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My dear Sir

157-211
Tax Office London
5 May 1806

I take an early Opportunity of
returning you thanks for your very distinct and of Mr
Whitbread's Opening Speech in the Impeachment, the more
valuable, as he was cut off from the usual channels of
Information. I have little Defense to so august a Body
as your H^o of Lords, yet I confess I do not perceive much
reason depending in prohibiting a more correct Informer
of what 3000 People must be giving all the world left
correct accounts of.

I heard from one of L^d Melville's Friends a
very candid & fair-minded of Mr W's Opening as being clear
& distinct, that of some more moderate Gentleman-like,
not containing any of that bitter, sometimes gross Invecution,
which Mr Burke (equally in my mind against good Taste
as Humanity) poured out against Mr Hastings on a similar
Occasion. I have heard the same sanguine & confident
Reports on either side which you mention. The partiality of
Friends & Partisans will always obtain such; but
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I have understood that your Acquaintance Mr Adam was equally confident in his opinion in favor of his Client, & him I consider as better Authority. Now comes, as the French say, when the whole Trial is before the public. I have been so much of an Invalid of late, & consequently so little in & out of doors, that I know very little of what is said here on the subject.

I saw in our Newspapers, but with an equal want of better Information, a plan announced by Lord Grenville, for a change in our Court of Session. You are probably well acquainted with the Detail of what is proposed to be done. I heard a good while ago of a proposal of dividing the Court into two Parts or Chambers, & giving jurisdiction in some small matters, rather of Discretion than Law, such as the Treasures, to one Part of each; but for Lord Grenville's speech, if rightly reported, there seemed to be something deeper in contemplation; because he spoke of the most perfect System of the Law & practice of the English Courts, which could hardly apply to the Parliaments I have mentioned. I would much oblige you to let me know, if you can, what of Scope of of Alterations meant to be brought in by Lord Grenville is.

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I hope Mr Chalmer has been quite stout this Season, & that the rest of your family are well. Here I do not remember one so unhealthy, & the present bitter N. Easter will not tend to re-establish delicate People. We are now arrived at the 5th of May, & we had snow for several Hours two days ago.

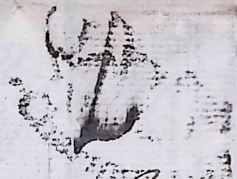
I give you joy of having been, if I have observed rightly, very successful in Appeals this Session. How does your new Chancellor do in that Department? Among other Reports during the winter Session here, was one of a plan for having some eminent Scotch Lawyers visit the Courts of Scotland, to enlighten it on the Law of Scotland.

Mr McK. Long Daughter joins me in best respects to Mr & Miss Chalmer. I am always, with sincere regards, My dear Sir. Yours truly &c

K Mackenzie

Your Letter to Mr Tait was immediately sent him.

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James Chalmers Esq
Abingdon Street
Westminster



Mr H. M. M. M.
for
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