

Lord Balmerino to the King, from the Tower of
London, where he lay awaiting sentence of death

17th Aug. 1746.

SIR,

You may remember that in the year 1716 when your Majesty was in Scotland, I left a company of foot purely with a design to serve your Majesty, and had I not made my escape then, I should certainly have been shot for a Deserter. When I was abroad, I lived many years at my own charges before I ask'd any thing from you, being unwilling to trouble your Majesty while I had any thing of my own to live upon, and when My Father wrote me that he had a Remission for me, which was got without my asking or knowledge, I did not accept of it till I first had Your Majesty's permission.

Sir, when His Royal Highness the Prince your Son came to Edinr., as it was my bounden and indispensable Duty, I joyn'd Him, for which I am tomorrow to lose my Head on a Scaffold, whereat I am so far from being dismay'd, that it gives me Great Satisfaction and peace of mind, that I die in so Righteous a cause.

I hope, Sir, on these considerations your Majesty will provide for my Wife so as she may not want Bread, which otherwise she must do, My Brother having left more debt on the Estate than it was worth, and having nothing in the world to give her.

I am with the most profound Respect

Sir

Your Majesty's

most faithfull and devoted Subject and Servant,

BALMERINO