

The Queen

24<sup>th</sup> April 1778

GEO/MAIN/

36349

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Sir. The Arrival of James cannot be expected till  
some hours hence, yet can I not refuse myself  
the agreeable occupation of beginning to scribble  
by way of conversing with him who takes up the  
greatest Part of my thoughts, a little before  
a hour this morning I thought Your Majesty  
arrived at Greenwich & we Amused ourselves  
with hearing the Sound of the Firing of the Cannon  
I then observed the Wind & found it North East  
which was a very agreeable Thing as of course it  
must naturally carry You sooner to the end of  
Your journey.

In hopes of making my correspondence  
a little entertaining I tried to get some News that  
might be depended upon, but to my great mortification  
that proves to be almost impossible



The only thing that I could learn this morning is that Lord Gatham was somewhat easier as last night at eleven a'clock but still very weak. From Lion Hill I have no direct account but was told by the Dutches of Ancaffer that Mrs Lockhart was to go there to Day and that she in her opinion thinks that Lord Holderness will not live a fortnight longer.

The newspapers informed us last night of a man being taken<sup>up</sup> who was suspected of having p<sup>ro</sup>fix'd up the Paper about the Declaration of War against the French signed Effingham. This I hear is really true, the man was gaming and said that he was paid forty Guineas by a gentleman of fortune for doing it. who this gentleman is, or what induced him



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to have this step I have not been able to learn  
as yet, but flatter myself to get some more in-  
structions about it in the course of this Evening.

Prince of Wales of Prussia dined  
with me to Day ~~at~~ Colts have charged me  
with their Duty to You, at eight a floor when  
all their lessons are finished they are to make up  
my Commerce party.

On 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1778. Gamus did not return till Ten  
a floor last night just as I was going to Supper.  
He finds the House at Portsmouth extremely neat,  
All Rooms furnish'd with very elegant Sutton Beds  
this is his expression, but no Bedding for the Ser-  
vants Beds. The Kitchen is very indifferently  
stor'd with Furniture and the greatest part must  
be taken from hence, Gamus also wishes to



know whether the Epargne from Windsor  
is to be sent or not, there being no want of a  
Vest he is of opinion that would make the  
Table look better. I have taken the Copy  
of the Paper which Gamus gave me and  
shall see Gray as early as possible this mor-  
ning. Portsmouth Town was so full on Thur-  
day Night that no more Lodgings could be found  
and a great many of the Ladies were obliged to  
sit up all night, the scarcity of <sup>Stall</sup> Horses im-  
mediately owing to that that Gamus came so late  
for he says the poor Drafts are so fatigued that  
cant get along with them.

Madame Dezer has wrote a letter to  
a Friend of her Friends which arrived Yesterday  
she says Monsieur de Salgas is so much worth.

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that his Physician has ordered him to take the  
Bath of a particular place in Switzerland famous  
for curing his Complaint. but as nobody ever  
thinks of going there till the beginning of the  
month of July, I believe we must give up all  
hopes of seeing him this Summer.

Mary is very anxious to see Your  
Majesty, she desired me to call Dear Papa.  
but after telling her that could not be, she  
desired to be lifted up, and she called for at  
least half an hour, Papa coming how Papa comes,  
but seeing she was disappointed by not receiving  
an answer I desired her to tell me what I should  
say to the King in case I should write, and she  
answered, Mixxy say goody Papa poor Papa



Ernest will be delighted when he hears that  
I did let You know of his behaving well, the  
two Gentleman attending him were both satis-  
fied with his conduct of Yesterday.

It would be very indiscreet to take up  
Your Majesty time any longer with my very  
bad writing, I down it is against inclination  
that I stop here - but Prudence and Discretion  
is a necessary thing in this World. I hope  
Your Majesty's orders for me shall be very well  
executed assuring You that nobody can find  
more happy in executing them than Your  
Majesty's very affectionate Friends Wife.

Charlotte