To The Right Reverend
The Lord Bishop of Salisbury.

My Lord,

The points whereon H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, grounds his disapprobation of my conduct, are, I understand from your Lordship, as follows.

1st — My having kept concealed a will, made by H.R.H. the Princess Charlotte in my favour, at the instigation of Mr. Campbell.

2dly — My having conspired with Mr. Campbell to poison the mind of the Princess Charlotte against Lady de Clifford, & Mr. Udny.

3dly — My having endeavoured to impress the mind of H.R.H. the Princess Charlotte with undutiful, and disrespectful sentiments towards H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

4th — My having spoken disrespectfully of the late Mr. Fox, because he was honoured with the friendship of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales: telling the Princess Charlotte; That if Mr. Fox came into office "she would soon after see the Host carried in public procession" "through the streets of London".

5th — My having delayed giving up the papers required of me, so long & having parted with them so reluctantly, as to excite suspicion.

6th — My having obtained an undue influence over the mind of H.R.H. the Princess Charlotte.

7th — My having assumed an improper degree of familiarity, by inducing H.R.H. the Princess Charlotte, to call me "Adopted Father".

8th — My having said many things "highly improper," in the letters I was permitted to write to H.R.H. the Princess Charlotte.

Of these charges, the 1st remains to be proved as a matter of fact — The 2d, 3d & 4th rest on the assertions of H.R.H. the Princess Charlotte — The 5th & 6th rest on the assertions of Lady de Clifford — The 7th & 8th arise from the opinion H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has been led to form of my conduct, in those two points, respectively.

To each of these charges, it is your Lordship's wish, I should make some general reply.

1st Ch

1st Charge.

That I kept concealed a will, made by H.R.H. the Princess Charlotte in my favour; at the instigation of Mrs Campell.

For all I recollect on this occurrence; and the light in which it was viewed when it happened, I beg leave to refer your Lordship to No. 1: containing the statement of the fact I first gave in: which statement, I understand Mrs Campbell's account of the transaction confirms.

As H.R.H. the Princess Charlotte has herself declared, as is the fact, that I neither suggested the writing of the will, or even saw it, till written, the only part of the charge that affects me is that of "wilful concealment" - and this I most solemnly deny.

When the paper was given in by me to Lady de Clifford, I twice reminded her Ladyship that both the circumstance of its having been written, and the motive why the writing of it was permitted, were at the time made known to herself as well as to Your Lordship: nor did her Ladyship then call what I said in question.

But had the fact been otherwise, had I not spoken to Lady de Clifford on the subject, still this could not afford any just ground, to accuse me of "Wilful concealment." It was to Your Lordship alone that I was to communicate whatever occurred in the performance of my duty: to Your Lordship I mentioned all the particulars: my duty required no more: on that sole point therefore I might rest my defence.

But since it has been suggested that I kept the will for base, and dishonest purposes, I feel myself compel=led to declare further in the most solemn manner, that I knew this paper, (which I have called a will, not because I suppose it really to be one, but because it has been so termed) could not have the smallest legal validity. I knew also, that for a person to have produced it with interested views, would have been to incur ridicule, as well as disgrace. So far was such intention from my mind that the paper owes its present existence to its having been long forgotten: nay it would not have been kept a single hour, but for the general direction, not to destroy any paper whatever given me by H.R.H. the Princess Charlotte.

2d. Charge. — That I conspired with Mrs Campbell to poison the mind of H.R.H. the Princess Charlotte, against Lady de Clifford, and Mrs Udny.

This charge, I understand rests solely on the assertion of the Princess Charlotte. It cannot but be peculiarly painful for me to call in question anything Her Royal Highness has said. I am compelled however in the present instance to do so; and not only do I most solemnly declare, that I never did either by myself, or in conjunction with Mrs Campbell (whom I believe utterly incapable of this, and of every dishonourable action whatever) attempt to prejudice the Princess Charlotte against Lady de Clifford, and Mrs Udny, but I aver, that on the contrary I have uniformly made it my duty to inspire Her Royal Highness with sentiments of regard, and respect towards every person placed about her. On several occasions, I have even reproved the Princess Charlotte for not expressing herself as kindly, and as respectfully towards Mrs Udny as I considered she ought. I feel therefore confident that Her Royal Highness will, on maturer reflection do me the justice to withdraw the assertion. If the charge can be substantiated by, but one single fact, I will be the first to urge my own condemnation.

3d. Charge. That I endeavoured to impress the mind of the Princess Charlotte with undutiful, and disrespectful sentiments, towards H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

In proportion to the heinousness of the offence imputed must be both my sorrow at hearing who has made the charge, and the necessity of denying it. In the most solemn manner therefore do I declare, that by every mean in my power I have laboured to impress on the mind of the Princess Charlotte, the same awe ful sentiments I myself entertain of the sacredness of Filial Duty, and Affection. I should have been one of the worst of men, could I have aded otherwise. I appeal to every person placed about the Princess Charlotte, whether I have not fulfilled my duty to both Her Royal Highness's Parents, religeously, in this respect. I appeal to them likewise, whether I have not, on every occasion held out to the Princess Charlotte, the love, and approbation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, as the great incentive to study and improvement; as one

of the noblest rewards that would crown her progress in learning and in goodness.

So conscious am I, that I never could have spoken disrespectfully of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, on any occasion, or at any time, that I would refer your Lordship to all the letters I ever wrote to the Princess Charlotte, in full confidence, that whenever the name of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, occurs, it will be found mentioned in terms designed to increase, not diminish that reverence which is due to the Parental Character, and cherish Filial Affection.

Unfortunately I have not copies of all the letters I had the honour of addressing to the Princess Charlotte. In one of those I have I find the name of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, occurs casually, but surely with no mark of disrespect.

"Your Royal Highness has delighted me with the account of
" your reception at Worthing. It must have been truly gratifying
" to have witnessed with what proofs of affectionate regard
" the Royal Family is everywhere welcomed, from the enthusi-
" -astic love the whole Nation entertains for the virtues of
" the King, and the Prince of Wales. O. may I live to see the
" hour when the attentions shewn Your Royal Highness,
" may be the honest tribute of pure respect, paid to your own
" personal goodness and merit"

Is it possible, my Lord, that writing and acting as I have done uniformly on this subject, I could be base enough to destroy designedly the effect of my own instructions, by sneers, and acts of contemptuous ridicule; or weak enough to expose myself to instant detection from any eye that might observe me?

4th Charge. That I spoke disrespectfully of Mr Fox, because he was honoured with the friendship of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales. telling the Princess Charlotte "that if Mr Fox came into office, she would soon after see the Host carried in public procession through the Streets of London".

It is peculiarly painful for me again to defend myself by unequivocally denying the charge, when I consider on whose assertion it rests: but I am constrained to do so. Most solemnly therefore do I assure your Lordship that I never spoke disrespectfully of Mr Fox, to the Princess Charlotte, or of any one honoured with the friendship of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales: and as for the speech in question, I would confidently appeal to all who know me, whether,

they think me capable of having made it. It has indeed been ever with me an object of the highest & most religious obligation to fulfil the command received from his Majesty, "To strengthen the Princess Charlotte in the Principles of the "Church of England, and guard her against the errors, and "doctrines of the Church of Rome." Had I not done so therefore, I should not only have sinned against God and my own Conscience, but I should have shamefully betrayed the duty I owed both my King, and Country. But whenever I spoke to Her Royal Highness on this head, it was in a manner as serious, as the seriousness of the subject required. I should have thought I degraded my own character and situation, as well as the cause itself, by employing personal reflections; had I even judged those reflections in themselves just, and well founded.

5th Charge.

That I delayed giving up the papers when demanded so long, & parted with them so reluctantly as to excite suspicion.

Mere suspicion, my Lord, attaching to motives of conduct cannot surely with propriety be brought as an Article of accusation. Since however it has been so brought, I will disprove the fact on which the suspicion is made to rest.

Her Royal Highness asked me for the Will, and the Paper, on Wednesday April the 19th and desired me to bring them the next day. I brought them the next day, Thursday the 20th and delivered them into the Princess Charlotte's hands: She gave them immediately to Lady de Clifford.

That same day, Thursday the 20th I reminded Lady de Clifford, of my own accord, that I had in my possession, three other papers, sealed, the only ones of that description relating to the Princess Charlotte; and I begged her Ladyship would take charge of them. Those papers I brought with me the next day, Friday the 21st but Lady de Clifford coming late I had no opportunity of giving them to her then: I did so, however, the day after. Saturday the 22d.

With what justice then, may I ask, can Lady de Clifford, charge me with that reluctance and delay that would authorize suspicion?

Such other papers as have been given in since the 22d of April, have been transmitted through your Lordships hands. Of these, some, when delivered in, were found not to be the papers wanted: others then were asked for: all were to be copied: and as I was at that very moment changing my house the delay of a few hours was sometimes

6th

unavoidably incurred from the very circumstance of my not knowing where to look for the particular paper, or letter required. Still amid all these disadvantages, I trust your Lordship can acquit me of every thing that can bear the imputation of wilful delay, or reluctance to part with the papers wished for.

I have not indeed as yet, delivered in, as H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, was pleased latterly to direct I should, all the letters and papers, without reservation, & without retaining copies which at any time I may have received from the Princess Charlotte. But this command was signified subsequent to the present charge; consequently cannot be referred to in it. Nevertheless, my anxious desire to approve my duty to H. R. H the Prince of Wales leads me to mention the circumstance that I may deprecate in this, as in every other instance the imputation of reluctance to communicate papers, or wilful delay. The necessity of having what to refer to, should any thing occur that required explanation, has compelled me to beseech H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, that he would graciously admit the propriety of my retaining the original letters, for the present, and be pleased, with his accustomed condescension to allow my transmitting fair and faithful copies. I wait therefore, only till your Lordship shall be enabled to signify to me His Royal Highness's gracious approbation of my request.

6th Charge.

That I had obtained an undue influence over the mind of H. R. H. the Princess Charlotte.

In answer to this charge, I will beg leave to refer your Lordship to the paper marked N°. 2. which I understand has been already laid before his Majesty.

Allow me however, my Lord, to remark further, that blame can attach to the obtaining influence, only when that influence has been acquired by improper means, or directed to improper purposes.

Was then the influence objected to, obtained by Adulation, & indulgence? So far from it, my Lord, that one of the imputations attempted to be fastned on me, is, that I have been too rigid in enforcing discipline, too severe in noticing faults! Was it then obtained by suffering remissness in Studies? Have I, my Lord, omitted any one point of instruction however unwelcome it was my duty to attend to? Was it by humouring temper? The correcting temper, has been the object of my most unwearied, and strictest attention! Was it by an unbecoming forbearance of

reproof, & punishment? Have not I been the person, above all others employed to convey reproof and punishment, even in points not immediately within my province, because it was judged I could do it with most effect?

In like manner, my Lord, I must be permitted to ask, how can I be justly charged with the design of exerting this influence to promote my future views in life, when your Lordship knows, as does Lady de Clifford & Mrs Udny, in common with Mr Campbell, that more than once, observing how small a progress the Princess Charlotte seemed to make under my instruction; I formed the resolution of asking permission to withdraw from the situation; meaning on conscientious motives to forego whatever prospect of personal advantage might be opened to me, if I could not do the good I wished, or might be expected of me. Lady de Clifford will bear me witness, how often her own solicitations have been employed to make me change the resolutions I had formed. I subjoin in No. 3. a copy of two letters from the Princess Charlotte, which shew that Her Royal Highness was not only apprised of my intentions; but of the motives also, by which I was actuated. I appeal to anyone, whether these two letters alone will not exculpate me from all imputation of having formed self interested views; or of having ever acted, in the important situation wherein I was placed, with an unworthy attention to objects of personal advantage.

7th Charge.

That I assumed an improper degree of familiarity, by inducing H.R.H. the Princess Charlotte to call me "Adopted Father."-

To shew how far the precise words objected to were ever used, and prove what was the meaning H.R.H. the Princess Charlotte herself attached to them, I will beg leave to refer Your Lordship to No. 4. part of a letter delivered in to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales; and will only add, that whatever may have been the expressions used, I do solemnly disclaim having suggested, directly or indirectly the use of them. This was Her Royal Highness's own spontaneous act: & it was considered one that reflected credit as it shewed how she appreciated the labours of a person, whose duty it was to correct her faults.

If however the expressions in question, or any other used by the Princess Charlotte towards myself are considered as objectionable, no blame, my Lord, can I will venture to think, be imputable to me. All the

letters, with which Her Royal Highness honoured me, were read, I presume by the Ladies attendant on her. Some I know were from their own notes of approbation that accompanied. Such expressions then, as were of too great familiarity, ought to have been reprehended, & corrected, not authorized & encouraged.

But, my Lord, on the supposition that the expressions used, were improper, is the language of a Child of nine, or ten Years old, ignorant of the real import of words, to be viewed as that of a grown up person? I say Nine, or Ten, because most, if not all the Letters objected to were written at that period. I have received hardly any within the last Eighteen months, or two Years. And why have the Letters been discontinued? Because, my Lord, when I found that the Princess Charlotte, instead of improving in letter writing, was only contracting a careless manner of scribling, I was, myself the first to suggest the propriety of checking what had been encouraged in the sole view of promoting Her Royal Highness's improvement.

8th. Charge. That I have said many things highly improper in the letters I was permitted to write to H.R.H the Princess Charlotte.

In this point, my Lord, my only defence can be, if I that indulgence might be allowed me, a reference to the letters themselves, now in the possession of H.R.H the Prince of Wales. I have indeed copies of many, which I could at any time produce: but it might be thought more satisfactory to refer to the letters themselves. In the meantime I solemnly assure your Lordship, that I am not conscious of having expressed a single sentiment that can be thought improper, or of having used, intentionally a single word, that could be deemed objectionable.

On the supposition however that my mode of writing has been judged not sufficiently respectful, I will venture to appeal, whether my letters were not approved by Lady de Clifford, as well as Your Lordship, for their style, as well as sentiment; and whether I was not directed, to use as much ease in my manner of writing, as was consistent with the respect due to Her Royal Highness's exalted station; mixing occasionally topics of amusement that Her Royal Highness might insensibly be led to take an interest in what at all times could easily be made the vehicle of much serious & useful Information.

That I should have presumed to write at all to

The Princess Charlotte, was owing to the express permission, & command Your Lordship conveyed to me from His Majesty. To Him your Lordship had communicated the ideas you entertained on this part of Her Royal Highness's Education: and His Majesty was graciously pleased to approve both the object you intended to accomplish, and the means you purposed pursuing.

Having now, my Lord, spoke briefly, as your Lordship desired, to the several charges brought against me, permit me to request your attention to two points, of considerable importance. The first of them, is this.

Together with what has been called a Will, I kept a paper, which in a moment of hasty temper The Princess Charlotte had written concerning H. R. H. the Princess of Wales. For fear my Lord, it should be inferred that I was in the smallest degree privy to the writing of this paper: or that I obtained it, and kept it clandestinely, I will request your Lordship to refer to part of a letter, written by the Princess Charlotte, and detailing a conversation between Herself and Mrs. Udny, in which Mrs. Udny is described as reproving Her Royal Highness for having written the paper in question, & given it me to keep. Now, in point of fact it was Mrs. Udny herself, that gave me the paper, with Her Royal Highness's knowledge, and approbation. I was commissioned to keep it till a proper moment of returning it should occur: and when Mrs. Udny did so give me the paper, she not only told me the occasion, but the manner in which it was written (for it was written in her presence) and added several circumstances, which at this moment I perfectly well remember, that were necessary to make the paper itself intelligible.

Mrs. Udny then, was perfectly acquainted of the existence of this paper, and knew its contents. Your Lordship says you remember my having apprized you of the whole transaction. Mr. Campbell remembers it: all which is abundantly sufficient to acquit me of having been the only person privy to the writing of this paper; or of having kept it in concealment. That Lady de Clifford alone should be ignorant of the existence of this paper seems hardly probable; for, supposing I had not spoken of it, to her Ladyship myself, there appears no reason why Mrs. Udny should not have made to her, the same communication she had made to me.

The Second point, to which I wish to speak, is the following.

For fear it should be thought, from anything adduced, that I have exceeded the limits of my own immediate office, & obtruded myself on that of others; I would request your Lordship to call to mind, in how earnest a manner Lady de Clifford concurred with your Lordship on the necessity of attending to the temper, & disposition of the Princess Charlotte before any other consideration. In consequence my instructions were to attend, not merely to the Studies of Her Royal Highness, but to whatever might correct her faults generally and form her Character. So long as I was allowed the opportunity, I acted in conformity to these instructions: and for more than two Years I was continually called upon by the Ladies themselves to interfere in points within their own immediate province; and exert myself to effect many things which they thought they had not sufficient influence to accomplish. Solicitous for nothing but Her Royal Highness's good, I never declined any labour; I was called upon to undertake, conducive to that end. Not your Lordship only, but Lady de Clifford also, was sensible of this. She approved of all I did; she suggested occasions of utility: & encouraged the influence, she perceived I was acquiring, that she might avail herself of it towards facilitating the performance of her own duties, and Her Royal Highness's general Improvement.

Am I then to suppose, my Lord, that those zealous exertions, which were once so much commended, can now be turned into articles of accusation against me? The influence I was not merely permitted but directed and authorized to acquire, that I might be enabled to perform my own duties, and enable others more effectually to perform theirs, can this now be brought against me as improper, and undue? The letters I either wrote, or received and the papers of which I was made the depository, with the constant knowledge and approbation of those about Her Royal Highness, can these now be regarded as proofs of dishonest intention, and made the ground of censure? — I trust not my Lord! — Nay I have full confidence that the uprightness of my intentions will finally be made manifest: and that when my conduct shall be fairly examined, I shall be cleared of all imputation of having acted in a single instance dishonourably, or unfaithfully in the important trust assigned me.

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