

Duchess of Devonshire to H. R. A.

Nov. 17 1811

18848 - 9

my dearest Sir, I have directed that
a copy of the Characters should
be sent to your Royal Highness in
their present state, because the
delay has been so great of their
being ready for distribution, that
I have been disappointed in the
one which I shall have bound
in a particular manner for you
my dear Sir, yet I could not
bear that you should not be
the first Person to whom they were
sent, this was right from every
consideration — never I believe
was affection & regret greater or
more sincere than yours Sir
and much do I wish to know if your R. H.

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approves of & is satisfied with the character of
your good friendly most amiable Husband —
allow me my dear Sir to profit of
this opportunity just to mention
myself, for you have taught me
to believe that your R. H. is inter-
ested about me — the blow
which has fallen on me feels as
if it had crushed me — but I do
what I can of what I am told —
I am come to Portsmouth where
Lord & Lady Bpborough & their
two sons are to join me, & where
Caroline, my son Frederick &
Clifford are with me — the
Capitain is still in the Workmen's
hands, but he is hurrying them on
& it eases for some fresh opportunity
of deserving your R. H. kindness
to him — & from the bottom of
my heart I thank you my dear Sir

18849

for that timely interference w^{ch} promoted Clifford
for having ^{now} seen this dear young
man; your kindness to him has
increas'd his attachment to your
Person ten fold — we are here
in an Hotel to ourselves, I see no
body, but being close to the Sea I
get to the beach by a little quiet
subterraneous passage under the
Ramparts — as circumstances prevent
my returning to Chiswick, I have
taken the smallest of Lady Garmouth's
two Houses, I am afraid it will be
more than I can afford to go on
with, & that she will not give
a lease of it — I s^d have tild a
House in the Green Park but as I s^d
publickly, but I was oblig'd to fix
on something — do you think my
dear Sir that Lord Garmouth would
except to Lady Garmouth any wish
about it, or is that out of the question —

I have just heard from S^r Walter
Farguhar that you have hurt your
ankle my dear Sir, I anxiously hope
that it is not a hurt of consequence
to your health - may God preserve
to you that of every other blessing -
desolate as I feel in the World, yet
is my heart alive to every sentiment
of the warmest & most grateful
affection to you. R. Wighams, &
ever will be - pray believe
me with unfeigned truth your
R. W. most respectfull & affectionate
humble Servant Etic^h Devonshire

Portsmouth (Cross Inn)
Nov^r 17th 1811