

Hanover Lodge

11 September 1831

Dear Mr Frances

There is something so cruel and unjust in using ~~letter or penalty~~ letters or ~~the production~~ of correspondence privately to ruin the character and prospects of an individual, without affording him an opportunity to defend himself, or learn the charges against him, that I trust in

your friendship (derived I hope from observing my conduct through life) that you will more for the production before the House of Commons of

“Copies of such parts of Official letters or correspondence addressed to the secretary of the Admiralty by the British Admirals, Commodores, Captains or Commanders, [1] as relate to the conduct of Lord Cochrane (now Earl of Dundonald) during his deployment abroad, and also copies of all such parts of semi-official letters usually marked private addressed by such officers to my ~~dcullyd~~ or members of the board of admiralty affecting the character and conduct of Lord Cochrane, which have been produced and read officially at the board of Admiralty or at the board

of Privy Council”.

~~I am now quite determined as~~ My last resource is to lay before the public (in some shape or other) an account of the treatment I have met with ~~in some shape or other~~ since, I eschewed ~~in public life~~ the Naval Service; and-if you will open the way, and excel ~~some~~ an-interest in the public mind by this motion ~~it~~ [2] you will greatly facilitate my objective of obtaining justice, if not at the hands of Government, at least from the Community at large.

The Duke of Cumberland, the Gambiers and Ellenboroughs, their friends and supporters, are most anxious to keep me down, but they will find that to be the least efficient means to escape the exposure they merit.

Is it not Monstrous that semi-official documents marked private should be read at a Board of Admiralty and used at a Privy Council as they have been! [3]

I hope by ~~this motion, and~~ your powerful aid to detect the individuals who have called for or produced these documents ~~as well as those who have written them and then who produced~~ and who have promoted such ~~there~~ Chamber proceedings. They are unworthy of being counsellors to a King, ~~members of a government~~ and ought to be dismissed. No Government can long enjoy ~~maintain retain~~ public confidence whose proceedings ~~aets~~ are not founded on the laws of the justice and honour.