H.M. to Duke of Gloucester

Richmond Lodge Nov.r 9.th 1771.

Dear Brother

It is impossible to express the joy I have felt ever since the arrival of Hunter on thursday; for Owne the letters of the 10.th ult.mo which I received on tuesday had possessed my mind with the greatest grief, I expected no other Account than that Heaven had taken You from me, though thanks to God my mind is now at ease, I can scarcely relate what I have suffered without tears, but this has only taught Me how much I love You; You are the only friend to whom I can unbosom every thought. Do not in the smallest degree swerve from the opinion of that able and honest man Charlton, for He has been the happy instrument of Providence to save so precious a life from the Laws of death, if what You owe Yourself does not make You comply, do it from affection to me for my happiness depends on the reestablishment of Your health which after so great a shock must be obtained by the greatest prudence in diet, hours, and exercise; do not let the sweetness of Your disposition that ever nauseates the word No and with pleasure ass Yes be the cause of Your doing more at the Court of Florence than what Charlton may think prudent. Yourself and those about You must be answerable to me for this.

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H.M. to Duke of Gloucester

The Queen has desired me to express the sincere part She takes in Your recovery and there is not a Child that can speak that did not when I returned here last night give marks of their unaffected joy which has been general among all ranks of people.

My Mother though daily growing worse has shewn great marks of Her tenderness to You both by the extreme grief when Shee heard the worst, and by the excess of pleasure since she has received the joyful account.

The conduct of Mr. Legrand and Mr. Adair have on both occasions been very affectionate and shew they know Your value.

I enclose the written opinion of the three Physicians You consulted before You left England, that You may exactly know the motives of my conduct; they added through Mr. Adair the comfortable verbal Assurances that if what You have undergone does not entirely remove the former complaint on Your breast, it will certainly greatly diminished.

Doctor Jebb and Mr. Adair will set out join You the beginning of next Week; I owe to myself and to the public that every means may be taken to restore to that perfect health You have not for some years enjoyed and which there is now so great a probability of effecting.

I desire You will express my approbation to Lieut. Col. Mainsford and Major Heywood of their conduct during this allarming occasion, and not less so in delaying Hunter, till they could send such comfort, also to Charlton for His judgement, fortitude and assiduity, and desire You will give him the enclosed, as a mark of my acknowledgement.

Hunter has come most astonishingly fast, for though detained two days at Calais, he performed his journey in thirteen days which was never done in so short a time by an English Messenger. I will not longer detain You but to subscribe myself. &c.

G.R.

Draught to the D. of Gloucester
Richmond Lodge Nov. 9th 177