

AA
Windsor Septbr 4th 1815.

My Dearest Son. I received early Yesterday Morning Your Letter of the preceding day, and I must begin by thanking You for every Expression of Kindness and Sympathy which it contains, and for the Warmth with which You enter into the cause of a Mother who has ever looked with Anxiety to the Preservation of Your Affection and friendships as to a Blessing which is not more necessary to Her Comfort, than it is to Her Support, under the manifold Difficulties and Trials which She has had to encounter since the beloved Kings lamented Illness.

I feel therefore the more distressed on finding that You have so mistaken a Sentence in My Letter of the 1st Inst, as to consider it as conveying a Suspicion on My part, that You were Capable of tamely Submitting to an Offer of Insult or disrespect to Me, or

that You could have been a party to any Arrangement which was to lead to My Inconvenience or Embarrassment.

Whatever may have been, when I wrote that Letter, the Warmth of feeling produced by gross Insult from a Quarter whence I had so little Reason to expect it, It never could have betrayed me into expressing that which, if harboured in My mind, must have precluded Me from Addressing You on such an Occasion — On the contrary I stated, that I could not allow Myself, to believe that You could have invited or encouraged, any Proposal for bringing My Nephew to this, Country, if You could have foreseen that He was to be brought here for the purpose of bullying or Insulting, Your Mother — I have troubled You with this Repetition of my own Words, as conveying the best proof of Your having mistaken their Import, and I am

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ment willing to believe that a Misinterpretation, so distressing
 ment. to My feelings towards ^{to you} You, when we met at Catlands,
 Letter, that the first Intimation ^{which I received} of Your having invited
 from My Nephew to this Country was conveyed in the
 Letter which I had so recently received from Him.

I wish that I could equally acquit the
 Duke of Cumberland of having been a Party to
 the Intention and the Effect, but this is Impossible,
 after learning from My Daughters that He had
 declared to them, when He came to England in June
 last, and when they saw Him at Farlton House,
 that My Nephew would accompany His Sister
 to England and, that He was a Gentleman who
 "could settle to Right".

I regret that I cannot communicate to You
 the Letter from My Nephew which has so harrowed

My feelings — I assure You My Dearest Son, that I do not withhold it from any want of Confidence, but for the Reasons only which I assigned in My former Letter — My Answer to that Letter must afford sufficient Evidence of its character, which is indeed such as to preclude all Possibility which might yet have occurred of My ever receiving My Niece. I have only to add, what I regret that I omitted saying in My last, that I have sent Copies of My Answer to My Sons in this Country, to the Duke of Cambridge, and to the Queen of Württemberg, with a Request that They will not hold any further Intercourse with My Nephew.

I now come to those parts of My Letter which You quote as having given You great Pain, and I refer to them with the greatest Concern,

as I cannot deny that I did feel and still do feel
what I expressed.

I have been placed in a most distressing Situation,
and have undergone a Trial which nothing short
of a Sense of higher Duties, an anxious Desire to do
Justice to the Station in which it has pleased Pro-
vidence to place me, and the conviction that I
was acting correctly could have enabled My Mind
to Support, While My Health is sinking under it.
I have sacrificed My private feelings of sincere
and long tried Affection for My only remaining
worthy Brother and His Family, have risked and
unfortunately incurred a Breach, of which I should
ever have viewed the Possibility with the greatest
Grief and dread. It is no common Occasion, no light
Ground which could produce such exertion, and many

has been the Day, many the Sleepless Night throughout which this distressing Subject has engaged ^{all} my thoughts, I cannot therefore be accused of acting inconsiderately, still less of acting under the Impulse of Inclination, and You may recollect that the Grounds upon which I went were established by Information partly received from Yourself.

Under these circumstances I must repeat, that I have felt most Acutely that I have not experienced the Support which I had hoped I should receive in the course of this Melancholy Transaction. My Sentiments upon it were early known to You, long before the Duke of Cumberland's first Return to this Country and before even the Marriage was concluded — You were aware of the Difficulties which I apprehended, and when I found that the Duke of

Cumberland & the Dutchess to repeat what You declined at Ascot Park relieved both not placed direct summons

Had all had My firm to You, been for had they not that I should from which, which guided disgracing My

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Sumnerland was coming over, and it was reported that
the Dutcheff would accompany Him, I wrote to You
to repeat what I had previously stated verbally.
You declined stating the whole when I spoke to You
at Ascot Races, which if You had done would have
relieved both You & Me from Embarrassment and
not placed Me under the Necessity of making a
direct communication to the Duke of Sumnerland.

Had all that had passed upon this Occasion,
had My firm Determination, so unequivocally conveyed
to You, been communicated to the Parties concerned,
had they not, to the last, been encouraged to hope
that I should be prevailed upon to yield a Point
from which, considering the acknowledged Principle
which guided My conduct, I could not recede, without
disgracing Myself, the Embarrassments which have arisen

might have been obviated.

Alament the Necessity of being thus explicit & of dwelling upon a matter which must be distressing to You, though not more painful than it is to Me. I cannot however doubt that, upon a candid Review of the whole of My Proceeding, You will, with the Kindness and Consideration for My feelings which I have hitherto experienced, acquit Me of having acted upon any other Motives than those which I have in the previous parts of this, and in former Letters assigned for My Conduct; & I anxiously hope that Nothing which I have said (or possibly have the Effect of producing any Change in that cordial & affectionate footing subsisting between Us, which — constitutes so Essential a part of My Happiness & Comfort

I am My Dearest Son.

Yr Ever affectionate Mother & Sincere Friend

Charlotte.

My Dear
to
the Prince
Regent
Apr. 4. 1815