

C. Arbuthnot to Col. McCracken

19185-6

Saturday Night

Dear Mr. Graham

Since I saw you I have turned  
to the former debates respecting the  
Prince's debts. You must read them,  
& I would particularly call your attention  
to those of the 27<sup>th</sup> April & 14<sup>th</sup> May  
in 1795. In the former day's debate  
Mr. Grey said "that this was the second  
"application to Parliament to pay the  
"debts of His R. H.; & that too, after a  
"solemn promise had been made that  
"no future debt should be incurred."

On the 14<sup>th</sup> May Mr. Grey said that  
"they should mark their disapprobation  
of

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"of the debts by a direct refusal to enter into  
"any discussion of the subject."

On the 14<sup>th</sup> May, Mr. Fox asked the House  
"In what way would the Prince's dignity  
"be best preserved? By retaining all the  
"splendour of his Establishments, his debts  
"unpaid, or by setting apart such a portion  
"of it as would liquidate his debts, and  
"atone for past indiscretion by future  
"economy." — On the ~~14<sup>th</sup> May~~<sup>1<sup>st</sup> June</sup> 1795 Mr.

Guy said, "The only way which the House  
"had of discharging their duty, was to meet  
"the present application with a direct refusal."

On the ~~14<sup>th</sup> May~~<sup>1<sup>st</sup> June</sup> Mr. Bankes said, "The  
"only way to prevent such things in future  
"was, by not paying the debts now incurred."

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Mr. Grey in the same debate again said  
that "he was entirely against the payments  
"of the debts in any way". On the 1<sup>st</sup> June  
1795 Mr. Sheridan said that "By coming  
"at all to that House to pay his debts, that  
"Prince had been ill advised".

If you have time, do look at all the  
debates in 1795, I look at those in 1803.

I think that after reading them,  
you will see how injurious it would  
be to the Prince if the discussion respecting  
debts were to be renewed in Parliament.  
I must confess that since I have seen  
what passed on former occasions, I know  
not how it will be possible to surmount  
the present difficulties. I am quite sure  
that no Minister could induce the House to  
pay the debts. Y<sup>r</sup> most truly  
Arbuthnot

*F. Ashurst*  
*July 1912*