

Aus den Acten betr. Das Staatsgrundgesetz
Fasc. 13., betr. Eine Erklärung Seiner
Königl. Hoheit des Herzogs von Cumber-
land No act. Ad 1. b.

Abstract of a Letter from His Royal High-
ness the Duke of Cumberland to H.R.H.
the Duke of Cambridge, dated Kew October
30th 1831.

On Thursday last by direction of the
King I had a long meeting with Omp-
teda and Falcke and they laid before
the a new Plan proposed, I must say
that it does both the King and the
Government the highest honor the
manner in which they have drawn
up their Proposals and there was not
one single objection that I could find
or alteration to propose except in three
Points.

First, to the Proposal of the Discussions
being Public. This I protested against,
being convinced from experience, that
this must lead to the most serious
mischief, as it will induce to Democra-
tic Members in the Second Chamber

to harangue for the Public, and not for the Benefit of the Topic before Them;

I was told in reply, that there was to be the following Safeguard; first Every Member could move that Strangers should withdraw, and secondly that Government had reserved to itself the Right that at any time any measure they chose should be discussed privately.

My opinion on this is the following, whoever proposes clearing the Galleries becomes a marked man, which is an odious thing, and would prevent many from taking this step tho they might think is necessary, and if Government should at any time adopt this Right, it would create the most serious suspicions. All this would be avoided by remaining as you are and to which they have been accustomed.

My second remark is to the idea of

of giving Diäten to the Members, this must strike You would lead to the proccastination of business, instead of dispatch of business and therefore I am decidedly against that idea. And lastly it appears to Me highly necessary that arrangements should be made, whereby the Military for the time of years they are obliged to serve should be under Military Law alone whether with their Regiments, or on Furlough and on this point there can be little or no difficulty for as the Cavalry Officers are distributed in the different parts of the country, and they are non obliged to visit their Cantonnements so they would equally be ordered to inspect their Men of the Infantry and all Complaints being made instanter to them when they could be forwarded to the next Garnisons for Enquiry ____.

These are the only three Points I have to remark upon and the King who I saw on Friday, and who had heard My

remarks in a letter from Ompteda said
"He agreed most perfectly and entirely
with Me, and has stated the same to
Ompteda." It is impossible for any man
to have behaved more nobly or disin-
terestedly than the King has done
in this whole business and both his
head and heart have shone on this
occasion.
Ernest.

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Aus den Acten: betr. Das Staatsgrundgesetz
Fasc. 13., betr. Eine Erklärung Sr. Königl.
Hoheit des Herzogs von Cumberland No act.
Ad 1. b.
a.

Brighton Novbr.
7th 1831

Sir,

I have been honored with the
Kings Commands to transmit to Your
Royal Highness Copies of a Letter from
His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumber-
land to His Majesty and of His Majesty's
Answer with reference to the Arrange-
ments which you desired Mr. Falcke
to submit to the King and which He
authorized Baron Ompteda and Mr.
Falcke to communicate to the Duke
of Cumberland.

His Majesty considers it adviseable
That Your Royal Highness and the
Hannovrian Government should be
in possession of these Documents and
He trusts They will prove satisfactory
to You.

I have the Honor to be with the
most destiful Attachment

Sir

Your Royal Highness
most devoted humble Servant

Taylor.

Field Marshal
His Royal Highness
The Duke of Cambridge

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Aus den Acten: betr. Das Staatsgrundgesetz
Fasc. 13., betr. Eine Erklärung Seiner Königl.
Hoheit des Herzogs von Cumberland.

No act: Ad 16.

b.

Copy. Private.

October 31. 1831

Dear Brother,

I cannot resist troubling You with a few lines to express to You My gratitude for having sent Baron Ompteda and Mr. Falcke to me in order that I might be made acquainted with the proposed arrangements in the new administration of the different branches of the State at Hannover and I cannot sufficiently declare My perfect satisfaction in all, at every point. No Man could possibly have acted more nobly and disinterestedly than You have done, acting not by Words but by Deeds, and proving thus that Your sole object is to place the finances of the country of Hannover on a footing that Your Successors may not have difficulties. I was rejoiced to find not only from Yourself, but equally from what these gentlemen have since told me that You perfectly coincided in opinion with Me on those three points I took the liberty of submitting to You,

and Baron Ompteda told Me that the same had struck You originally when the two first were mentioned to You, therefore it does appear to Me most extraordinary, how the Government, who must not only from Reflection, but from their Experience that they must have abstained from doing what has been going on of late in the states of Bavaria and Württemberg, have even for a single moment allowed themselves to entertain such as an Idea, which it is My firm conviction if ever granted must lead sooner or later to the total subversion of the State and Ministry there. And I know, that the King of Bavaria is now fully convinced of the folly of having given way on that point of Public discussion, but once granted and once introduced can now no more be denied them. I was the more surprised at the proposal having been made to You as Baron Bremen and Myself have so often dis-

discussed together over that Point of Publicity against which He was as much opposed as Myself; this first point appears to Me to be the most essential, the 2nd respecting the Payment of the Members I think equally objectionable and better if not adopted but should it be upon the whole thought more prudent to give way; than at least the Expense must fall upon the Country and not on the Sovereign and with such restrictions that the States cannot protract the business in order to be paid the longer. In this view of the subject I think but these Gentlemen seemed fully to concur with Me. I understand that the Proposal respecting the military point must be brought forward not in this Arrangement but afterwards, and in this necessity of this they agree fully. I took the liberty of shewing them, that there could be no difficulty in the Execution of it,

for as all the Cavalry that are on Furlough are forced to Report themselves to the Officers who are quartered nearest to them, so the Infantry would equally be inspected by the same Cavalry Officer or by the Infantry Officer if their garnisons are contiguous and all complaints immediately forwarded to that Officer who was nearest the Complainant. By such an arrangement no additional Expense could possibly be incurred as their officers are now obliged to inspect all their Quarters monthly and the Men on Forlough I think three times in the course of each Month. I think now I have explained Myself perfectly clearly, at least I hope so, and I beg once more to offer You My warmest and sincerest thanks for Your communication. Believe Me

Ernest.

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Aus den Acten betr. Das Staatsgrundgesetz
Fasc: 13., betr. Eine Erklärung Sr. Königl.
Hoheit des Herzogs von Cumberland
No act: Ad 16.
c.

Brighton Novbr. 3rd 1831

My dear Brother,
I have to thank You for Your kind Letter
Of the 31.' of last Month and to assure You of
The Pleasure with which I learnt that the arrange-
ments which I directed Baron Ompteda and
Mr. Falcke to communicate to You had proved
in general so satisfactory to You. I rejoice also,
that You have so correctly understood the
feeling and the principle which have guided
My Decision upon the Points which are im-
mediately connected with My own Position
as King of Hanover and the Interests of My
Successors. The consideration of these applies
particularly to Yourself and to Your promi-
sing Son and it has been My cordial inclina-
tion, as I felt it to be My Duty, to make
such arrangements as would be conducial
to the advantage and the security of My
Successors, under any Contigencies which
might arise out of these troubled times.
With regard to the Measures which are
more of a Public and Administrative Charac-
ter it appears almost superfluous that I

For the Duke of
Cumberland K.G.

should say that it had appeared to My of the utmost importance to the Welfare and Prosperity of the Country which in the course of Nature You may be called upon to Govern, and to Your own comfort and tranquillity that You should be fully informed of what has been proposed to Me and that You should be satisfied that the omission of it has not been hasty nor inconsiderate, nor inconsistent with a just and liberal, tho I trust not a timid view of the state of My Kingdom of Hannover, and of those general circumstances which have produced the Desires of changes in the Constitution, and the necessity of attending to such a manifestation of the feelings of the several classes of My Hannovrian Subjects.

It has been My anxious desire to consult Their advantage and the general Interests of the Country and I hope, that what is proposed to be granted may be considered, as the result of just and equitable reflection, and not as conceded from

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from motions which would deprive the Boon of its value and security.

As You have had an opportunity of Communicating to Mr. Falcke Your sentiments upon the Subject of Publicity of Discussion and the Payment of the Members of the Lower House, He will be able to call the attention of the Duke of Cambridge and the Government to these and I have not doubt that such consideration will be given to them as circumstances may seem to admit.

I agree with You that it would be very desirable to subject the Infantry Soldiers when on Forlough to the Muster and Inspection of Officers quartered within convenient reach, but as they do not receive Pay when on Forlough, I should doubt their being then amenable to the Military Discipline and Superintendance, although liable, from being Enliated and attested, to answer call, when required to join their Corps in which they receive Pay as Soldiers.

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This is a question for the consideration of those who are cognizant of the Military and indeed of the Civil Law, as administered in Hannover and I conclude that the Duke of Cambridge will refer it for their opinion.

Believe Me to be

William R.

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Copy.

Hannover Dec 18th 1835

Dear Sir,

I have received Your Paper, containing the four articles which You have forwarded to me, conceiving that I can sign these without any way, committing Myself, or giving thereby My consent to the Staats-Grund Gesetz.

I had already I thought sufficiently explained to You in our conversation of the day before yesterday, the reason why I objected to sign the "Family Law" – as it appears to Me that there is hardly any one Article of that "Law", which is not more or less based, on the Staats Grund Gesetz.

I am too honest a man, ever to put my name to any Paper or Document, unless in so doing I mean honestly and truly to act up to it. - There are certainly many points in the Staats-Grund Gesetz, which before I can make up my mind to consent to, must be much more clearly explained to Me and therefore the "Family Law" being based, upon the other, must depend on my agreeing to the former.

I must now be the more cautious, as You showed me the Copy of a letter, which I am stated to have written to the King in the Year 1832, in which having only objected to one or two articles

The Baron Falcke

and having said I was satisfied upon the whole, it is understood that I made no further opposition to the Staats-Grund-Gesetz - permit Me therefore to make this remark, that when You and Baron Ompteda read the Staats Grund Gesetz to me, My first object was to thank His Majesty for the Communication He had made Me and for His extreme Liberality in reserving to himself only 6000 £ per annum – but of the Income – and for His anxious wish to increase the Revenue of His Successor - at the same time (to the best of my recollection) there were still some few points which struck Me so forcibly at the time, that I animadverted upon them - such as - the paying the Members of the Chambers - Publicity of the Proceedings - and about the Military Law.

You must remember that the whole You read To Me upon the occasion took up about from 3. to 4. Hours – Now, It is hardly possible to be supposed, that any man however accustomed He may be to public affairs – could possibly understand a matter of this importance, when read to Him, as I may say, in full galopp as it was and in a Foreign Language – even now, that I have for the last week been taken up with discussing and de-

demanding explanations from various members of the Government, I feel the greater difficulty in comprehending the whole, for, I plainly see that one change has led to another – and that even to this hour, no man can exactly tell Me, where it is to end – besides, I really cannot see, the necessity of hurrying this “Family Law” – as in fact, It can only have reference to Myself and My Son – there being one clause which positively states, that no Member of a Family shall be admitted as an Appanage, unless He becomes resident in the Country – Now, I should hardly believe that whenever that unfortunate Event shall arrive for such a decision, that any Member of the Family will settle to Hanover and quit England – and therefore It can only concern Myself and My Son: but, my principal objection to signing this Paper relating to the Family is, that turn it as You will, talk of It as You may choose; It always has reference to that great change which, I, for One, have always deprecated – namely, the throwing the Domain casse into the other – from the moment this takes place, tho’ it may be beneficial in a pecuniary way, still it must destroy the Authority of

the Sovereign – and prevent him from doing those acts of Grace, which every Sovereign ought to have – this I know is the opinion of many persons far better informed than I am – and I therefore cannot without having much more time to fathom the whole – and hear fully and dispassionately both sides of the Question, allow myself, (thus feeling) to sign any Paper of this kind.

The objections You mention I made, such as in regard to paying the Members, Publicity of Debates and other little Points, were what struck Me at the moment – but now that I have read the Papers and discussed them with Persons, who are conversant in such matters – I own my doubts are still greater – and that I must have much more aid & advice before I can allow Myself to take so serious a Step, as You propose my doing. I have now given You My honest opinion and hope You will not disapprove of my decision
Yours Sincerely
Ernest.