

Fort Augustus 9th June 1746

Dear Sir

A few days ago I had the Pleasure of yours of the 19th May. Your Nephew is now at Fort William, Brigad^r Houghton's Regiment being sent to that Garrison about 8 days ago, where it will probably remain 'till next Year, according to the Usual Custom; and in 8 or 10 days more I believe we shall all (except what is destin'd to Garrison this Fort, which H. R. H. intends to repair for that purpose) leave the Highlands and March into Quarters of Refreshment, which you may easily believe will be necessary after so long a Campaign as ours; but more particularly so at present, as it has rain'd pretty hard for these three days; tho' in all other respects we have plenty of Provisions for the Men, thro' the great care and Vigilance of H. R. H. who is an Excellent Providore as well as a General, which Quallification, you know by Experience, is absolutely Necessary in a Commander in Chief, but more particularly so with us, as this weighty and Troublesome Branch is annexed to the Employment: whereas in France, the Indendant of the Army, has the entire Management of it, and by that means leaves the General at full liberty to think of the Military Operations only.

At present all things are as quiet here as if no Rebet-lion had happen'd, and the Detachments H. R. H. has sent thro' the Heretofore inaccessible mountains, as they were Supposed to be and so called by the Caledonians, has struck such a Terror amongst these Brutes, that they are entirely dispersed, and Fly at the Sight of a Red Coat. Such is the happy Effects of the Battle of Culloden. This Ascendant over them may be easily maintain'd, if we are not wanting to ourselves, and reduce them to Such a State as will put it out of their Power of raising any future insurrections, and even make them in time usefull Members to

the State, tho' at present they are quite the Reverse. This wil depend on the Resolutions of both Houses of Parliament: and as they have the finest opportunity that ever offer'd, and the means in their Hands to Enforce the Laws they shall make, I can't Suppose they will let it Slip thro' a Chiddish Tenderness, or the Sollicitations of the Gentlemen of this Country. Besides what you mention, that of destroying the dependance of the Highlanders on their Chiefs, others must be added, such as disarming them for ever, making it Death or immediate Transportation, to any who shall be found with Arms, by which they will in time lose the use of them, as in Ireland, and instead of being Dangerous, may become usefull Subjects to the Common Wealth. In order to keep the Poor People here in an entire Submission and Dependance on their Chiefs, they lett their lands only from Year to Year; they should therefore be obliged to grant pretty long Leases, leaving out all those Clauses of Slavery, which obliges them to appear in Arms at their Command. This will give them a Taste of Property, a thing hitherto unknown to the lower People in this Country, which is the Surest Pledge I know of to Preserve their Loyalty. As the Religion that is Predominant in this Part, if they have any, is Popery, no Priest must be allowed to come amongst them on pain of being Castrated (a Punishment those vermin dread more than the loss of Life); but a proper allowance made to Presbyterian Ministers to dwell amongst them and Convert them from the Errors of Rome. No Episcopal Meeting Houses must be permitted here, under pretence of the Church of England, as they have been only Seminaries of Jacobitism and Rebellion: and if they won't be Saved by the means of the Kirk of Scotland, they shall be Damned as Heathens, for I would allow them no other. This may appear harsh in the Ears of a Divine, and make him conclude that we Soldiers have no Religion at all. To this I shall only make this Reply, that I am for

Abolishing all Religions that inculcate Principles to the Prejudice of my King and Country and the overturning of our happy Constitution. Schooll's should likewise be Establish'd in Several Parts of the Highlands, not with a view of making them Learned, but to Teach them English and the Rudiments of the Protestant Religion, as the greatest part of the Common People here are ignorant of both. The Charity Schooll's in Ireland is an Excellent Plan for them to follow. By this you see I am not so Bloody minded as to desire a Total Exterpation of these poor Wretches, knowing that the Abject Slavery they are kept in by their Chiefs and the bad Example Set by them is the Chief cause of their Roguery and Rebellion, being certain that Numbers of them were Forced into it contrary to their inclination; and am therefore for endeavouring to Civilize them and make them Taste the Sweets of liberty, and independence on all but the Laws of the Land, neither of which they ever Yet knew, nor any thing but the Sole Will and Pleasure of their Chiefs. These Reflections have carried me beyond the Bounds of a letter, to which a wet day has contributed a good deal as I could not walk out, therefore blame the weather and not me for this tiresome Epistle. In fine, whatever Laws you make for this Country, if you imagine they can be Executed by the Sole Power of the Civil Magistrate, you'll be deceived and tho' I am a Soldier, I am not for investing the Military entirely with it; but would give each a proper share in the Execution, at least for some Years to come, Bad Habits of the Mind, being sooner Cured by Correction, than Exhortation.

As a good many of the Highland Estates must now fall into the Crown, by the Attainders; and as these People are vastly Devoted to their Landlords, I am of opinion that the King should keep them, giving the Tenants good Profitable Leases for a certain Term of Years, by which he will not only gain their Affections, but at the Same time, make it their Interest to Support his

Government; whereas, should His Majesty give them to the leading Men in this Country who have not been in the Rebellion, it may be agreandising them too much, and make them in some measure independant of the Crown, for Gratitude is not the Growth of this Country, Since the Tenants would them look up to their New Masters and not to the King. You see that I Speak my thoughts freely to you just as they enter into my mind, without ranging them in proper order, as you Senators must do before you deliver them to the House, if you expect to be well heard.

Your Nephew is gone on Command to the Barrack of Bernara, near the Isle of Sky, where pleasure will not interrupt his Studies, if he is inclined to follow them. When you see our Friend the Mareschal, Assure him of my most Sincere Respects. The News papers say Lord Stour has got leave to Retire from Bussiness and is coming down here to Spend the remainder of his days. I think he is quite in the Right in doing so, as Age impairs the Mind as well as the Body, and Renders us unfit either for the Field, or Cabinet. I have looked upon him in this light, for some time past, and am glad his understanding is yet strong enough to convince him of it. Lord George Sackville has been on Command with 800 Men Ranging over all the Highlands on the Western Coast, in pursuit of the Rebels, from Bernara down to Argyllshire. This expedition was for a Fortnight, and he returns to Morrow. Lord Loudoun with the Mc Donalds and McCleods are doing the Same in Badenock; Brigad^r Mordaunt is sending Partlars from Perth thro' that County and M.: Gen: Campbell with the Argyllshire Men is Employ'd in those Parts and in the Islands, in Short H. R. H. will so Effectually Subdue this Country before he leaves it, that Rebellion will not in haste raise up its head again. We hear Lord Lovat is taken somewhere in Argyllshire, Lord George having drove him from these parts; and

we are in hopes that Lochal, Mr Murray and Several others will likewise fall into our hands, as it will be almost impossible for them to get of by Sea, as our Ships and Sloops of War are very Active. One Sir James Stuart of the Orknies is taken there. I will now release you, only make my compliments to your Lady, and believe me with much Sincerity,

Dear Sir

Your much obliged and very

Affectionate Humble Servant

Hum: Bland,