

Mrs. (H.) Whitelocke

21088-9

Busecombe Court near Bristol Nov. 5th

Sir

At the same time that I have, after some serious reflections, determin'd upon addressing you, I assure you I am well aware of the extent of freedom of which I am guilty, having to boast of a very slight personal acquaintance with you; but in our concerns in this life there sometimes arise circumstances of so imperious a nature, that they supersede all consideration of etiquette or discretion; and as I conceive the subject of this letter to ~~come~~ ^{fall} under this denomination, I beseech you Sir, to suffer it to plead in my justification; and also that that you will not implicate Mr. Whitelocke in any correspondence, as he is at present absent from home, & unacquainted with my intentions of writing; but as I know the high respect & esteem he has for you, & that he has only been withheld from troubling you on his unfortunate affairs, by the reluctance he feels to intrude on his friends, I trust he will not be displeas'd when he hears that I have ventured

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ventured to take this liberty, impelled by the irresistible feelings
 of an anxious & afflicted Mother - I shall only advert to our
 disastrous situation, to mention, that for nearly six years we
 have been struggling with Adversity in its most rigorous form,
 and bying by the strictest economy to support our family, & to
 educate a beloved Boy in a way that would admit of his
 embracing the only line of life for which he was calculated,
 having in his youth been afflicted with lameness - our small
 remains of fortune has however been so reduced, by the
 unavoidable expence of the unfortunate business which caused
 our ruin; by having now to arrange Debts which grew out of a
 large Establishment, as well as by the failure of a Banking
 House connected with my family, that at this time when
 he is of an Age to be sent to the University, it is with the most
 heart-rending sorrow, that we find our means insufficient
 to support him there, understanding that it requires £250 or
 £300 a year to maintain, & enable him to pursue the line
 of education adapted to the Church: for this purpose Mr W
 would willingly sink a portion of the principal of his
 fortune, having no other object in view now, but the
 advantage of his beloved & ill-fated Children, but difficulties
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Mrs. (M.) Whitelocke

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arise with the Trustees under our Marriage Settlement as to the
appropriating of the money settled on our Children, & therefore
fear, unless I am successful in my present applications, my Son
must lose the benefit of being enter'd in the present Term, which
is of the most material consequence. Mr. Whitelocke deferr'd as
long as he could sending him to the University, flattering himself that
some amelioration would be made to his family for their heavy
losses, but he has now too much reason to despair, as the present
Administration appear so cruelly inimical to him, as even to
pursue with implacability his unoffending Children. On His Royal
Highness the Prince Regent alone does he therefore rely for that
feeling & liberality which so eminently distinguishes his Character,
and to him only do we wish to owe any advantage, that
we may derive. Permit me therefore Sir, to entreat you to
mention our present difficulties to His Royal Highness, and
to supplicate for my Son his protection & assistance to enable
him to finish his Studies at Oxford. Believe me Sir I do not
plead for an undeserving Object, I am convinced any one who
knows my Son, will allow that at this time he promises never
to deviate from the Character which will render him a proper
Object for His Royal Highness's bounty & favorable opinion in
I am convinced that neither Mr. Whitelocke or myself would
wish

wish to derive any benefit from any provision His Royal Highness may
 see fit to think of for him, and therefore I trust that the most
 inveterate enemy could not cavil at a small allowance being
 granted to him, in the shape of Pension, even were it only to be
 continued until he got a living. His Royal Highness has done
 me the honor formerly to promise us his favor & friendship, & he
 would he now extend it, and suffer me to owe to him my darling
 Child's future prosperity, & the means of still supporting the remainder
 of his life to which by birth he is entitled, how great would be my
 obligations & gratitude! were there any other means of providing
 for him which did not require so expensive an education, I believe
 me, Sir, we would willingly adopt it, for, unnecessary as
 we have been to solicit favors, the humiliation of doing so,
 is now most painful; I therefore have to request as a favor
 that you would shield me from unnecessary notification
 by only mentioning the subject of this letter to His Royal
 Highness the Prince if you will be good enough to under-
 take this humane Office; in doing which you will assuredly
 confer a lasting obligation on me.

Sir

Your Obedient Servant

M^r. Whitelocke