

(? Mrs) H. Sturleup to H.R.H.

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37 North Audley St. Grosvenor Square  
June 4<sup>th</sup> 1811

Sir

I have to beg ten thousand pardons for presuming to address your Royal Highness - nothing could have induced me to have taken the liberty but the full assurance that your Royal Highness proposes a generous & benevolent heart and perhaps may condescend to recollect or listen to the unfortunate circumstances in which I am involved from accepting the situation with Miss Mc Seymour. I beg leave to represent to your Royal Highness in consequence of becoming an inmate in the family of M<sup>rs</sup> Felschert I gave up the whole of my connection I had previously found in the families of Noblemen and gentlemen whose children I instructed in music - when M<sup>rs</sup> Felschert proposed to me to give up my pupils and live with her I pointed out the precariousness of the situation and the chance of it's not being permanent which to me would be a most serious disappointment - I therefore declined it - some little time after M<sup>rs</sup> Felschert again solicited me on the same subject - she said you must not leave me - you are the person of all others I should wish to retain in my family - if you will consent to stay with my darling child you will contribute very much to my happiness, and in return I will grant

(? Mrs) H. S. Erleup to H. R. H.

you any favor in my power - This was a most painful struggle between interest and inclination for the very liberal and friendly treatment I received from M<sup>rs</sup> Fitzherbert during the three months I was staying at Parsons Green to teach Miss Seymour the Piano Forte attracted me very much to them both but I was obliged to start the same objection when M<sup>rs</sup> Fitzherbert immediately replied that shall not prevent you - I have considered the matter over and think it but fair as I press you into the service to trespass upon the word and honor of a gentleman to provide for you for ever - consider you as my friend - and treat you as such - in short the situation held out not only the comforts of life as long as my satisfaction lasted but possessed me every happiness my heart could wish little supposing I should ever have the smallest reason to repent for nothing could exceed the kindness, friendship and affection of M<sup>rs</sup> Fitzherbert I am confident I could have sacrificed my life to serve her - I felt my heart overflow with gratitude - but alas this mutual satisfaction only lasted a few months before M<sup>rs</sup> Fitzherbert's manner began to change - I was totally at a loss to know the reason and solicited with the most ardent solicitude to be informed how I had been so unfortunate to incur the least displeasure from one I considered the best of friends - my wound was soon set at ease by the full assurance that nothing on my part had occasioned the least cooling but any external appearance of neglect might have arisen

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from causes which related to her own affairs - This selfishness made me happy as far as concerned myself but I lamented that one from whom I received such repeated marks of kindness should from any cause feel a moments uneasiness - I now hoped I should go on comfortably in fulfilling the duties incumbent with my little charge - I endeavored to acquit myself in the best manner I was capable and devoted my time wholly to Miss Seymour - yet I thought from time to time M<sup>rs</sup> Fitzherbert appeared dissatisfied without finding any fault with me which made me again unhappy - at length I was not at a loss to account for the concertancy of M<sup>rs</sup> Fitzherbert's manner - I found she was influenced by a lady who is always about her and who was not kindly disposed towards me but from some jealous motive wished my removal from the family - thereupon devised every method to prejudice the regard of M<sup>rs</sup> Fitzherbert against me - she succeeded but too well in her evil plan as the very unkind treatment I received affected my health so severely I was compelled to resign the situation by writing to M<sup>rs</sup> Fitzherbert being too much oppressed and agitated to speak on the subject - my letter was received with no mark of disapprobation - so far from it M<sup>rs</sup> Fitzherbert begged I would make myself comfortable while I remained and she would do every thing in her power to serve me - that I might consider her my friend as my strict principles of honor and rectitude of conduct merited every acknowledgment

(? Mrs) H. S. Erleup to H. R. H.

notwithstanding this cruel alternative my drooping  
spirits began to revive - M<sup>rs</sup> Faberbert treated <sup>me</sup> with  
her former kindness - I was no longer subject to  
averted looks but received every mark of approbation  
particularly from the Lady who had been beaten me  
so unmercifully that if looks could have annihilated  
me I should not now have been alive to unfold this  
sad tale - the reflection that I had lost my conso-  
-lation and had no resource left by which I could sup-  
-port myself together with the returning kindness  
of M<sup>rs</sup> Faberbert induced me to offer to remain  
in my situation - M<sup>rs</sup> Faberbert did not put a  
negative on my proposal nor give me a decided  
answer - I was kept in a most anxious state of  
suspence for nearly three months when my  
offer was rejected and I was once more driven  
on the world - it would surely have been  
much more humane to have taken my life  
than to deprive <sup>me</sup> of the means by which I  
lived? - mine is indeed a bitter fate - through  
the loss of the dearest tie on earth to be left unpro-  
-vided and unprovided for - to have my bread  
to seek and when obtained with honor and credit  
to myself to be induced to leave my profession  
for the flattering prospects before me which  
has ended in my ruin - I have received no  
compensation from M<sup>rs</sup> Faberbert for the loss  
I have sustained - nothing but cruel disappointment  
it is true she begged the favor of your Royal Highness

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to seek <sup>me</sup> to my father for which I have and do  
return a million of thanks - but M<sup>rs</sup> Faberbert  
has procured me no other means with the exception  
- on of herself and Miss Seymour which has led me  
into an expense I never should have ventured had  
not M<sup>rs</sup> Faberbert promised to get me a great  
many subscribers I had no other means of paying  
the Publisher who imports me for the amount  
of his bill - this last disappointment has added  
to my distress - in short I have contracted debts I  
am not able to pay which compelled me to beg  
the favor of M<sup>rs</sup> Faberbert to lend me a little  
money but I met with a refusal that forbids  
another application - I am not without friends  
but I am much indebted to them - it is now  
almost a year since I left Miss Seymour -

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> M<sup>rs</sup> J. John whose innate goodness I must  
ever reverence - on whom I had no sort of claim - has  
indeed been my friend - she has supplied me  
with the necessaries of life when I was quite destitute  
and lent me money which I am very anxious  
to repay - she has also recommended me to  
Lady Charlotte Greyville who has been so kind as to  
procure me a few pupils in families of rank  
which I fear I must decline attending as I expect  
very soon from embarrassed circumstances to be  
deprived of my liberty - I can assure your Royal  
Highness my heart is almost broken - but  
how dare I presume to trouble your Royal

(? Mrs) H. Sterling to H.R.H.

Highness with my affairs - I am truly sensible  
I have taken a great liberty - I never should have  
had courage to do it only that I am certain of the  
well known fact that your Royal Highness  
possesses a generous and feeling heart and  
perhaps will deign to listen to my grievances  
I am well convinced your Royal Highness  
will not let the distressed and the widow plead  
in vain but with that compassion and humanity  
inherent in your noble mind will in some  
measure alleviate my accumulated misfortunes  
and heaven I trust will look upon the charitable  
deed and send down the reward it merits -  
with ardent prayers for the preservation and  
welfare of your Royal Highness

I am your Royal Highness,  
most grateful and  
Devoted Subject

Me Sterling

*M. Stirling*  
*June 24. 1011*