

For the better understanding my case, it may be necessary to take a short retrospect of some of the leading principles and situations by which I have been governed.

I had been a member of the House of Commons nearly an entire Parliament before I became a candidate for Preston. The testimony of my conduct during that time, of which I was most proud, was the approbation of Lord Strange, under whose auspices I first offered myself to your favour. It was my happiness to be his relation; but it was my highest honour that he was my friend by choice. You knew him well—His natural affections were strong; but his public virtues were inflexible; and no family connection or interest, unaccompanied with opinion, could have influenced his recommendation for a trust from the people.

The system upon which I had acted the preceding Parliament, and upon which I continued to act in the seat your favour gave me, was short and plain;—a constitutional support of the Crown—a liberal reliance on those who then conducted the public measures—but an independent claim to free opinion and free conduct upon every occasion in which my judgment called upon me to depart from my general line.

Government gave me countenance and gave me favours; but never at the expence of those principles: and I reflect with pleasure and