

October 4th - 1799

My Dear Lord

This moment yours of the 3^d Inst^e has been delivered by the Postman, I am heartily concerned that I am obliged to differ with your Lordship (for the first time during a three and twenty years Friendship) in point of Fact as to what passed between you and Lord Cornwallis, it has nothing to do with the present Question which is simply "whether the agreement made by Mr. Knox with Lord Castlereagh is to be adhered to or violated" this agreement was two months subsequent to your conversation with Lord Cornwallis and you will recollect you had two Interviews with the Marquis, the latter of which was by no means so flattering as the first, and was very far from holding out splendid expectations but all prior discussions are always done away by a subsequent agreement, for otherwise it would be absurd ever to think of making one, which would be always open to be departed from by any of the parties on a suggestion that in a prior conversation this thing was said or the other thing was offered - an agreement once made and nothing remains but to carry it into effect according to its terms as fast as possible - the business then comes to this, what was the agreement made by Mr. Knox with Lord Castlereagh respecting the only point that has induced your Lordship to delay matters all the rest being confessedly understood namely

"the vacating Mr. Knox's Seat and mine in order to give the
"Return of the two members to Government in our Places"

This particular Mr. Knox stated distinctly and explicitly
"that Lord Castlereagh at the Outset of the Negotiation
"as a sine qua non. that we must vacate our Seats in the
"present Parliament and that he should have the nomination
"tion of the two new Members" but such a Distinction
as your Lordship conceives of vacating for the question of
Union, and in case Government should be defeated on that
measure that those two new members should vacate and
that you should have a Power of nominating in their
stead for the remainder of the Parliament, never in the
slightest degree was made by Mr. Knox nor even by your
Lordship, but on the contrary your Lordship assented to
that part as well as to every other part of the
Treaty with Lord Castlereagh, and from the Instant you
thus gave your Assent, a full complete and
perfect agreement took place - Mr. Fisher was present
at all this, and it is his duty to come forward and
declare the Fact

on the 10th of July
this Negotiation commenced and from that period to this
I have been kept in Town from any concerns in Clare
in constant expectation of having it concluded, and now
nearly at the end of three months to have it all upset
is very severe -

As to the Engagements that your
Lordship desires and that your Burgesses agreed, it

is a direct contradiction to that part of the agreement
it professes to be conformable to, and is so much trouble
for nothing - but what appears extraordinary to me along
with all the rest of this extraordinary business is, that your
Lordship should prepare or see this Engagement signed
after you were apprised both by Mr. Knox's Letter and mine,
to you and Mr. Lister that any thing short of the identical
Paper sent down by Mr. Knox, would not answer -
I have nothing more to add than to request your Lordship
will bring Mr. Lister up with you directly -

I am my Dear Lord
yours most sincerely
Rob^t. Crowe

To the Earl of Bekeidese
G^t G^t G^t