

MEMORANDUM

BETWEEN THE 9TH JUNE 1826, AND 5TH JANUARY 1827.

(From an Evening Paper.)

The interest excited by the situation of the late Duke of York, and by every circumstance connected with his long, painful, and lingering illness, from its commencement until the fatal hour which closed his valuable existence, has been so great, and the general feeling which it produced, has caused so many particulars to be circulated and received by the public as authentic, for which there either was no foundation, or at least very imperfect foundation, that I have, upon due consideration, been induced to draw up from minutes taken during this distressing and trying period of my attendance upon his Royal Highness, a statement, not of the progress of the disease, or of the treatment pursued, but of such circumstances and facts as will show the condition of his Royal Highness's mind under this awful visitation of PROVIDENCE; will do justice to the exemplary resolution and pious resignation with which he met and submitted to it; and will satisfy his attached friends that his Royal Highness was, in every point of view, deserving of the respect and the affection which have so strongly marked their sentiments towards him, and of the deep grief and regret which his death has occasioned in their minds, and in those of the respectable and well-thinking individuals of every class in the country.

The state of his Royal Highness's health had, for some time, appeared far from satisfactory, and had occasioned more or less uneasiness to those about him, but the first indications of serious indisposition, such as to produce alarm, were upon his Royal Highness's return from Ascot to his residence in Audley-square, on the 9th of June 1826, and Mr. Macgregor, who then saw him, urged him immediately to send for Sir Henry Hallford.

From that period his Royal Highness continued more or less an invalid, and was occasionally confined to his house.

Upon the 24th June, his Royal Highness removed, for the change of air, to Brompton-park, the residence of Mr. Greenwood, who kindly lent it to him, and upon that day he sent for me, and told me that he had been unwell for some weeks, and that he did not think that he gained ground. That he did not feel alarmed, and that he had perfect confidence in the attention given to his case, and the skill of his medical advisers; but that he knew that they might entertain apprehensions, which they would consider it their professional duty not to communicate to their patients, and he might therefore remain ignorant of that which ought not to be concealed from him, and which he trusted he should learn without apprehension, although he did not deny that he should learn it with regret. That there were duties to be performed, and arrangements to be made, which ought not to be deferred to the last moment, and he felt that it was due to his character and station, to his comfort, and even to his feelings on this subject, that he should not be taken by surprise upon so serious an occasion. He considered it probable that the physicians would be less reserved with me than with him, and he charged me if I should learn from them directly, or should have reason to draw such inference from any expression that might drop from them, that his situation had become one of danger, not to withhold such knowledge from him. He appealed to me, upon this occasion for an act of friendship—he would add, for the discharge of a duty, which he claimed from the person who had been with him, and enjoyed his confidence during so many years; he called upon

me to promise that I would perform it whenever the period should arrive to which he alluded; and he desired me to bear in mind that he wished me to deal by him as he was certain I should desire, under similar circumstances, to be dealt with.

I made the promise without hesitation, and it was received with a warm expression of thanks, and an affectionate pressure of the hand.

This was repeated in allusion to what had passed at a later period of the day, when he got into his carriage to go to Brompton, and he then said that he felt relieved from great uneasiness by the promise I had given him.

His Royal Highness removed to Brighton on the 14th August, for the benefit of further change of air; and I learnt from Mr. Macgregor, on the 17th of that month, that a change had taken place in his general state, and that symptoms had appeared which rendered his situation one of danger.

This distressing information was confirmed to me from other quarters, and I determined immediately to go to Brighton, and to discharge my duty, but to be guided in the character and extent of the disclosure by such further communication as might be made to me by his Royal Highness's medical attendants of the nature and pressure of the danger. I pleaded business rendering personal communication necessary for my visit to his Royal Highness, and I went to Brighton, on the 19th of August. Upon my arrival I learnt from Mr. Macgregor that a favourable change had taken place, that His Royal Highness had gained strength, and that the most alarming symptoms had in great measure subsided, that his Royal Highness's situation might therefore be considered far more encouraging than when he wrote to me, but that it was impossible to consider it free from danger, although that danger had ceased to be immediate, and although there was reason to hope that the cause of alarm might be removed.

He added that, from observations which his Royal Highness had made to himself, he was convinced I would find him prepared for any communication I might feel it my duty to make to him, and that under all circumstances, I must exercise my discretion.

I then saw the Duke of York, who entered fully into his situation, and told me that although much better then, and he believed, going on well, he had reason to think, from the manner and looks of his medical attendants, that they had been alarmed, and felt much greater uneasiness than they had expressed, or might feel at liberty to express, and he wished to know what I had learnt.

I did not disguise from him that, bearing in mind the engagement I had contracted, I had determined to go to Brighton in consequence of the accounts I had received on the 17th, which had alarmed me, but that I was happy to find on my arrival, that his Royal Highness's state had since been improving, and that much of the uneasiness which then prevailed had been removed; at the same time it was my duty to confirm the impression which he appeared himself to have received, that his complaint had assumed a more serious character, although great confidence appeared to be felt that the extraordinary resources of his constitution, and the strength he had gained since his removal to Brighton, would enable him to struggle successfully with the disorder.

Then (said he) I was not mistaken in my suspicions, and my case is not wholly free from danger; but I depend upon your honour, and you tell me there is more to hope than to fear.

I assured him that such was decidedly the impression I had received from what Mr. Macgregor had said to me. He thanked me,

and proceeded to look over and give directions upon some official papers with his usual attention and accuracy.

He saw Mr. Macgregor the same evening, and questioned him; and he told me on the following day that Mr. Macgregor had answered him very fairly, and had confirmed what I had said to him, as did Sir Matthew Tierney later to the day. On that same day he told me that he felt stronger, that his mind was relieved by what had passed, as he knew he should not be deceived, or left to form his own conjectures, and draw his own conclusions, from the looks and manner of his medical attendants and others about him; and that he had not, for months, slept so well as the preceding night.

I repeated to him, that I had come to Brighton under considerable alarm, and that I should leave it very much relieved. His Royal Highness was cheerful, and I heard from Mr. Macgregor and others that he continued so during the following days. Indeed he wrote to me himself in very good spirits, and assured me of the comfort and relief he had derived from the proof afforded to him that he should be fairly dealt with.

His Royal Highness returned from Brighton on the afternoon of the 26th of August, to the Duke of Rutland's house, in Arlington-street, having come in five and a half hours. He did not seem much fatigued, looked well in the countenance, and conversed cheerfully with Sir Henry Torrens and me, who were in waiting to receive him.

He afterwards told me that his strength, sleep, and appetite, had improved, but that the medicine he had taken had ceased to have the desired effect in checking the progress of the main disorder, and that he had therefore returned to town earlier than had been intended, in order, as he understood, to try some change of treatment, which he apprehended might be tapping. This was an unpleasant hearing, though it did not alarm him. He was determined to keep up his spirits. He knew his situation was a serious one, but he had no doubt, please G.O.D., he should recover, though he feared his recovery would be a work of time.

In the course of conversation I told him that I understood Sir Henry Hallford would be in town on the following day, and did not mean to return to the country. He observed it was very kind of him, but immediately added, "by the by, not a very good sign either."

He then proceeded very quietly to official business, but Mr. Macgregor coming in, he, in the most calm and collected manner, questioned him before me, very closely, as to his state, beginning by these words—"Tell me honestly, do you consider me in danger?" "Not in immediate danger," was the answer. "But," said his Royal Highness, "you consider my situation to be one not free from danger?" Mr. Macgregor admitted it to be by no means free from danger, but proceeded to state the grounds which justified his medical attendants in indulging hopes that his Royal Highness might look forward to a favourable issue.

Mr. Macgregor's answer produced further questions, all put with a view to obtain positive and accurate information as to the extent of danger, and he concluded by thanking Mr. Macgregor for the fair manner in which he had met them, and by saying, "I know now what I wished to know, and I shall be able to govern myself by that knowledge." During the whole of this conversation, which was of some length, his manner was firm and collected, though very serious, his voice free from agitation, his questions were put quietly at intervals, as if well considered by a man who was determined to ascertain his own situation, and his words were measured.

He afterwards desired me to repeat what Mr. Macgregor had said, as I understood it, that he might be satisfied he had not mistaken him. I did so; and he observed that he also had so understood him, but that he did not augur from it that his case was hopeless, which impression I confirmed. He expressed an earnest hope that the symptoms of his disorder were not generally known or talked of.

I have been thus particular in the statement of what passed upon these three occasions, to show how anxious his Royal Highness was not to be kept in the dark, how fearlessly he met the communication of the existence of danger; and, above all, to show that he was early apprised of his critical state, from the contemplation of which he at no time shrunk, although he was at all times anxious to conceal from the generality of those who approached him that he did not look forward with undiminished confidence to a favourable issue.

On the following day, Sunday, the 27th of August, his Royal Highness again spoke to me very quietly, in regard to his situation, and told me that although not alarmed, and although he had heard nothing that should shake his hopes of ultimate recovery, he could not conceal from himself that his situation called for serious contemplation. Whatever might be the result, there would be time for certain arrangements, and the settlement of his affairs, but there was one duty he did not wish to defer; he felt, indeed, that it ought not to be deferred until it should seem to be imposed by a conviction of immediate danger, and resorted to when hope had ceased to exist. He had, therefore, determined to take the Sacrament upon an early day, and to request his friend the Bishop of London to administer it to him; but he was anxious that this should not be known, as the alarm would be sounded, and various interpretations would be put upon an act, which was one of duty, resorted to upon principle, and not from apprehension or al-

fectionation; he, therefore, directed me to see the Bishop of London, and to request him to come to him on the following Tuesday, at twelve. He desired that I would explain to him his desire that the attendance should be quiet, and not excite observation; that he wished the service to be simply that of the Communion, as he did not now apply to him for his attendance as upon a sick person. He also desired me to be present, and to take the Sacrament with him.

He told me that he had well considered the act. He was sure that, under any circumstances, it would tend to his satisfaction, comfort, and relief, and that he ought not to postpone it.

I went to the Bishop of London (at Fulham), who received the communication with great emotion, and spoke in the highest terms of the exemplary feeling which had actuated his Royal Highness's wish, and said that he would come quietly to Arlington-street on Tuesday, at twelve, without robes (as upon ordinary occasions), and without notice to any one, and I engaged to have all prepared.

I returned to Arlington-street to inform his Royal Highness, and it was agreed that his servant, Bachelor, should alone be apprised of the intention, and that I should take care to keep others out of the way. His Royal Highness again said that he should derive great comfort from this early discharging his duty. He also gave me instructions to clear his drawers in Audley-square of private and to bring them away, and to seal up those of private nature. He said he should by degrees look the matter over and attend to other matters, and repeatedly assured me that all this was done in thought of without any apprehension of a further issue of his disorder, and that he was confident he should recover.

The Princess Sophia (who usually came every day at two o'clock), had been with him, and asked him whether she was aware of his situation. He said he believed not, at least he had said nothing to alarm her; possibly, however, she might be to a certain extent, and he had therefore said nothing to undeceive her.

When I saw Bachelor, I learned from him (what I had never previously known) that his Royal Highness, when he did not go to Church, never missed devoting some time to his prayers, which he read to himself, in general early, that he might not be disturbed, but it disturbed in the morning, in the afternoon, or evening; and that when travelling on Sunday, he always took a Bible and Prayer Book in the carriage, and was very particular as to their being placed within his immediate reach; and that although he did not object to a travelling companion on other days, nothing annoyed him more than any one proposing to be his companion on a Sunday.

His Royal Highness saw Sir Henry Hallford on that day, and questioned him very closely as to his situation. Sir Henry told me that he had answered his questions fairly, and that he had found his Royal Highness in an excellent state of mind, and that he could not sufficiently admire the resolution and composure with which he sought for information, and dwelt upon the Question of danger. He observed that there was no difficulty in dealing with such a patient.

His Royal Highness told me afterwards that Sir Henry Hallford's conversation had confirmed the impression he had received from what Mr. Macgregor had said, and he expressed himself perfectly satisfied with it.

His Royal Highness continued in good spirits, and in the same composed state of mind on the 28th and 29th.

On the latter day the Bishop of London came at a little before twelve, and his Royal Highness was alone with him for a short time after which I was called in, and his Lordship administered the Sacrament to us.

The Duke's departure was serious as became the occasion, but firm, and quite free from agitation. He did not appear nervous or affected, though he must have perceived that neither the Bishop or I were free from either feeling.

The Bishop of London told me afterwards that nothing could be more correct or satisfactory than all his Royal Highness had said to him when they were alone, and that his state of mind was that which he would wish, under such circumstances, to find that of any person in whose welfare he is interested.

(To be Continued)

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