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Dow. Lady Elgin to H.M.

[9, Feb. 1805]

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Sire,

Impelled by the Circumstances of my Situation,
I throw myself at your Majesty's Feet, embolden'd by that
gracious Condescension which has ever marked the Conduct of your
Majesty, to my Family and myself. I venture to bring forward
my Feelings and to solicit your attention, Iue, forwards them.

For eight years I have been honored with one of the
most responsible and most interesting Offices in this Country - The
Superintending Care of Her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte -
I feel so confident, so conscientiously assured, of the scrupulous
exactness with which I have invariably attempted to discharge
that Sacred Duty, that I must hope, and think, my Removal
has been occasioned rather by a new arrangement of Education,
being deemed necessary, as her Royal Highness is advancing
in Life, than any diminution of that Confidence in my Character,
which selected me for that most important Charge.

Dow. Lady

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The World however can only judge by Appearances, and the Conclusion it will naturally draw, where it beholds me superseded, without one Token of approbation from my King, is that I have proved myself unworthy my Trust, & that I am consequently justly degraded. — The Benign Character of your Majesty, which omits no opportunity of Convincing itself, in giving Happiness to those whose Cases are made known to You, I feel will not reject my apprehensions as idle, or condemn this appeal as offensive. — The Family of Bruce has long proved its Loyalty and Attachment to your illustrious House, Sir. — My Eldest Son is now only prevented from being active in the Service of his Sovereign, by the base Treachery of an Usurper, who detains him from his ambition, and his Duty.

The Token of your Majesty's favour which I have dared to frame in my own Mind, & to solicit at the Foot of the Throne, is the addition of an English Peerage to my present Title. — It will be a Mark of Royal Favour to Preestablish my Character; and will, after the few Years I shall hold it — descend to my Son; ever faithful to his King, & Zealous in the Service of his Country — I feel

Overpowered by what I have attempted to express — I fear
to exceed the Boundary of Respect, in my Approach to your
Majesty, by presuming to point out my Wishes — Yet I
will, I must venture — neither can I despair of Pardon, when
I for a moment reflect upon the Love of Justice, and the
Benevolence of Disposition which illustrate the exalted
Character of my Sovereign.

I am with the most profound Respect,

Sire,

Your Majesty's

most Faithfull & Attached Subject
& Servant.

M. Colvin

Lady Colvin.