Downing Street Sept. 6th. 1797.

8605—6

Holwood Wednesday Sept 6
1797

Mr Pitt humbly begs leave to acquaint
Your Majesty that a Mr Melville (the
Person named in one of Lord Malmesbury's
separate Letters) has come over here to
repeat a Proposal similar to that what
he made at Lisle, of engaging for
the Conclusion of Peace, on Terms

satisfactory and advantageous to this Country, in return for the Private Payment of a Sum of Money to be distributed among the different Members of the French Government. The Sum he names is a very large One, amounting to four hundred and fifty Thousand Pounds, but it seems not to be more than would be wisely employed, if he can make

Mr. Pitt
Downing Street Sept. 16th. 1797.

8606

good what he proposes as the Condition
previous to its being paid, viz; that
the Treaty shall be signed and ratified
without Delay, leaving this Country
in Possession of the Cape, Ceylon,
Cochin and Trinidad, and exacting
nothing in return. On Consulting
with such of Your Majesty's Servants
as were within reach, Mr Pitt finds

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them all of opinion that the knowledge which Mr Melville appears to have of the most secret Particulars of what has passed at Lisle, are a sufficient Proof that he is really trusted by those in the Confidence of the French Government; and that it would be wise to encourage the Proposal. The safest Mode of doing it seems to be

8607

to refer Mr Malcolm to Lisle, and state the Particulars to Lord Malmesbury authorizing him to engage for the Payment on the Condition of the Treaty being concluded within a limited Time on Terms consistent with his Instructions.

The Loan might without an absurd Difficulty, it is conceived, be supplied in Part from the Territorial Revenues of India, and the Remainder from

Secret Service, without the necessity of ever disclosing the Transaction. – Mr Pitt has thought it his duty to submit this to Your Majesty's Consideration and waits Your Majesty's Commands before he takes any further Step in the Business

Duke of York

8608 - 9

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Pallands September 7. 1797

Sir

I have the Honor to transmit to Your Majesty the Monthly Returns and Weekly Rates, as well as to lay before Your Majesty the Recommendations for the different Vacant Commissions for the Week.

I have likewise to report to Your Majesty that I met Mr. Pitt and the Duke of Portland in London by appointment on Tuesday, and that they thoroughly agreed with me in opinion, on the propriety of taking advantage of the present Moment to send some of the English Militia into Scotland, and I have therefore ordered the Chester and Shropshire Regiments to march immediately from Blythe Camp and to proceed into Scotland as quickly as possible.

As this would weaken Lieutenant General

Musgraves District too much, though as long as Admiral Duncan can keep the Dutch before the Texel, I can't imagine that there can be any real danger. I have ordered the North Lincoln to march from Scarborough into Northumberland, and the Northumberland Militia from Colchester to Hull.

Though there is not the least reason to doubt that the Scotch Fencibles will do their duty perfectly well in Scotland yet I have thought it more advisable in case of accidents, to bring as many Scotch Fencible Regiments of Cavalry as possible Southward and to relieve them by the English Fencibles, in consequence of which the Warwick and Somerset Fencibles are ordered to march into Yorkshire to relieve the Caithness and Argyleshire who are to take up their Quarters in Sir William Howe's District. All of which I trust will meet

Duke of York

8609

with Your Majesty's approbation.

As Major General Stevens is by no means well and has been directed to bathe in the Sea, I trust that Your Majesty will approve of Major General George's returning to London as soon as the Westmeath Camp is over to relieve Major General Stevens, and either Major General Bourke or Major General Hewett must be ordered to take the Command at Dorchester.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your Majesty's

most dutiful Son

and Subject

Frederick

Duke of York

September 7. 1797

Ld. Grenville

Sept. 11 1797

8610 – 1

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Lord Grenville

Downing Street Sept. 11. 1797.

2 – PM.

In transmitting to Your Majesty the dispatches received this morning from Lisbon, Lord Grenville thinks it his duty to add to what Mr. Walpole states, that he has this day seen M. d'Almeida, who read to him a dispatch from M. de Pinto in which the latter expressly says that as the Article respecting the reception of no more than six British Ships in the ports of Portugal

was

was contrary to the treaties existing between Great Britain and Portugal, it had been determined not to ratify that engagement, but to refer it to subsequent negotiation with France.

Your Majesty will see by Lord Malmesbury's dispatches the details of what has passed at Paris, and the appointment of M. Delacroix, which seem very unfavourable to the success of the negotiation.

Lord Grenville has made enquiry respecting the secret box which was brought to Your Majesty in so

torn

Ld Grenville

Sept. 11 1797

8611

tore a state, & the Messenger declares in the most particular manner that it was done by an accident in the Coach last in his journey to Weymouth. He has been ordered to be more careful of the boxes in future.

Lord Grenville,

Downing St. 11th Sept. 179[illegible]

Earl Spencer.

Admiralty 12th Sept. 1797.

8612

Earl Spencer has the Honour to lay before your Majesty the Minutes of the Court Martial on a Man belonging to the Bedford, and humbly to submit to your Majesty, that as the Crime proved against him is of very dangerous Example, the Sentence of Death may be carried into Execution.

12 Sep. 1797.

Ld. Grenville

Sep. 12 1797

4

Cleveland Row Sept. 12. 1797.

Lord Grenville has the honour to inform Your Majesty that he has this day seen M. Balan who communicated to him the wish of the King of Prussia that the Prince of Orange might receive at the General Peace not only a full indemnity for his private property, but also, if the principle of secularization in Germany is admitted, some territorial acquisition – with which view the King of Prussia had entered

entered into the eventual engagements with France contained in the convention of the 5th of August 1796. And that His Prussian Majesty in directing these particulars to be communicated to Your Majesty's Servants wished to know how far these ideas were conformable to those entertained by Your Majesty.

Lord Grenville answered that the claim of pecuniary compensation for the loss of property belonging to the House of Orange was founded on the most evident principles of justice, & had as such been included in the proposals directed to be made by Your Majesty's Ministers. And that the representations of His Prussian Majesty, if He should judge proper to direct them to be made at Paris, in support of that demand, could not

not

Ld. Grenville

Sep. 12 1797

8614

but be advantageous to the interest of the Prince of Orange.

That with respect to the second point Your Majesty did not think proper to authorise any particular assurances to be given, because it did not yet appear that there would be any question of secularisation in settling the Peace of the Empire, and because Your Majesty's wishes must be that the Constitutional integrity of the Empire should be maintained. But that if the contrary should happen Your Majesty would certainly see with pleasure any favourable effects which might arise for the advantage of the House of Orange, from the adoption of that mode of settling the Peace of the Empire.

Lord Grenville,
Wanland Ann 12. Sept. 1799

Mr Pitt
Downing Street Sept. 12th 1797

8615

On the occasion of the Vacancy in the Bishopric of Chichester, Mr Pitt humbly requests Your Majesty's Permission, (in consequence of an Engagement made long since to the Duke of Richmond) to recommend Dr Buckner a particular Friend of the Duke's, and whom he understands to be a very

respectable Clergyman to succeed to Dr.

This Arrangement is particularly desirable to the Duke on account of the Weight which the Bishop must necessarily possess at Chichester.

Downing Street.

Tuesday Sept.r 12.th 1797.

Duke of York
September 13. 1797

8616

Horse Guards September 13. 1797

Sir

I have the Honor to inclose to Your Majesty the Weekly Wakes and Returns, as likewise to lay before Your Majesty the Recommendations for the Several vacant Commissions which have been sent in this Week.

I have likewise to report to Your Majesty, that the Duke of Gloucester has acquainted me through Major General Stevens that every thing is now settled with Major General Bellew about his Returning from the 1st Regiment of Guards with the thorough acquiescence of the Regiment, and I therefore in obedience to Your Majesty's orders, by leave to recommend Major General Bellew to succeed to the Lieutenant Government of Quebeck, which by enquiry at the War Office has by some Mistake remained vacant for some time

Not having had answer of the Lieutenant Governorship of Quebec being vacant I had delayed laying before Your Majesty the Name of any Officer to succeed Sir

Charles Gray as the Government of Dumbarton, thinking that it would be necessary to make some arrangement with it so as to have vacated a Lieutenant Governorship but as this is now not necessary, I beg leave to put Your Majesty in mind of a promise which Your Majesty was graciously pleased to make at the Interceptor of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to General Maxwell, that upon a favourable opportunity some arrangement should be made so as to vacate one of the Governorships in Ireland for him, Should Your Majesty therefore approve of doing it upon this occasion, I should humbly propose to remove Lieutenant General Lake to the Government of Dumbarton and to appoint General Maxwell to succeed Lieutenant General Lake as the Governor of Limerick.

I have the Honor to be

Sire

Your Majestys

Most dutiful & obedient Subject &c

Mr. Canning,
Downing St. 15. Sept. 1797.

Downing Street. Frid. Sept. 15.
1797

Mr. Canning most humbly presumes to inform Your Majesty that the Messengers dispatched last night to Lord Malmesbury carried only a Duplicate of the Dispatches sent by the Messengers Brooks & Magestre, who were unfortunately lost the preceding day at the entrance of Calais harbour: the intelligence of which melancholy accident was brought to London yesterday evening

by

by Captain Sutton – together with the enclose dispatches which Captain Sutton received from a servant of Lord Malmesbury's at Calais.
The dispatches to Lord Malmesbury did not fall into the hands of the French, the Boxes in which they were contained having been found (after lying some time under water) and forwarded by Lord Malmesbury's servant to Lisle.

Duke of Portland

Sept. 19 1797

8618

Your Majesty's Commands concerning Lieutenant Colonel Moore of the Royal Irish Artillery have been received by the Duke of Portland, & have been signified by him to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to whom they were despatched by this evening's Mail —

Buckingham House
Tuesday 19th: Sept: 1797 —

Ld. Grenville

Sept. 21 1797

8619

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Cleveland Row Sept. 21. 1797.
10. PM.

Lord Grenville begs leave humbly to submit to Your Majesty the draft of a note from Lord Malmesbury to the French Plenipotentiaries at Lisle, which was this day settled at the meeting of Your Majesty's Servants, and which Lord Grenville trusts is calculated to place the business in its true light in the public opinion here.

Wm. Pitt

8620 — 1

Downing Street
Sept 22 1797

Mr Pitt thinks it his duty humbly to acquaint Your Majesty that he has received Communications from a Person (who produces as strong Proofs as can in the nature of the Case be given of the Authenticity of his Mission) stating that notwithstanding what has passed at Lisle, The Directory wish still agree to an immediate Peace giving to

this Country both the Cape and Ceylon, on Condition of their receiving a large Sum of Money for their own use. The Sum named is 1200.000 £ for Ceylon — Two Millions for both. — He undertakes that as a further Proof of the Authenticity of his Mission a conciliatory Answer shall be returned to the Note now sent from hence to Lisle, and that he will bring or send a Copy of it from Paris hither, before

Wm. Pitt

8621

it comes from Lisle. And he desires no Payment of any sort till after the Signature of the Treaty. Mr Pitt has mentioned the Outline and Substance of this Proposal to all Your Majesty's Servants who are in Town. All the Particulars (excepting Names) are known to the Secretaries of State and to Lord Chatham. The Names are known only to Mr Pitt and Mr Dundas. It is impossible not to consider any

Transaction of this Sort as Leaves so great Uncertainty; but in such a State of Things as that now prevailing in France, Mr Pitt and all those whom he has consulted think the Overture not destitute of Probability, and the Experiment worth trying; as such a Sum would be well employed indeed to procure Peace on our own Terms without the Risk and Expence of another Campaign. It seems however

essential that such a Business should be conducted with the utmost Secrecy at present; and that if it succeeds Every possible Precaution should, in Point of honor, (little as that Idea is felt in France at present) be employed to prevent as far as possible the Circumstance being fixed on the French Government. Suspicion cannot be avoided, and (as might be expected from the present State of that Country)

seems to be little feared; and it has
been distinctly explained to the Person
from whom the proposal comes, that
enough must be stated to Parliament,
in order to procure the Grant of the
Money, to satisfy them that it was
really employed for Secret Service
on the Continent, with a View to the
Settlement of Peace. Mr Pitt is
aware that the Measure is quite
singular in its Extent, and of doubtful Success, but

it seems attended with little risk of
Mischief, and worth trying in these
extraordinary Times. He hopes therefore
Your Majesty will not disapprove of
its having been thought right, as
Time pressed, to encourage the Proposal.

Mr Pitt
Downing Street Sept. 22 1791

Wm. Pitt

8624 – 5

Hollwood.

Sunday Septr 24th 1797.

On the occasion of the Vacancy which has (unhappily for Mr Pitt) taken place in the Office of Remembrancer of the Exchequer, which Your Majesty's Goodness to him induced you to give to its late Possessor, He cannot help feeling an anxious Wish to be allowed humbly to recommend to Your Majesty, Mr Steele, to succeed to it. – Independent of the strong

personal regard, which He naturally feels for so long and intimate a Connection, He flatters himself Your Majesty will agree with him that Mr Steele's laborious and zealous Services both while at the Treasury and since, make him as fair an Object as any one for such a Mark of Your Majesty's gracious Favor and Approbation. — Mr Pitt will only presume to add that if your Majesty should see no Objection to this

Wm. Pitt

8625

Proposal, it will be to Mr Pitt the greatest Personal Gratification. The Office has been usually granted for life and its Value is as Mr Pitt believes (tho' he cannot yet speak with Certainty) from Twelve to Fourteen Hundred Pounds per Annum.

Mr Pitt
Hollwood Sept. 24th 1797
Remembrancer of the
Exchequer

Wm. Pitt

8626-7

Holwood. Monday Sept. 25th 1797.

Mr Pitt cannot forbear returning Your Majesty his most grateful acknowledgments for the gracious Expressions of the Interest which Your Majesty takes in what so deeply affects him, as well as for the manner in which Your Majesty has been pleased to approve of Mr Steles Appointment. Mr Pitt did not trouble Your Majesty in his Note of yesterday

on the Subject of the Vacancy of one of the Seats at the India Board, attended with a Salary of 1500 £ Ann^m., meaning then to reserve it till he could paid his Duty to Your Majesty on Wednesday. He now finds that a Day or two may be material with a View to Election Arrange-ments. The Person whom He would humbly recommend to Your Majesty is Mr W. Dundas. — This Appointment would be peculiarly flattering and gratifying

Wm. Pitt

8627

to his Uncle, would afford him an Opportunity at the India Board on whose Diligence and Judgment he could rely, and would bring forward a Person of some Parliamentary Talents, and all whose Connections are among the most zealous and respectable Supporters of Government.

Mr Pitt therefore hopes it may meet Your Majesty's Gracious Approbation. —

Mr. Pitt
Hollwood. Sept. 25th 1797

Ld. Grenville

8628

Cleveland Row Sept. 27. 1797.
½ p. 4. P.M.

Lord Grenville has the honour to transmit to Your Majesty the note from the Hempstenhaves at Berlin which he found on his return from St. James's, and which seems to bear the business on such a footing, that he trusts there can be but one opinion in this Country, except among those whom nothing can convince.

Lord Grenville
September 27 1797