

E. Burke to Capt. Payne

Aspinwall's Correspondence of Prince of Wales Vol. II no 473.

Sep 24 1789

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From W. Burke

My dear Sir,

I am much obliged to you for your letter. It relieved my mind from some uneasiness; as I was under apprehensions that the liberty I used might possibly have been thought too presuming, in a quarter where of all others I should be most fearful of giving offence. The excursion into Yorkshire was the happiest thing imaginable, & the best adapted to dispel prejudices in that County which was cruelly poisoned with them. I hope his R. H. has been pleased; indeed I ought not to doubt it, because I know the Benevolence of his Character, & that he could not be indifferent to the happiness he gave to so many people. I spent a good part of the evening yesterday in reading a long letter from Lord Fitzwilliam, & two others from a gentleman of the same name, relative to the Princess Yorkshire's visit. They are, with different details,  
all

captive of the infinite satisfaction given by his R. A. to them & to every body who saw him. They all describe his Behaviour as having the ease, grace, & pleasantness of what flowed from pure Nature, & yet to be so managed, towards all persons, in "Number, weight, & measure" as to have the Effect of the greatest discretion, & the soundest Judgment. In particular, it is said, that he was properly attentive & civil to those who were adverse in their Politics, so as rather to please them to offend them, without losing a marked preference to his friends. I hear that his Visit to Lord Shafton produced an excellent Effect. It will take some months to efface the impression made at Wentworth's Castle. The holding up Lord Milton in his arms charmed the people within & without the House. I don't know that your Letter called for an answer; but my reading these Yorkshire accounts put me in mind of your Kindness.

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I could not forbear venturing myself to you whilst it was  
Thinking that I have not suffered by one liberty, I grow  
adventurous enough to take another, dictated by the same  
principle. A Mr. Blair lives in my Neighbourhood. He has  
taken Mr. Wallers House; & his being entirely devoted to the  
Princ makes him a more agreeable Neighbour. I find  
he is a little hurt at finding his Zeal, in appearance,  
not accepted. He wrote to Mr. Fox on a subject w<sup>ch</sup>  
I greatly think interesting; & Mr. Fox as I am informed  
has laid the matter before his R. A. but Mr. Blair has  
not yet received an answer, though the application  
has been made some time ago. I find Mr. Priestley  
is desirous of being permitted to dedicate a new  
Edition of a part of his Works merely philosophical  
to the Prince of Wales. He is a name of considerable  
Estimation in the learned World; & he is a Leader of Weight  
& consequence among the Dissenters. I think his desire  
of dedicating to the Prince looks well upon his  
part; & on that of his R. A. I can see no sort of objection  
he

He can have in adding this indulgence to the Character  
he has already obtained of a protector of Learning & Liberty  
be so kind to excuse this hint. If his R. H. should  
permit D. P. to make the Dedication he writes. He  
soon his R. H. gives his orders to Mr. Foxon  
that Subject the more grace his condescension  
will have.

I have the Honour to be with the most sincere

Respectful regard & Esteem

W<sup>th</sup> D<sup>ty</sup> Sir

Your most faithful  
W<sup>th</sup> D<sup>ty</sup> humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

J<sup>no</sup> Burke

Mr. Burke

Sept. 25

1799

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Sept. 25 1799