

Copy 35975 - 7

St. Leonards 12 Dec. 1897

For J. Baker Esqr. Spring Gardens

My dear Sir

I feel very grateful for the kind interest you appear to take in my strange and unfortunate destiny, and I again solicit your attention to the circumstances I wish immediately to be submitted to the consideration of Sir Herbert Taylor, together with the documents subjoined. —

I believe I have already told you that until a few years ago I had been taught to believe I owed my existence to the Duke of Kent — who it was generally believed at Montague House had entrusted me to the care of the Princess of Wales; — the name of my mother was ever withheld from me, and when I have frequently asked questions upon this subject of the Princess, she would kiss me, and say "why do you wish to know that, am I not a mother to you"; in this evasive answer I saw only an appeal to my gratitude for the unceasing love and attention I received from her. — In the year 1805 I received privately the name of Edwina Kent

from H. R. A. Prince Edward, who was my Godfather
the Prince of Wales, and the dowager Countess of
Dartmouth were my Godmothers, I was baptized by
the late Bishop of Salisbury then Dean of Windsor,
previous to the period of my receiving the name of
"Edwardina" I had been called Caroline, and was
uniformly addressed thus by Prince Charles, whose
play-mate I was during her care visits at
Montague House - but he whose affection for me
has never ceased to be dear to my memory, and
who never came without a trinket for his little
Caroline was my venerable Sovereign George the
3^d - he who did more for me than all others, and
always called me his little Princeps - he was my best
friend on earth. - In 1706 I was sent to Bath to
be educated at the establishment of Mrs Swift and
in the year 1714, accompanied the Prince of Wales
on the continent. - At Brunswick I was married
to a German Nobleman Aide de Camp to the
Duke of Brunswick whom I had known but a
few hours - this ill-suited union, effected at

the express desire of His Serene Highness, was productive of great unhappiness, and we were divorced by mutual consent in the year 1720. - I never again saw her Royal Highness - death deprived me of her care, of the provision she annually made me, of the protection of The Duke of Kent - and many other illustrious friends amongst whom I may mention Lady Willoughby De Eresby who alone then appeared to me to know to whom I owed my birth. - On my return to this country I was informed by Lady Anne Hamilton, that I was the child of Queen Caroline, and that I was supposed to owe my existence to a clandestine meeting or rather outrage on the part of the Prince of Wales - which shame and humiliation had ever made her keep secret although the circumstance of the fact was well known to the public; Lady Anne then exacted of me a promise, which I trust ever to keep inviolate, not to attempt to disturb the public peace, or do ought to assert my rights. - I cannot attempt to describe what I felt at this disclosure, no feeling of pride or ambition

swelled my breast, - but I was pleased to think that she to whom I owed so much already, had a still greater claim to my love and respect, and yet a feeling of sorrow came over me to find myself so friendless so destitute when I might have been so high-placed beyond the reach of want. -

It will be asked why Her Majesty at the death of Princess Charlotte did not discover the secret of my birth, but it is natural to suppose that the motives which may have induced her at any time to conceal my birth still existed then - and though various may have been the motives of her acting as she did in this case - yet each individual is left at will to put his own construction on the case - The letters I possess written to me by Lady Anne Hamilton, will prove the extraordinary interest she took in me and my welfare, from the period of her having obtained the above mentioned important disclosure. -

It may be asked why I have not made earlier application for public patronage and support. I have before stated that I had been ever allowed to suppose that I was the child of Prince Edward Duke of Kent, and this was I am confident the opinion of all who surrounded me, of all who had the care of my infancy, and of all who knew me with the exception of a few, who I am well aware must have been in possession of this important secret. — I shall not be called upon to comment upon facts which will hereafter speak for themselves. I feel myself however compelled to remark the letter addressed by His Majesty King George the 3^d to the Prince of Wales in which he alludes to the dear child for which they must both interest themselves — This letter dated Windsor 1804 has been by some supposed to refer to the Prince of Charlotte, but attentive reflection will prove the error of such a supposition. — I had also been withheld from making any application for patronage, from

The belief that Lady Anne Hamilton was alone
in possession of this important secret, but I have
since received so many applications on the subject
and have lately had such various communications
respecting my mysterious birth that I now feel
it my duty to make my claims known and
sue for His Majesty's bounty. I need not tell
you how anxious I shall be to know the
result of your communications and believe me

My dear Sir

Very faithfully yours
E. O. Johnson

Copy

John Parker Esq
Secretary to the Admiralty