

Edin^g July 7. 1828

Dear Lord Melville

I have unfortunately been unable sooner to report the result of my Enquiries at Dunfermline respecting the articles which had belonged to the Old Palace. I went over on Monday the 15th as I intended. I found the articles in the possession of a very singular person, who has raised himself by great Skill in pattern Drawing for the Dunfermline Damask. He is a person of considerable taste & some genius, and valued the articles so highly that I found he had built a room on purpose to display them. I found in his possession a Bed, very richly & beautifully carved, obviously of great antiquity and

To The Viscount Melville

Yours sincerely

H. J. W. H.

generally speaking in very high Preservation,
There appear to be some small niches, I should
think for very small images, over the Head.
I should think the Bed of the age of James
the 5 at the latest. It was sold out of the
Palace about 80 Years ago and along
with the Cabinet & Cradle, which I am
to mention, had been by the possession of
the Family which purchased them till
Mr Paton got them from them. It was
called & known as "the Palace Bed" when
so sold, & was then in the room in
which Charles the 1st is said to have been
born - the Window of which (in the outer
Wall) still remains. In whose hands the
Palace then was I do not know - But
You are aware that it was very long ago
had hold of by private Individuals.
The Cradle is a very singular & beautiful

I was not aware of it
till lately. M.

relic - of my curious form & construction -
 whether King or Queen, I cannot understand
 from its make. The Tradition has been
 uniform that it was the cradle of King Charles.
 The cabinet is much out of repair but has
 been very beautiful - and I think a skilful
 Carpenter may still make it a very
 great ornament - as it is a great curiosity.
 Mr Paton had also 7 Palace Chairs.
 He valued the possession of these Remains of
 Scottish Royalty so highly & so sincerely
 that I found it was hopeless to expect
 that He would transfer them to any
 Subject. I therefore told Him that I was
 desirous to obtain them for His Majesty -
 that He had heard that such Articles
 were in Existence & was desirous to have
 them at Windsor. And I shew'd Mr Paton
 Your Lordship's note as my Credential

This Appeal produced the desired Effect - but
not without a very great Struggle on the
part of Mr. Palou, whose feelings were
greatly wrapped up in the prosecution of these
articles. He wished to be allowed to offer
them as a mark of Dutiful Respect -
But I assured Him that the Terms of Lord
Corrygham's letter precluded me from
allowing Him to do so, & I satisfied
Him - not however without some sub-
-sequent Correspondence - that He must
concent to His Majesty bearing the Par-
-Chair. I found Him so very unwilling
to give up articles which He has been
daily admiring for Years that I was
very glad to close on the very first
occasion when He spoke decidedly
on the Subject (as He had changed His
mind once or twice since I saw Him)

and by means of a Gentleman in Dunfermline
 I paid Him 100*l* which on the whole I
 thought was the best Sum I could offer.
 Indeed having myself given 50*l* a few days
 before for the Cabaret of the Town Clerk of
 Leyden, I could hardly offer less than I
 did to Mr Paton. It likewise occurred to me
 that it was better that I should offer a
 Sum as entirely from myself after seeing
 the articles than refer the fixing the Amount
 to His Majesty. I hope that what I have
 done may not be disapproved of. I Enclose
 Mr Paton's Receipt - which would intimes
 sufficiently formal!

Mr Paton is really a person of very con-
 siderable Genius & Character. I have given
 Him an order for some Damask - and
 He expressed a most ardent wish that He

might receive an order to execute some
however small the quantity for His Ma-
jesty's Household. I take the liberty of
mentioning this, because the unaffected
and strong interest which He has shown
in collecting these Memorials, respecting
the Royal Town of Scotland proves that
such an order will be valued from differ-
-ent feelings than those of a Tradesman
serving a Customer. Mr Paton I found
had been 7 years endeavoring to obtain
the Card, before He could get it.

In consequence of my Visit to Dunfer-
-line I have received a Communication
from Mr Hunt of Pittencrieff, to whom
the Palace & grounds now belong, in-
-quiring (what I know) that He is in

Possession of the celebrated Cabinet of Queen
Anne of Denmark, which was brought over by
Her along with the Bed from Denmark
which Lord Elgin has, and requesting me
to obtain permission for Him to be allowed
respectfully to send this Cabinet to His Ma-
jesty. At the time the Bed which I have
secured was sold, this Cabinet was trans-
ferred to the Modern Room opposite to the
Palace, & was in it when Mr Hunt's father
purchased the Property. I see that Mr Hunt
would wish to possess it among His
I enclose the note conveying His Majesty's
permission, if He shall be graciously pleased
to allow Mr Hunt to send this Cabinet.

Mr Hunt is a person of great respectability
& of very considerable Fortune. I understood

that the desire of His Majesty to possess these
Memorials of the Grandeur of Ben Jonson
in former times has given the utmost
pleasure to all concerned with the Town.

The articles which I obtained from Mr Paton
are now in Eden² - I wish to have them
carefully inspected before they are packed.
Some pieces which had been destroyed
have been replaced in common wood. I
shall learn these. But the King's Carpenter
will be easily able to make a suitable
imitation of the corresponding Parts of
the original. Perhaps it may be right
for me not to send them until Lord Cowper
has taken His Majesty's pleasure
in regarding the packing of them. Indeed
if not thought too much expense I con-
fess it will relieve me of responsibility

if any person could be sent in a Steam
Boat, accustomed carefully to pack
such articles. But that may be impossible
- any in such a case.

I will not however send the articles of
for some days, until
I may know from
Your Lordship whether
I should at once pack
them in the same man-
ner as the ~~Am~~ Chairs
already sent.

I remain My Dear Lord

Your Very Faithful Servant

John Hope

I entertain a strong hope that the ~~Box~~ will
not disappoint any Expectations which may
be formed of it's Character, Beauty & Richness



To
The Viscount Melbourne
K.T. or or or
India Board
London,

