

To His Most Gracious Majesty The King

Sire,

Your Majesty's well known clemency and indulgence to the humblest of your subjects has induced me to hope that the singular and important circumstances which I venture to submit to your consideration will not be considered unworthy your attention.

It is not till lately that I was made acquainted with the fact of my owing my existence to the late Queen Caroline, having till within the last few years been taught to believe myself to have been the child of the late Prince Edward Duke of Kent; the mystery which hung over my birth was rendered by those around me impenetrable, and by no endeavor could I draw from Her Majesty any explanation than that she herself was a mother to me, which answer I imputed to the tender care which she bestowed upon me.

In my earliest infancy I was called Caroline and this name was given me by His Majesty King George the Third, whose affection supplied that of the fondest parent, and whose lap was ever ready to receive me with a tenderness no time can ever efface from my memory, during His Majesty's visits at Montagu House.

In the year 1706 I was sent to Bath to be educated, and in 1714 accompanied Her Majesty on the continent.

I have already had the honor of saying before Sir Herbert Taylor most of the minute details of my earliest life, and have also alluded to several illustrious individuals to whom my story is not unknown, - but I may perhaps again be allowed to make known to your Majesty the fact of my having received from His Royal Highness the late Duke of Kent the name of Edwina Kent; His Royal Highness was my Godfather, I was christened at Montagu House by the Dean of Windsor - Her Majesty and the Dowager Countess of Dartmouth being my Godmothers. I also received subsequently from His Majesty King George the Third and also from Her Majesty permission to wear the Royal arms

and to assume by courtesy the title of
Lady Edwina Kent.

The misfortunes of my life have been very
great and without Your Majesty's express
permission I will not now intrude with a
detail of them; Death has deprived of all
those to whom I could naturally look for
aid and support, and at Her Majesty's desire
the small allowance of £60 per ann was
allotted to me who had never till then known
what it was to have even a wish ungratified;
the event of my marriage with Lieutenant Thom
of Your Majesty's Navy also proved unfortunate
for though the kindest of friends to me, the
part he had taken in Her Majesty's trial
proved a hindrance to his advancement and
to the fulfillment of those promises which
had previously been made to him, real
distress assailed my family, and I was eventually
forced to dispose of my small annuity to
relieve the wants of my children.

In the year 1831 I was informed by Lady
Anne Hamilton of the circumstance of my being
the child of Her Majesty, and since that period
many others have made a similar disclosure
to me; yet I have hitherto been withheld from

from making known my mysterious birth from a
fear of public exposure, and perhaps also from a
fear of not meeting with that consideration that
my case would require - but now to my great
surprise I find myself suddenly exposed to
public opinion, and every secret connected
with my mysterious origin dragged into public
notice - and I have therefore ventured to submit
my cause to the gracious consideration of Your
Majesty, in the humble hope that my plain
unvarnished tale may plead for itself, and
though known to all who were even in a remote
degree admitted to Her Majesty's confidence, yet
it is to Your Majesty's generous consideration of
my misfortunes that I have look up; and I now
humbly pray that Your Majesty will cause
a provision to be made for me, that may secure
me from want, and place me, if not in the
exalted station I once held, yet suitable to the
rank I might be allowed to hold in society,
and as I have preferred in the very first instance,
and throughout, to apply solely to Your Majesty
and to hope for relief from Your bounty only
and not my own merits, I humbly trust I
shall not be in vain.

With unbounded respect I remain,

Your Majesty's
Most devoted, most humble
and most obedient servant

Edwardina Tison

March 1837
y Northumberland
Strand