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43 Pall Mall, London, January 21st 1836

Copy.

My dear Sir,

I have had the honour to receive the invitation of the Committee of the Reform Dinner, which you had the goodness to forward to me; and as I cannot accept it I feel myself the more bound to express my gratitude for the interest taken in Birmingham in the cause of my country to which I owe this flattering invitation.

Birmingham has always been one of the places in England where sympathy for Poland has been felt and expressed with the greatest kindness and energy. Nowhere should I have seen more happy to express loudly the thanks which my countrymen owe to the English nation in general, and to your fellow-townsmen in particular. I must however deny myself that satisfaction. Though constantly devoted, in my own country, to sound liberal principles and to the progress of the poorer classes in wealth, comforts and importance, I am of opinion that the cause of Poland ought to be carefully separated from all the questions which divide this country on her internal politics. Poland has friends in all parties, and it is our wish to unite them all in favour of her destinies. I think it then my duty to abstain from meetings called together for an avowed party object, into which it is more proper and becoming for foreigners not to interfere. Nothing seems more important to the cause of my country than to be kept distinct from any party question. For while it is allowed to rest upon its own foundation, no good and clear-sighted man can refuse to support it what ever be his opinions or social differences.

As a true friend of Poland you will I hope approve my motives; and I flatter myself that my absence will not preclude the manifestation of the noble sentiments which your friends have so often evinced towards my country.

I beg you would convey to the Committee my regrets that I cannot profit of the honour they have done me; and be so kind as to add, to my sincerest thanks, the explanation of my motives. — Believe me with true regards

My dear Sir,

Your very faithful

obedient servant

A. Carrington

To Thomas Attwood Esq^r
Birmingham.

Copy

My dear Sir

43 Pall Mall, London, January 21. 1836

I have had the honour to receive the invitation of the Committee of the Reform Bazaar, which you had the goodness to forward to me; and as I cannot except it I feel myself the more bound to express my gratitude for the interest taken in Birmingham in the cause of my country to which I owe this flattering invitation.

Birmingham has always been one of the places in England where sympathy for Ireland has been felt and expressed with the greatest kindness and energy. I wish I could have been more happy to express fully the thanks which my countrymen owe to the English Nation in general and to your fellow-townsmen in particular. I must however be very myself that satisfaction though constantly doubted, in my own country, to some liberal principles and to the progress of the poorer classes in wealth, comfort and importance, I am of opinion that the cause of Ireland ought to be carefully separated from all the questions which divide this country on her internal politics. Ireland has friends in all parties, and it is our wish to unite them all in favour of her distress. I think it then my duty to abstain from meetings called together for an avowed party object, into which it is more proper and becoming for foreigners not to interfere. Nothing seems more important to the cause of my country than to be kept distinct from any party question. For while it is allowed to rest upon its own foundation, no good and enlightened man can refuse to support it what ever be his opinions or social differences.

As a true friend of Ireland you will I hope approve my motives; and I flatter myself that my absence will not preclude the manifestation of the noble sentiments which your friends have so often evinced towards my country. — I beg you would convey to the Committee my regrets that I cannot profit of the honour they have done me; and be so kind as to add, to my sincerest thanks, the explanation of my motives. — Believe me with true regards

My dear Sir
 Your very faithful
 obedient servant
 A. Cartwright

To Thomas Atwood Esq
 Birmingham.