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4 Smith Square Westminster Abbey March 6th 1702

Sir

With the full conviction that Loyalty & Patriotism alone impels me, I once more take leave most respectfully to obtrude myself on your notice — if in so doing I lay myself open to censure for not applying through a proper channel for communications of this description, give me Sir, at least credit for those motives of the purest delicacy by which I have been actuated — and, if you will permit me to lay our correspondence before Lord Melbourne, or the Home Secretary I will instantly wait upon either of those gentlemen.

The accompanying book intended for immediate publication, is no doubt a coup de main to extort money and to excite the public hatred against every branch of the Royal family, the better to carry into effect the diabolical objects of the friends of Lady Plow, or Eliza, Lady Edwardina.

From the moment I became acquainted with the affair I have used every exertion to outwit the rebellious set who are thus cunningly plotting mischief, and at my own risk & expense, & I may truly say, at the sacrifice of the only property I possess, I have endeavoured to get into my possession all the original documents of the "secret history". — To gain this object, on Wednesday evening last March 4th I descended to an interview at my house, with the wretched editor of this disgraceful book, Susan Woodward. I learned from her every particular of her base designs, & on my agreeing to provide her with sufficient means to enable her to print & publish a prefatory volume to the present book, she readily consented to place in my hands, as security for such a loan — all the original documents, together with 500 copies of the secret history now printed.

On Thursday march 2nd she called upon me a second time, & by way of satisfying my doubts as to the existence of the original papers, she conducted me to her hovel, & placed them before me. — I had scarcely been with her five minutes, when a gentleman entered the room very mysteriously wrapped up, & was introduced to me as Sir John Plinn, who said that he had just arrived from Windsor Castle, where he had been to present, through your hands, a petition to the King.

Sir John Plinn is evidently the dupe of this artful woman, and is endeavouring to afford her pecuniary assistance, by raising money on a guarantee of Lord Palmerston's to the amount of two or three thousand pounds, due to him from the Neapolitan Government. — The want of this money it appears has delayed the publication of the work in question. — I have also authority for stating that Mr Vigard, the attorney of the late Queen Caroline, has been written to from Paris to request that he will insert paragraphs in the London papers respecting Edwardina's birth, & her claim to the Crown of England — and I have had the good fortune to withhold inflammatory matter of this nature from three periodicals edited by my Son in Law.

The original papers alluded to, no doubt owe their existence to some base & designing traitor, & in my humble opinion they ought to be taken from the hands of the degraded Susan Woodward, & this either by the means I propose or by force. — Having ventured thus far to lay the matter before you, I have now, in conclusion, only to add that you may rely on my integrity should my further services be thought available.

Sir I have the honor with great respect to remain
your very obedient humble servant

J Nathan

To Sir Herbert Taylor
Lc Lc Lc

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35970

To send by Mr A

Mr. John Flinn

N.B.

Private

I have opened this letter to say that Mr John Flinn
intends to pay you a visit tomorrow (Tuesday) for
the purpose of getting an answer from His Majesty to
the Petition he left in your hands as alluded to in this letter. —
— Should you mention my name to Mr John Flinn you will deprive
me of all further power to watch his movements & hear of them
westward &c