

E. of Holderness
Geneva Aug^r 30th 1774

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Sir

Your Majesty I persuade myself will not ascribe to an affectation of zeal the regret I express at my necessary absence from The Princes this winter, but will do Justice to my real ambition of being serviceable to them; my Duty to Your Majesty and Their Royal Highnesses is at once the pride & pleasure of my life; I cannot Sir without deviating from the terms of respect I owe to my Sovereign express the nature of my faithfull attachment to your Royal person, but I may be permitted to say that affection as well as Duty ties me forever to The Princes.

I am sensible that constituted at Their Royal Highnesses establishment now is, I can better be spared this winter than at any other period of Their lives, but at the same time

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I cannot conceal from myself that my presence might be of use in a variety of instances, as a tone of authority not displaced in the mouth of the Governor cannot be taken up with any degree of propriety by any other Officer. I know the Princes must have remained chiefly in the hands of their preceptors this winter, but I also know that enthusiasts for classical learning aim chiefly at whetting the imagination, my view is to cultivate the Judgement; Homer is at best but a better written Romance, Harvion or Passendorf shew what the real progress of Society has been; I do not mean to insinuate that I disapprove the attention given to the Greek Language; it is highly proper the Princes should know the etymology of terms they will meet with upon various occasions, but I hope Mons^r de Salgar's more useful instructions will not be neglected, or that poetry should take place

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of Archimelick. I have had so many occasions of hearing Your Majesty's opinion upon this subject that I flatter myself this hint will be tho'ly understood & not disapproved. As to what regards the younger Princes nothing occurs to me; they are in the only method their age admits of, I can but hope, what I believe, that Mons^r de Bude's assiduity will continue; they will attain the French Language with more care and fluency than their elder Brothers, while their outward carriage runs no risque of being spoiled by example.

There are two necessary objects in the Education of the elder Princes to which it has hitherto been impossible to attend for want of time; I mean the German tongue, and the art of drawing; nor do I know at this distance whether ~~proper~~ hours can be properly applied to those studies this

winter

winter; How the German language may best
be attained is beyond my reach, ignorant as
I am of it myself, but I have always understood
that a writing master for that alphabet was
absolutely necessary; perhaps as the Princess
write the Roman letter so finely, Mr Bulley
lessons might yield for a time to a German
penman; may I presume to hope Your Majesty
will deign to talk upon this subject with
Mr Smelt and Mons^r de Salgas. as to the
art of Drawing I hope it may be postponed
till my return.

Your Majesty will please to give your
orders in case it should be your pleasure
that any alteration during my absence in
the method of paying & collecting their Royal
Highnesses accounts. Noble has my directions
to carry all bills to Mr Smelt for his check
and inspection; in that method I think Your
Majesty's interests will be perfectly safe.

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I learnt with infinite pleasure by M^r Invelt's last letter that Your Majesty had admitted Their Royal Highnesses to supper the 12th of August, and I take it for granted that favour will have been repeated the 16th & 22. nothing strikes the Princes so much as marks of attention & Friendship from Their Royal Parents; Their hearts & inclinations are yours, Sir, to the Highest degree; permitt me to mention how important it is to cherish that disposition & how easily it may be attained; pardon Sir if I name a wish that such indulgences should not be confined to Birthdays only, but that your Majesty should sometimes give the eldest Princes leave to dine with you; They will never be troublesome as one of their Gentlemen will always be at hand to attend them whenever either business or amusement draws Your Majesty's attention to other objects.

I cannot conclude this letter without Humbly imploring the continuance of Your Majesty's
gracious

gracious favour towards me, and that you will
please to extend your Royal protection to Lord
and Lady Carmarthen.

I have the Honour to be with ^{the} utmost respects

Sir

Your Majesty's

most dutifully devoted
Servant & Loyal Subject

W. D. M. H.