

Draft to the D. of Gloucester  
Lucena House Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 1772.

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Dear Brother

Though it seems my destiny to transmit nothing but melancholy accounts to You this Year; yet the present one though it will draw a tear from You, cannot after the open manner with which I have wrote be any surprize to You. My late Mother for the last fortnight daily lost strength, yet her fortitude, Spirits, and opinion that she should recover never deserted Her. On Tuesday last though she had many singings in the forenoon, when I came in the Evening she perfectly run thrice round Her Organ Room to shew me the strength she still retained. I continued from that time calling every Evening on Her, but by my Sisters advice seemed rather to do it by way of giving Her any little anecdote with regard to my confined Sister in Denmark than from an anxiety for Her own health. On Thursday Evening she asked me whether I did not mean to apply to Parliament for a prevention to clandestine marriages in my Family, to which I replied that in a few days I should send a Message for that purpose to both Houses, that a blot was not a blot till hit,

that I must therefore prevent it in future; She greatly approved of this and said when the Bill was passed whether I would have any objection to Her seeing the D. of Cumberland I told Her if She had the least wish I made no objection to Her instantly sending for Him; but that as to myself this Bill would prevent my Children from the same misconduct but as it could not wipe out the Stain He had put on the Family I could never see him, that I had no Malice or rancour against Him, but that his conduct put me under the cruel necessity of disgracing myself in the eyes of all Europe or of not seeing Him; that She had an easier part when the feelings of a Mother inclined Her to receive Him that was a sufficient justification for Her; She said no till the Bill is passed I will not see Him, but after that as You do not disapprove of it I will send for Him, but only Him. On Friday Morning my Sister sent Me word that my late Mother was still weaker and obliged to go again to Bed and probably would never get up again, I upon that I forbid my levee giving the true reason and went with the Queen to keep up my Sisters Spirits and be ready if my Mother had any directions

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for me; to our greatest surprise about three She though unable to speak rose herself in Her Bed and insisted on getting up, She dressed even Her Hair, with an intent as usual to receive me in the Evening, for She did not know I was in the House; a little after Six I went to Her as has been the custom by Her desire this Winter, She seemed pleased to see me, though She never attempted to speak and what is remarkable by sighs directed to be placed from the Couch to a Chair just when She expected me; We had the Melancholy Scene of knowing She could not last, but that it must not be taken notice of as She did not chuse to think so, I left Her a little after Seven; She could not be prevailed on to go to Bed till twelve; My Sister offered to stay with Her but She raised Her voice and wished Her a good night at a little after Eleven; I remained in the House with the Queen and my Sister all night on enquiring at Six what account the Servants about Her had given Miss Fenolds came instantly out of the Bedchamber to tell us She had expired; My Sister and myself locked up Her pockets which were brought to us in one of Her Servitors and

sealed up the Keys with both our Seals; I then sent for Lord Boston gave Orders for due attendance of Her Family the locking up Her Dressing Room and Library, and then with my Sister and the Queen left the House; I have addressed myself to Lord Mansfield that I might be correct in my conduct by whose advice I have authorized Lord Hoekford, in my name and Yours, with Lord Boston for my Sister, and I suppose the D. of Cumberland will appoint M<sup>r</sup>. Leyland to go and search for a Will if there is one they are to open it, and in all cases to Seal up the Keys again with their respective Seals and return them to Me, I shall on this as on all other occasions have no view but to act strictly according to law and shall take no Step without Lord Mansfield's advice, You shall be thoroughly apprized of whatever I do, and the grounds upon which I have acted. I cannot conclude without expressing how very conscientiously my Sister has conducted Herself during Her stay here; She has been most days from ten in the Morning till ten at night with my late Mother, has once a week come to Me, and every other Evening remained at Carlton House. She would

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have left England the next Day had I not thought it  
indecent till after the Funeral; I confess I should have  
been glad to have kept Her till the Weather is fitter for  
travelling and I fear people will say that I would not let  
Her stay; but She says it might be disliked at Brunswick  
that She came to attend my Mother, that duty being over,  
She cannot stay; She goes on Monday. Before I conclude  
I must not omit that She offered to attend at the Funeral,  
but so much affected as She is I am convinced it would have  
hurt Her health I have therefore refused it. Believe me ever

Dear Brother

Your most affectionate Brother,

George L

Queens House

Feb 22<sup>th</sup> 1772.

15011

I have left England the next day and I shall be  
 in about 10 days at the time of the funeral. I shall  
 be glad to hear that the will of the late  
 gentleman is as you say and that the  
 estate is settled as you say. I shall be  
 glad to hear that the estate is settled  
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