

Lavinia Cottin

June 11. 1813.

20660

Hampton Court Palace

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Dear Col M'Mahon,

As I am sure you are most friendly towards us, I wish to ask you if you think the S. M. received a letter of mine the other day which I presumed to address to him, it was to entreat H. M. W. to appoint me Housekeeper to this Palace upon the demise of Lady Anna Cecil, who cannot now hold Woman-Lack many days longer, I think my dear Sir you will not wonder at my importunity & endeavour to procure some increase of Income immediately, for our Poverty is so dreadful that we shall be totally lost if something is not done for us; The Situation of the Office holds as Inspecting Field Officer only just covers his Expences, & myself & Children have hardly anything to live upon, such is the real State of our Affairs, Cottin's Creditors have hitherto been kept quiet

from the idea that the R. R. would be graciously
pleased to give him some good Appointment, but seeing
nothing is done they are not quite out of Patience
& become most importunate to be paid, You will
excuse me my Dear Col McMahon for being thus open
& troubling you so often but you can have no idea
of our Distress or what we have suffered for years, like
a Drowning Person Scatcht at Straws, & I do hope &
trust you will freely tell me if you think the
Prince Regent will appoint me Housekeeper to this
Palace.

Yours

My Dear Col McMahon

Sincerely Yours

Lavinia Cottin