

26 Jan. 1813.

GEO/MAIN

36631

My dearest Son, I take the earliest opportunity
of sending You the Copy of Lord Clarendon's
letter which I received Yesterday, & also
my answer which was sent this Morning.
Unpleasant as this Correspondence must
be on both Sides I feel myself justified
in having the stated the facts to Him
& Having Truth on my Side I feel conscious
of having done my Duty.

I beg You to Believe me Sincerely
my dearest Son

Windsor
the 26th Jan^y.

Your affectionate Mother
& Sincere Friend

1813.

Charlotte

15382
The Queen

to

The Prince Regent

26th Jan^y 1813.

The Grove Jan^y 23rd - 1813.

Madam.

It is with the utmost Deference and
simplicity, that I venture to approach Your
Majesty in the character of a most anxious
Petitioner: a Liberty which I am aware that
I am presuming to take without having any
pretension even for a moment to solicit Your
Majesty's Attention; unless it can, in any
degree, be derived from the nature of this
Application, connected as it is with the
high account in which I should, myself,
always hold any mark of Royal distinction
or displeasure.

Allow me, Madam, with all possible
respect, to say, that I had scarcely partaken
of the satisfaction which His Royal
Highness The Prince Regent's intended con-
descending goodness to my Brother, M^r. George
Billiers, afforded me; when, to my great surprize

o painful

and painful disappointment, I was informed that your Majesty had so strongly expressed your disapprobation of the offer made by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and accepted by my Brother, as to induce His Royal Highness to inform my Brother, that he could not, on that account, fulfill his gracious intentions towards him.

My affection for my Brother must be totally extinguished, & the disgrace and mortification of Royal displeasure must, to my sensation, have strangely lost their edge, if the best feelings which I possess were not strongly affected upon such an occurrence. The principles of loyalty, duty, & attachment to every Branch of The Royal Family, in which I have been educated, and which it has ever been my study & pride to cultivate and improve; lead me most forcibly to think that such a stigma must not discredit the name of one so nearly connected

with me as my Brother, without my most anxiously endeavouring at least that he may be allowed to know his offence, in order that he may be able, if possible, to justify his conduct: It is to obtain this Information, that, with an earnestness which I cannot express, and at the same time with that respect and deference which, I trust, will never be doubted; that I presume to present myself before your Majesty as your Petitioner: and I feel the more confident that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to grant my petition, when I consider that it is the peculiar pride & boast of this Country, that the lowest Criminal is allowed the chance of defence by knowing the charges brought against him.

That Envy should have been the attendant on such confidence & distinction, and I had almost ventured to say affectionate protection as that which I was gratified in

knowing

knowing His Majesty, for so many Years, con-
descended to shew to my Brother, does not
surprize me; nor that the grossest misre-
presentations to his disadvantage should,
consequently, have been industriously circulated;
and, in some instances, unfortunately have
reached your Majesty's ear: - But knowing
my Brother as I do; having heard him, as
I have done, in the most unreserved moments
of confidence, expressing the warmest senti-
ments of loyalty, duty, & gratitude; I cannot
bear, I say it with all earnestness, but with
the utmost respect / if my feeble efforts can
avert the wrong, that he should unjustly
be held out to the world the marked object
of your Majesty's displeasure.

That my Brother should be
unfavourably prejudged by your Majesty
upon those points upon which he is at
issue with the Public, I cannot suppose;
more particularly as I can say with certainty

that

that His Majesty's kindness was never alienated from him on that account:— I presume to say with certainty, from the repeated acts of favor and protection which were continued to my Brother, & which never ceased till His Majesty's much lamented illness: and amongst which I will only beg leave to name His Majesty's gracious pleasure in continuing him at Cranbourn Lodge in the management of his Farms; the retaining him as Groom of His Majesty's Bedchamber; and the sending him pecuniary assistance, through the hands of Carl Harcourt, to M^{rs} George Villiers, that it might reach him in safety.

If in the course of that which I have humbly submitted to your Majesty, I have been wanting in any expression of form, which might more properly have conveyed my sentiments of deference, and respect, I must humbly trust to your Majesty's condescending candor for forgiveness.

— Allow me also, Madam, to hope that your
Majesty will graciously accept of the assur-
ance of those sentiments of duty and profound
respect, with which I beg leave to subscribe
myself, most humbly,

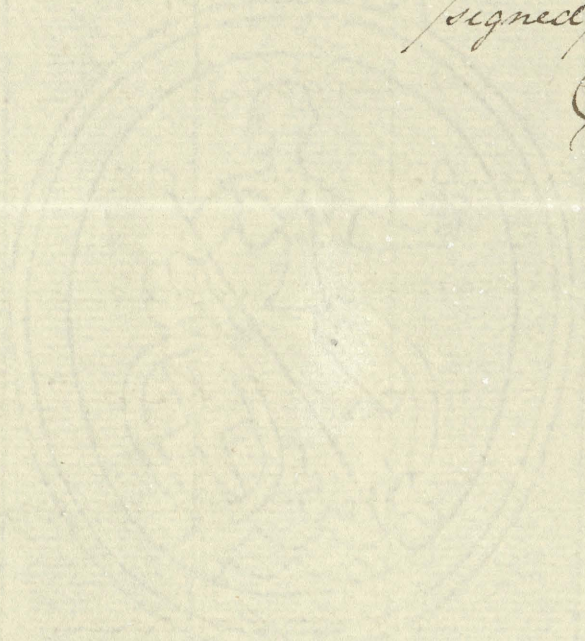
Madam,

Your Majesty's

Most obedient Servant,

/signed/

Clarendon.



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Copy of a letter from the
Earl of Devonshire, to
the Queen. —

January 23^d — 1813.

Rec^d on the 25th —

Windsor Castle

January 26th 1813.

The Queen received Yesterday, Lord Clarendon's Letter of the 23rd Inst., and She sincerely regrets that any step unavoidably taken by Her from a principle of Duty should have been productive of Sensations so painful to Lord Clarendon & His Family.

Without adverting to other Parts of his Letter, Her Majesty considers it sufficient to notice his Observations "that the grossest misrepresentations to M^r. Villiers's Disadvantage had reached Her Ear" - and "that The King's Kindness was never alienated from M^r. Villiers on Account of his Public Conduct" - on both which Points She has no hesitation in assuring Lord Clarendon that He has been misinformed. - The Queen's Representation to The Prince Regent against

M^r. Villiers

M^r Villiers being the Tenant of the Farms in Windsor Park was founded upon Expressions of His Majesty's Sentiments addressed to Himself, much at variance with the Impression which Lord Clarendon seems to have received from those Marks of His Majesty's Forbearance & Indulgence which His kind Disposition induced Him, from benevolent Consideration for M^r Villiers's Family, not to withhold; and The Queen is strictly justified in declaring that those Acts which are now construed into Proofs of Favor & Protection, were continued long after any Inclination to either had ceased to exist in The King's Breast.

It is painful to The Queen to recur to those circumstances, but She is under the Necessity of assuring Lord Clarendon that when M^r Villiers's Conduct in the Discharge of a Public Trust of considerable Magnitude became known to The King, His Majesty

declared most unequivocally to The Queen, and to others of His Family that He could not in Justice to the Public, nor consistently with what He owed to His own Character, retain Mr. Billiers either in the Situation of Groom of the Bedchamber or in the Management of His Farms... His Majesty's Execution of such His Pleasure to the full Extent, was indeed delayed in consequence of Mr. Billiers having after He had been removed from the Management of the Little Park requested Him to suspend His Judgement until the Result of the Public Investigation into his Conduct should be known, but The King's Determination to give early Effect to His Intentions was frequently repeated by Him to The Queen, in the most positive Terms, was never concealed by Him from any of His Family, and The Queen is confident that it would not long have remained doubtful

had not His Majesty's melancholy Illness
intervened.

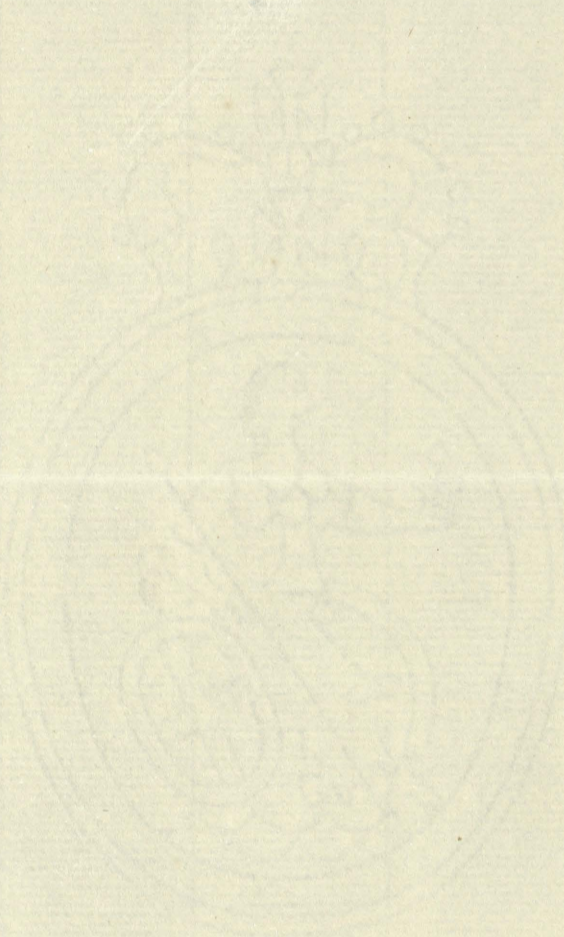
It was upon those grounds & from
so thorough a knowledge of The King's feelings
that The Queen considered it to be Her Duty
towards His Majesty, towards Herself, and
towards The Prince Regent, to represent
against His Intention of bringing forward
Mr. Villiers again to a Station nearly similar
to that from which His Majesty meant to
have excluded Him, on Principles of regard
for the Public feeling, and Her Majesty, under
such circumstances, would not think Herself
justified in retracting, even if a Threat
recently conveyed from Mr. Villiers thro' an
indirect Channel (into the Purport of which
The Queen will not enter, least She should
express Herself more strongly than She
wishes to do in this communication) had
not added to the Motives which unfortunately

preclude

preclude Her from shewing that Attention to
Lord Clarendon, and others of his Family upon
this Occasion, to which upon every Account,
Public and Private, They are so justly
entitled.

Signed/

Charlotte.



Copy of a letter from
The Queen, to the
Earl of Clarendon.
January 26th 1813.

The Grove

26th January 1813

Madam

Allow me with all respect, to offer my thanks to Your Majesty for those expressions personally towards myself with which your Majesty is graciously pleased to honour me.

With the utmost deference, I hope, I may be allowed to reply to Your Majesty's letter of the 26th Inst^t, lest, by not doing so, I should seem before to have troubled Your Majesty with less consideration upon the Subject in question than could have been suited to its importance, or than could, in any degree, have justified me in presuming to intrude myself upon Your Majesty's Attention. — Your Majesty assures me that I have been misinformed if I suppose that misrepresentations to M^{rs} George Villiers's disadvantage may have reached Your Majesty's Ear. — Permit

me, Madam, with all respect to say, that any charge or insinuation against the character of another / and that my Brother should have escaped every weapon which Envy or Malice may have aimed against him, is hardly to be expected / can only be proved to be, or not to be a misrepresentation, by the Person accused being allowed to know his offence, in order that he may have an opportunity, if he can, of justifying himself: and it was on that account that I so anxiously solicited your Majesty condescendingly to inform me what was the offence which had drawn down upon my Brother your Majesty's displeasure. — I lament, cordially lament, that Your Majesty upon this point is not graciously pleased to be more explicit. — Your Majesty assures me that His Majesty's kindness was alienated from my Brother on account of his public conduct: — to that I hope I may be permitted to reply, that such was His Majesty's unremitting consideration

for him, that I presume I was justified from facts, in conceiving what I ventured to assert; and that nothing I acknowledge it could be further from my mind than supposing, that, in the midst of such acts of benevolence and kindness, His Majesty was meditating a blow, with accumulated force, to the discredit of my Brother, and the distress of his Family; & which should at once be at variance with every other part of His Majesty's most benevolent conduct towards both.

If His Majesty was graciously pleased at the time to which Your Majesty alludes, to suspend His Royal Judgement until the Result of the public Investigation into my Brother's conduct should be known, I may be allowed to say, that His Majesty, in his goodness, would not have been likely to have hastened it, if, as the prosecution of that Business advanced it decidedly appeared that my Brother's Character was clearing itself from those ungrounded suspicions with which it had been clouded;

and still less at this time, if His Majesty could know the state of those accounts which will shortly appear before The Public.

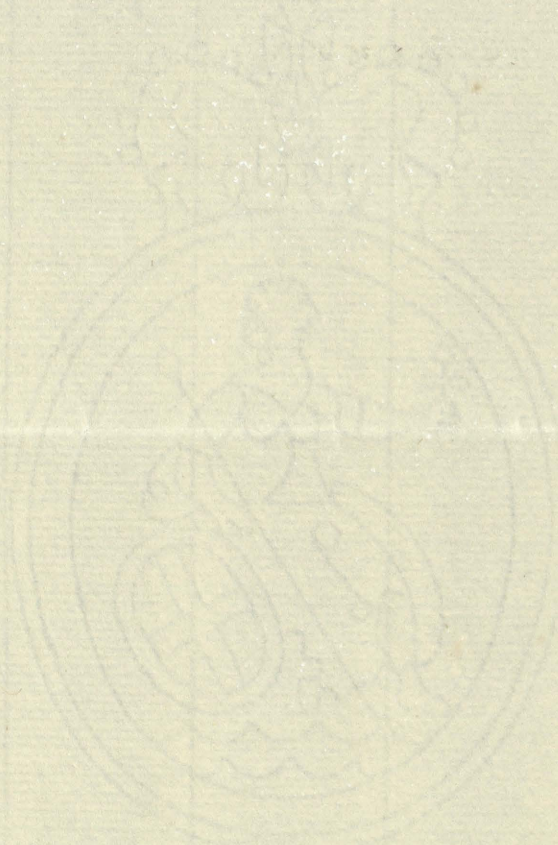
Your Majesty mentions "a threat recently conveyed from M^r. George Villiers through "an indirect channel" I have no knowledge whatever of what that is to which your Majesty alludes: but I am sincerely to regret it, if it is to extinguish any spark of hope which I might otherwise have entertained that your Majesty might not irrevocably have decided to deny my Petition; which, if granted, I am still persuaded would entirely realise my wishes: and surely, Madam, the merits of that Petition, if it has any, cannot be affected by anything which has subsequently happened. — I only humbly ask / how anxiously, how earnestly, I cannot say / that your Majesty would be graciously pleased to give my Brother the means of endeavouring to

justify

justify himself.

If in any thing which I have offered
I have ignorantly been wanting in the form,
I am sure I have not in the Sentiment of
that high respect and deference, with which,
most humbly, I beg leave to subscribe myself,
Madam,

Your Majesty's most
obedient Servant,
/signed/
Clarendon.



ROYAL ARCHIVES
1881

Copy of a letter from
the Earl of Devon down
to the Queen.

26th January 1813.