

Copy.

Carlton House
July 16th 1812.

The Countess of Berkeley having applied to The Prince Regent in the end of June last to grant her an Audience as a Widowed Peeress with a view as His Royal Highness was informed to request a Statement from Her of such Facts within his recollection regarding her Marriage as might be important to the interest of herself and her Family, His Royal Highness declined granting the Audience, but waited upon her accompanied by Mr. Adam; and in his presence the matter was discussed.

Lady Berkeley afterwards wrote to The Prince referring to that conversation and earnestly requested a Statement of what He recollected, to be sent to her by His Royal Highness's Command.

In

In compliance with this request
The Prince Regent has thought proper
to have the following Facts and Circum-
stances committed to writing and com-
municated to Lady Berkeley for her
satisfaction.

The Prince Regent remembers the
late Lord Life in 1792. mentioning his
belief that a private Marriage had
taken place between the late Earl and
present Countess of Berkeley: That
His Royal Highness at that time and
in consequence of that communication
interrogated Lord Berkeley on the Subject
when Lord Berkeley answered that Lady
Berkeley was not his Mistress but his
Wife, and the worst used Woman in the
World - Seemed much embarrassed, and
requested to be spared upon the subject.

Again, in 1795. at Weymouth The
Prince dined with Lord Berkeley. (Lady
Berkeley was not then acknowledged to be
his

his Wife, and was not of the Party, at Dinner.) As they were leaving the House, Lord Berkeley asked The Prince to walk into a Room to the Ladies, where he saw Lady Berkeley for the first time in his life. After a short time pass'd in that room, His Royal Highness walked away with Lord Berkeley to go to Gloucester Lodge. On the way His Royal Highness spoke to Lord Berkeley on the subject of His Lordships' Marriage. He said, The King had noticed the impropriety of Lord Berkeley coming to Weymouth in the way he then did, and with such an Establishment as he then had; And His Royal Highness observed to Lord Berkeley, that he owed it to Himself, and in justice to Lady Berkeley and his Children to acknowledge his Marriage: That Lord Berkeley perfectly agreed with him, and said again that Lady Berkeley was the worst used Woman in the World; to which The Prince, (who had not

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not had any conversation with Lord Berkeley on his Marriage since that in 1792.)
observed, that if she was ill used in 1792. she must be ten times worse used by delaying the acknowledgment of the Marriage to 1795.

Lord Berkeley seemed to be greatly distressed on the occasion, and said to the Prince, that he had no doubt he should be able to satisfy His Royal Highness, on the subject.

After the second Marriage viz^t in 1797. Lord Berkeley made further Declarations to the Prince on the subject of his Marriage, mentioned the supposed destruction of the Register, and the remorse and anguish he felt at having put so much power into the hands of Shepsman; and his mind seemed then bent on making every atonement to His Wife and Family.

In 1810. a few weeks before he died, he had an Audience of the Prince Regent, when

when a Conversation to the following effect took place.

The Prince said, "Berkeley, you do not look well, but better than I expected to see you." To which Lord Berkeley replied, "Sir, I shall never see you again"; the tears streaming down his cheeks, and himself so overcome for some time that he could not speak. The Prince tried all in his power to sooth him by saying, "We shall meet very often, and a few weeks at Berkeley Castle will set you up again." He answered, "No Sir, that is impossible, the Petition to the House of Commons has broke my Heart, not only my Wife, but my Child now suffers: I shall live but a short time, and now I beg Your Royal Highness to remember as I hope for the mercy of Heaven, all I have ever told Your Royal Highness of my first Marriage is most true; therefore Sir, protect my innocent Wife and Children."

I have made all the atonement in my Power, and I bless God that I never did deceive Your Royal Highness: I shall die happy, for when you hear that I am no more, you will remember my last words, and be to the injured Widow and Children a Protector."

At the Prince's desire the late Lord Thurlow went into a Minute investigation of the Marriage of 1785. His Lordship directed the recording the Evidence in the Court of Chancery.

The Prince knows that Lord Thurlow was acquainted with the facts of Lord Berkeley having disowned his Wife - Of his having registered the Baptism of the Children in her Maiden name, and that he had sworn himself a Bachelor to obtain the Licence for a second Marriage. And when the Prince suggested to Lord Thurlow that it might be proper to put His Royal Highness's Evidence upon record in the Court of Chancery, Lord
Thurlow

Thurlow said, there was Evidence recorded there sufficient to prove twenty Marriages.

The Prince has read over Lady Berkeley's Evidence before the Lords, and there is nothing material in it that was not known to His Royal Highness before.

For fifteen Years past His Royal Highness has lived in great intimacy with Lord and Lady Berkeley, and has had the opportunity of observing her Conduct, and of becoming acquainted with her Character: and He has the greatest satisfaction in declaring that he has found her conduct uniformly correct, and her Character unimpeachable: That he has been in the constant habit of declaring his approbation of her Conduct to her Husband and Children, and her correctness in all the relations of life.

He believes that no step was taken respecting the Marriage of 1705. from the period of Communicating with Lord Thurlow which His Royal Highness was not made acquainted

acquainted

acquainted with. The late Duke of Bedford
as well as Lord Thurlow, entered as His Royal
Highness knows, minutely into the
investigation of the Fact of the Marriage.
And He knows that Lord Berkeley refused
to walk as a Bachelor at the Marriage of
His Royal Highness.

(Signed) George P. R.