

PENSION FOR THE PRETENDER

Henry Benedict Stuart (1725–1807), Cardinal York

to John (c. 1746–1825), Baronet Hippisley

Venice, 26 February 1800

Your letters fully convince me of the cordial interest you take in all that regards my person, and am happy to acknowledge that principally I owe to your friendly efforts, and to them of your friends, the succour generously granted to relieve the extreme necessities into which I have been driven by the present dismal circumstances. I cannot sufficiently express how sensible I am to your good heart, and write these few lines in the first place to confess to you these my most sincere and grateful sentiments, and then to inform you that by means of Mr. Oakley, an English gentleman arrived here last week, I have received a letter from Lord Minto¹ from Vienna, advising me that he had orders from his Court to remit to me at present the sum of £2000; and that in the month of July next, I may again draw, if I desired it, for another equal sum. This letter is written in so extremely genteel and obliging manner, and with expressions of singular regard and consideration for me, that I assure you excited in me most particular and lively sentiments, not only of satisfaction for the delicacy with which the affair has been managed, but also of gratitude for the generosity which has provided for my necessity.

I have answered Lord Minto's letter, and gave it Saturday last to Mr. Oakley, who was to send it by that evening's post to Vienna. I have written in a manner that I hope will be to his Lordship's satisfaction. I own to you that the succour granted to me could not be more timely; for without it, it would have been impossible for me to subsist, on account of the absolutely irreparable loss of all my income, the very funds being also destroyed, so that I should otherwise have been reduced for the short remainder of my life to languish in misery and indigence.

I could not lose a moment's time to apprise you of all this, and am very certain that your experimented good heart will find proper means to make known, in an energetical and proper manner, these sentiments of my grateful acknowledgment.

The signal obligations I am under to Mr. Andrew Stuart² for all that he has, with so much cordiality on this occasion, done to assist me, render it for me indispensable to desire, that you may return him my most sincere thanks, assuring him that his health and welfare interest me extremely. And that I have with great pleasure received from General Acton the genealogical history of our family, which he was so kind as to send me. I hope that he will, from that gentleman, have already received my thanks for so valuable a proof of his attention for me.

In the last place, if you think proper and an occasion should offer itself, I beg you make known to the other gentlemen also who have co-operated my most grateful acknowledgements; with which, my dear Sir John, with all my heart, I embrace you.

The Annual Register ... for the Year 1807 (London: W. Otridge, 1809):829–830. [modernized]

¹ Gilbert Elliot-Murray-Kynynmound (1751–1814), Baron Minto, English Ambassador in Vienna (1799–1801)

² Andrew Stuart (–1801), Member of Parliament for Lanarkshire (1774–1784) and Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (1790–1801)