

My Lord¹.

I am extremely happy and satisfied to have been informed by *ubique*², that your Lordship and the Countess³ enjoy a perfect treasure of health, and moreover that your Lordship has the intention to write me before the next post-day, which will give me great joy, as such has not happened for six years, and for which I felt very sorrowful and had the idea that I perhaps offended your Lordship in my writings. If this has happened, excuse moi, and I ask for forgiveness, but due to a long absence the close relationship is not being cultivated, which I hope and wish will not take place, although we have not seen or spoken to each other for sixteen years. Yes, I dare to say that if I were convinced that my person would not be disagreeable to your Lordship, I would like to attempt to have verbal communication with your Lordship, as it would be clearly for the last time, and to lay my circumstances at your Lordship's feet.

My wife is now pregnant with her seventh child⁴, and therefore, because of heavy expenses, we can not live on our interest any longer, but have to eat into our capital from year to year and the conclusion is: the end tries all. Moreover there are special taxes, due to critical circumstances in which the Republic has been, caused by the unjust war imposed upon by France, or rather by the King's murderers. Thank God they have left the Republic after capitulation, having first inflicted some destruction on various cities through the fire of war. Yes, even vacated the whole of Brabant. General Demorier⁵ has even put on the white cocarde⁶ and is marching with his whole army towards France. The common people have sworn an oath of loyalty not to desert their general, who will attempt to restore order and peace there.

The Prussians, the Emperor, and the Orangists will concentrate at the frontiers to assist General Demorier if necessary.

Rijssel⁷ and some other places will now be occupied by the combined powers. Here opinion is divided about the behaviour of Demorier, since His Excellency always has been a proponent of freedom, namely Liberty and Equality, and now in a moment he has changed, and would use the sword of war against those who would carry him on their shoulders.

I do not sit in the cabinets. I think more than I would judge proper to write about the future. Thank heaven they did not achieve their plans, because they would have brought the whole of Europe in the hobble and raised Hell. Where can these King's murderers seek refuge? Every virtuous soul disapproves of this deed. The Powers will not make life easy for them; no hiding place should be available for the rabble. I know from reliable sources that the English court has made a proposition to that extend. They are worse than the servants of *jogsooms*⁸.

I would write extensively about the riots that took place here and elsewhere, but your Lordship will not be unaware of them.

My Lord I am your humble Serv[ant]
Gron[ingen]: 17 April 1793

A[lexander]: Falconer

¹ Alexander's brother: Antony Adriaan Falconer, 7th Lord of Halkerton, 5th Earl of Kintore

² Ubique = Latin for everywhere; here: everyone in the family

³ Antony Adriaan Falconer's spouse: Christina Elisabeth Sichterman

⁴ from this pregnancy Johan Hendrik Falconer was born; baptized 15 May 1793. However, from the registered children of Alexander, this was the 6th child. It is unclear why Alexander speaks about his 7th child in this letter.

⁵ Dumouriez

⁶ Cocarde = a roset, worn as badge on a military headgear

⁷ Lille

⁸ Meaning of 'jogsooms' is uncertain