

Gen. Gen. Hathaway

My dear Grenville,

P. 1809

Stanhope Street,
Sunday 8th April 1787.

I take the earliest opportunity, not only of thanking You for your letter of the 30th of March, but of sincerely congratulating with You on its most comfortable contents. From several Expressions used by His Majesty in the Conversation He did me the Honour to hold with me a Week ago, I judged His Permission for The Duke's Return to England would not be delayed beyond the end of the summer; & well knowing His Royal Highness's natural Impatience on this Subject, I ventured to give the Duke of York a Hint that such was my Idea, tho' I had no right to speak positively, in a letter I took the liberty of writing to Him on the 3^d Instant.

I can easily frame in my own mind what must be the Feelings of His Royal Highness's & Yours upon this occasion. The Duke's Separation from his Country has been a long one, & indeed has Years, & your Return to it must be attended with all those joyous Sensations which the meeting of Friends & Relations, & revisiting Old England can inspire. All these pleasurable Sensations I most sincerely participate with You; & yet, like the Fair ones Hopes & Wishes on the Approach of the Bridal Night, I cannot help being sensible of some little Alloy in my Satisfaction, from the Judgement I form of the arduous & truly difficult Part H. R. H. may have to act immediately upon his Arrival here. When I say this, it is not from my having the least Doubt of H. R. H.'s Prudence, Sense of Propriety, Steadiness, or Firmness; I know He possesses them all in an eminent Degree, & I know that His adhering to them will more than carry Him through every Difficulty; but I think that they will all be assailed in their Turns; Every Thing that Party can devise, every Engine, every Seduction, every Enchantment, will be made use of to gain so valuable an Acquisition; I repeat again I do not doubt of His Victory, but I only lament the Labour, the Struggles, perhaps the Wounds of Mind He may receive in the obtaining it.

I think Your Servants Wife, from Description, to be the very Person proper for Alerton. Both Their Lives will go on pleasantly & comfortably, from being together; & their mutual Tie towards each other, as well as their separate Obligations to Their future Master will be the best Security for Their Fidelity & Attachment to A. O. W. — Be assured I have never had any other Person in View, but even if I had, all the Reflections any other Servant might have enjoyed would not, in My Opinion, have balanced that of Her being likely to remain long in The Duke's Service, & by that means rendering Her Husband & Her self comfortable for Life. —

You may easily imagine (after all the Grumbling & growling on the Subject of Horses with which I entertained You when You were last in England) My Surprise on the Receipt of Choppin's Bill; the Amount of which I was for a long Time, entirely ignorant of. Enclosed, according to Your Desire, I transmit You the Particulars of it, copied from the Bill itself, which is signed by Col. Lake, & therefore scarce liable to Mistake. I do not send You the Original, because the Receipt for the Money is affixed to it; but I should hope the enclosed will afford You the Information You want. — You know the Delicacy I have always had in never interfering in the least with Col. Lake about Horses, which He understands so well, & in which I am ignorant itself; that must naturally be now increased, when My Dismission from The Prince of Wales's Service, which point the Colonel & I by no means thought alike, renders our Communication to either much less frequent than it was formerly; but I should be sorry indeed that The Duke should receive any ill Impressions of Me in relation to this Demand of Choppin's; & I trust Your Friendship for Me will induce You to give A. O. W. in My Behalf, such Information from the enclosed Paper which, as My Master, He has a Right to expect from Me as to any Paper whatever. — I mean, in case You find A. O. W. may wish, or require it. —

If His Majesty's present Conversation about the Duke of York can be any Guide towards judging of His future Conduct towards Him, I am thoroughly persuaded My dear Friends, that A. O. W. for Himself, & His true Friends for Him, will have every Reason to be satisfied & pleased with it. All Hatred & Prejudice

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Gen. Geo. Hathaway

apart, it is impossible, in my humble opinion, to find more parental Good Sense, what is more extraordinary among the Father, more parental Liberty, than the King expressed upon A. D. H. Subject the day I had the Honour of attending Him.

My Friend Bute is this morning set off for Cheltenham, where he proposes to stay some time, & collect a great Stock of good Health, till about a Week before His Majesty's Birth Day. I saw Him Yesterday; He had just got Letters from A. D. H. & Yourself. I am glad to find The Duke has pitched upon the Apartment in the Noble Yard; it is much the lightest & the pleasantest of the Two. And A. D. H. need have no kind of Relicacy about Bute, as He has been for some time settled in P. Sturk's, towards Cleveland Row. — By the Way, I am infinitely pleas'd that A. D. H. is to have a separate Roof of His own. I was only fearful that, as The P. of Wales's Range of Rooms at The Queen's House has been best uninhabited, that might have been desired for Him; which, in my Opinion, would not have been so comfortable or proper, in any Point. I am glad to find the contrary Plan has taken Place; & I think We ought to regard it as a Passage of that Liberty I before speaking being maintained in future on every other Subject.

I flatter Myself You have too good an Opinion of my Understanding, (I know I have no Vanity at all to be sure in this!) to think You can suppose me capable of naturally any kind of obtruding any Advice from Myself concerning A. D. H. Regulation of Conduct; I have little Inclination, & no Right whatever to do so; but as You are both at a Distance, & I on the Spot, I am convinced My Friend Grenville will not take it ill, if, from time to time as I may see necessary, I give Him a Hint how the Card lies with us. I think this will be very fair, because My Friend Grenville is not oblig'd to take Notice of any Intelligence I may give Him, unless He sees it proper & convenient for Him so to do. — Seriously, I persuade Myself You will never think me presumptuous in the doing so; because You know My Attachment to A. D. H. & My eager Wish that every Thing He proposes to Himself may be attended with the Success & Prosperity We all desire! — When I say all this, it does not imply that I may know more than other People; only, that if, by accident, I find I can, at any time, be a useful Guide Post, I will.

The letters I had the Honour of lately writing to H. A. H. acquainted them with
one recent Military Matter. It was the Idea in the World (but, as it appears, is
false one) that Lawton was to have succeeded Genl. Gage in the Dragon Regt.
but you will have found Mr. S. Clarke got the 11th Regt. Col. Loringham the
Royal Irish Dragoons, & Mr. Genl. Douglas the 14th of Foot, when you remember
long serving in the Scotch Regts. — I do not vouch it as a Fact that I know,
but I have heard it credibly reported, that the Secretary at War has declared
he carried in no fewer than Twenty-Six Applications for the then vacant
Regiment of Infantry which Douglas succeeded to! — All I can say to it, is,
that upon my word & Honour, Genl. Northam was not, directly or indirectly,
one of the Persons applying; whatever the S. of North's News Paper might seem
to insinuate; that Paper at least, which seems written only for his Interest,
the World, or fashionable Diverting. I gave you, some time ago, a very un-
favourable Rap on the Knuckles, on the Idea that His Majesty's Favour would
extend itself to me in the Distribution of the Regiments then supposed to be
about vacant. If I had made any Application I might have deserved it
for my Desumption. As I never did, it was unscrupled.

Be it as it may, I think if 26 Gentlemen are to be qualified before me, I
shall not be so in that particular, till all Envy, & Scurrilous Biloquy, must be dead.

lest I should kill you, my dear Grenville, by my Ed. message, & thereby
make the Welsh Families weat, brisons La-Deus. Let me hear from
you soon, & believe me ever

Most sincerely & affectionately Yours.

Be good enough to acquaint

H. A. H. with my most humble Duty, whenever

Genl. Northam.

You see convenient, that I have paid Genl. Bute for his Marble. —

I am sorry to say, these Easterly Winds begin to plague the poor eyes again.

Perhaps you naturally wish "I his eyes, why had they not hinder his beginning
this & — I long Letter?"

Genl. Grenville.