

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1799

My Dear Lord,

This moment yours of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inst. 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”. [T]his agreement was two months subsequent to your conversation with Lord Cornwallis and you will recollect you had two interviews with the Viceroy [Cornwallis], 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 the subsequent agreement, for otherwise it would be absurd ever to think of making one, which would be always departed from by one 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 the terms as fast as possible. [T]he 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 laid it down as a *sine qua non* [an essential condition or action] that we must vacate our seats in the present Parliament and that he should have the nomination 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 the 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 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 Usher was present at all of this, and it his duty to come forward and declare the Fact.

On the 10 July this Negotiation commenced and from that period to this I have been kept in Town from any [other?] 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 Engagement that Your Lordship describes and that your burgesses (?) signed, it is a direct contradiction to that part of the agreement it proposes to be conformable (?) to, and is so much trouble for nothing. [B]ut 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 appraised (?) both by Mr Knox's letter and mine to you and Mr Usher that one 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 Usher up with you directly.

I am my Dear Lord

Yours most sincerely

Robt Crowe

To the Earl of Belvidere

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