

Burton Hall Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 1789.

My Dear Sir

When I proposed our Meeting at Copgrove, my view was not merely to save You a few stages, or the additional hours which the journey to Burton would consume; but also to obtain for myself an opportunity to converse with You & your worthy Colleague, on some matters of no small importance to your joint interest; & which we have long been agreed in thinking of great importance to the Public: & though it would have been extremely inconvenient to me to have left Burton at that time, yet if You could have come to Copgrove, I should have gladly met You; because business is better & much more easily settled among friends, by conversation than by correspondence.

I wished to observe to You, M<sup>r</sup> Dancombe, that though the

nation did not chuse effectually to  
support Mr Pitts Proposal for improving  
the Representation of the People, it  
nevertheless seems to be the general  
wish, that the mode of Elections, in  
Counties particularly, might be rendered  
less expensive & tumultuous; & also,  
that some other obvious improvements  
of inferior consequence might be  
obtained. Among the Freeholders of  
Yorkshire something of this kind  
is not only wished, but with confidence  
expected, under Mr Pitts Administration;  
& it is natural, that they desire to find  
their Representatives, <sup>zealous advocates</sup> ~~zealous advocates~~  
~~Members~~ of the measures to which  
I allude. My opinion on this subject  
I formerly stated to you; & I understood  
that you acceded to it, & engaged to  
~~take~~ <sup>an active part for promoting</sup> the measures then suggested  
during the present Parliament. This  
I always thought should be done with  
Mr Dancombes concurrence & co-operation;

each of You taking a part in the labour  
of bringing those measures forward in  
Parliament, & sharing between You the  
Public Gratitude to which You would  
be justly intitled by success, or by your  
strenuous efforts to secure it. My  
sentiments on the propriety of your joint  
adoption of these measures have not  
been changed; but I do not say, because  
I see no sufficient reason to think, that  
without such adoption You & Mr Duk-  
=combe will lose your seats; I only mean  
to declare my opinion, that if You  
wish your Re-election to be carried  
with as much eclat as your first  
Election, You must jointly exert your  
selves to promote the measures in  
question; without which the zeal  
of many friends will be apt to  
abate. Ill health for some time  
reduced You to a state of inactivity  
which was unfortunate, but too surely

unavoidable: since the re-establishment  
of your health, your Constituents have not  
repined, that their immediate Business was  
postponed, & your talents chiefly employed in  
pleading the cause of the oppressed Africans.  
But after having done that generous service  
to the most despised & injured Race of Men,  
You seem to have Leisure to attend to those  
internal regulations which have been  
mentioned, as the most practicable means  
of improving our Constitution, & for ob-  
taining which the last Session of Parliament  
has been thought the most favourable season.  
Be assured therefore, it is the sense of  
Public Duty which alone impells me to  
express to You & Mr Duncombe my most  
earnest wish, that You will jointly endeavour  
in the next Session, to obtain not only a Law for  
polling in Districts, which I am happy to find  
You are determined to propose, but also  
a Register of Freeholders, & the emancipation  
of Copy holders & unrepresented Freeholders,  
by imparting to them the Right of  
Suffrage. I am ever, My Dear Sir,  
with great regard

most faithfully yours  
W. Wilberforce Esq. C. Weyhill.