

Duke of Clarence

1<sup>st</sup> June 1789

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St. James's

June 1<sup>st</sup> 1789

Sir

Pray Your Majesty's good

ness will pardon my not having sooner acknowledged  
the receipt of Your Majesty's letter. Many passages in it have  
given me the greatest pain, and the necessity of communicating  
its contents to my brother, together with the extraordinary  
event which has arisen respecting the Duke of York, have caused the  
delay. I beg leave humbly to present to Your Majesty that my  
former letter was not at all intended as an application for an ex-  
ercise of Your Majesty's power as a declaration of any intention on  
my part to apply to Parliament on that subject. I mean only to express

(as mentioned by Mr. Pitt,  
my apprehensions that an income of £7000 <sup>per annum</sup> net £4000  
as Your Majesty appears graciously to have intended, would not enable  
me to live in that state, and maintain that establishment, which Your  
Majesty and the public seem to expect; and at the same time I base  
to Your Majesty the sense I had of the impropriety of ever suffering  
my expences to exceed my income or incurring debts. With respect to my own  
feelings I most sincerely assure Your Majesty that I am indifferent on the  
subject of my income, or whether I <sup>or not</sup> have any establishment if it can be  
the cause of the slightest embarrassment to Your Majesty or afford a pre-  
tence to any ill-disposed persons to misrepresent my conduct and  
purposes to Your Majesty. Your protection and confidence <sup>are</sup> and al-  
ways will be remain my first wish and object.

With respect to diminishing my expences by applying for foreign  
service Your Majesty I am sure will forgive my frankly confessing  
the very great reasons. I believe the ground on which this suggestion  
appears to arise from Your Majesty. I have been ten years at sea without  
having been more than twelve weeks on shore in England, I may there-  
fore humbly flatter myself that I cannot be suspected of disinclination  
to my profession, and I trust I shall ever be sufficiently ready to perform  
my duty in whatever Your Majesty and the nation's service offers me the last

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opportunity of being of use. But in the present case, I am compelled to connect  
Your Majesty's hint on this subject with the marked disapprobation which I am  
unfortunate enough to find Your Majesty express of my conduct and beha-  
viour since my arrival in England; I should therefore return to sea under  
the disgrace of Your Majesty's censure, dismissed from my family and duties  
in this country, and removed from all opportunity of vindicating myself in  
Your Majesty's opinion, and answering the unfounded insinuations of  
those who have already, I perceive with the utmost sorrow, endeavoured to  
turn Your Majesty's mind against me. Permitted, Sir, to assure Your Majesty  
I never will deserve your displeasure, I cannot guard against misrepresen-  
tations: but let me humbly hope that Your Majesty will allow me an oppor-  
tunity of justification before I am condemned. With these sentiments Your  
Majesty will judge of the pain and mortification I feel in finding my-  
self considered by Your Majesty as having adopted a line of conduct void  
of kindness to Your Majesty's order, regard to my own character. I do not pre-  
sume to judge of the proceedings of my brothers, or of the political  
differences of parties during Your Majesty's late and fortunate illness;  
but my knowledge of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York compels  
me to have my firm conviction that they never could have been influenced by  
any sentiment, but those of true love and duty towards Your Majesty, and a  
sincere persuasion that the line of conduct they pursued was necessary

for the maintenance of your Majesty's just rights, and the security of your family, and here Sir in answer to your Majesty's reproof that I have changed myself from your Majesty's society, allow me to declare that it would be my greatest pride and satisfaction not only to give my most dutiful and constant attendance on your Majesty, but to live and remain in your family if your Majesty wishes I should do so, trusting that it will not be expected of me by any one that I should abate the mutual affection and confidence in which I live with my brothers, and that shall be allowed to consider those who endeavour to alienate the mind of your Majesty from any of your children, without giving them an opportunity of explaining their conduct, to hear much of your Majesty's omnis as theirs.

I am extremely sorry that the names I had the honor to submit to your Majesty's consideration for my establishment do not appear to be those which your Majesty would have recommended: if any person were I had thought of for my family had incurred your Majesty's personal displeasure I should indeed by think it my duty to withhold, and since to your Majesty any mark of my favour and countenance, I am humbly persuaded that they are sensible of such displeasure on the part

of Your Majesty must be just and mighty: at the same time I am confident  
 that Your Majesty does not wish me to make my domestic arrange-  
 -ments and select those in whom I am to place my confidence according  
 to any rule of political attachment or profane claim with Your  
 Majesty's ministers: still less I am sure would Your Majesty exact  
 such a compliance from me here as in the present instance I must  
 sacrifice to it the regard and gratitude which are due from me to  
 long and disinterested service and even my word and promise en-  
 -gaged to reward it. This Sir is my situation with respect to Capt<sup>r</sup>  
 Elphinstone who independently of my having arrived at sea under  
 his tuition has for these four last years without profane involvement  
 which I had indeed no means of bestowing faithfully and dili-  
 -gently filled a similar situation to that to which I now pro-  
 -pose to appoint him.

I have only in conclusion earnestly to im-  
 -plore Your Majesty to believe that my first professions of duty and

attachment to Your Majesty neither are nor ever will be obliterated  
from my mind, and that I trust my conduct will prove their sincer-  
ity.

I am,

Sir,

Your Majesty's most dutiful  
and most affectionate Grand Subject,

A highly stylized, cursive handwritten signature, likely of George III, written in dark ink. The signature is composed of several large, sweeping loops and flourishes, characteristic of 18th-century royal handwriting.