The enclosed letter from You as well as the one You received from the Princess were delivered to Me on Tuesday; You cannot feel how much they must grieve me, as Your's contains a degree of warmth that is driving on this unhappy difference to the last extremity most fatal. I have therefore delayed answering it untill I could give this Subject that mature reflection that could best tend to Your credit, and at the same time combine my relative Duties as Your Father, and those imposed on Me as King of this Great Country.

I am perfectly clear in the opinion that whether I view Your situation or my own, the same line of conduct is proper, namely the returning to You the letter which has been manifestly dictated more by the warmth occasioned by the reception of the Princess on Saturday at the Opera House, than from that cool State of mind which it is essential to call forth on so near present very unpleasant situation. Indeed were it produced as the

provocation

grounds for a Separation, I fear it would be putting Your case in the worst possible light, and would perhaps only wound those in addition to Yourself, who it cannot be Your intention to distress.

You seem to look on Your disunion with the Princess as merely of a private nature, and totally put out of sight that as Heir Apparent of the Crown Your Marriage is a public Act, wherein the Kingdom is concerned; that therefore a separation cannot be brought forward by the mere interference of Relations. The Public must be informed of the whole business, and being already certainly not prejudiced in Your favour, the Auspices in the first out set would not be promising; Parliament could not fail of taking part in the business, and would certainly as no criminal accusation can be brought against the Princess, think it its Office to secure out of Your income the jointure settled on Her in case of Your death, which in justice She would have in such a case a right to claim. I am certainly by no means inclined to think the Princess has been happy

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in the choice of conduct She has adopted, but if You had attempted to guide Her, She might have avoided those errors, that Her uncommon want of experience perhaps and some defects of temper may have given rise to.

I once more call on You to look with temper at the evils that may accrue to You by persisting in an idea that may lead to evils without bounds, and if more cannot be effected, have that command on Yourself that shall by keeping up appearances by degrees render Your home more respectable, and at the same time less unpleasant. If You can bring Yourself to wish to have this effected, I do not see that the prospect of Success is desperate, but in a contrary line of conduct nothing but evils appear.

I most devoutly call on the Divine Providence to direct Your mind to receive this fatherly and friendly advice with that temper that may make me ever subscribe myself

My Dear Lord
Your most affectionate
Father
G R.

Queens House
March 2. 1796.

Draft
To the Duke of Kent.
Queen's House June 2. 1796.