

Burton Hall Nov. 11th 1789.

My Dear Sir

When I proposed our meeting at Cosgrove, my view was not merely to save you a few stages, on the additional hours which the journey to Burton would consume; but also to obtain for myself an opportunity to converse with you & your worth 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 Cosgrove, 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,

Duncombe, 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 zealous advocates of the measures to which I allude. My opinion on this subject I formerly related to you; & I understood that You acceded to it, & engaged to take an active par on prompting the measures then suggested during the present Parliament. This I always thought should be done with Mr Duncombes? 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 you 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. Duncombe will lose your seats; I only mean to declare my opinion, that if You wish you Re-election to be carried with as much \_\_\_\_\_ 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= =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 Copyholders & 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. Wesvill.?