

Dorset Duchess of Rutland to H. R. H. -

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Belvoir Castle
Saturday Feb: 15
1812

My Dear Sir,

I fear I am presuming too much upon your Royal Highness's great kindness & the Friendship with which you have always condescended to honor me, by addressing you now with a letter, but feel encouraged to do so by the very kind Messages I have at different times had the Honor to receive from you since I had lost the Happiness of seeing your Royal Highness & particularly the very flattering & kind one you were so good to lay your Commands on my kind Friend Lady Tipton to write me concerning my Darling Bob when you condescended to direct the Letter Yourself - I must here

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fore I may hope for forgiveness if even I am doing wrong
in now addressing Your Royal Highness to make a
request for, & to prefer the humble petition of a very
old & Dear friend of mine M^{rs} Dawson whose
letter to me containing that petition I will ven-
ture to take the liberty of enclosing to Your Royal
Highness as it will explain more fully her anxious
wish to obtain the situation of house keeper at
Hampton Court Palace when ever it may become
vacant should Your Royal Highness be graciously
pleas'd to bestow it upon her; I feel the less scruple
in pleading for M^{rs} Dawson to Your Royal Highness
as I well remember at the time of poor M^{rs} Dawson's
Death, the very gracious & kind message you were
pleas'd to honor her with expressing with your
usual feeling towards the unfortunate & afflicted
& with your great goodness of heart of which

I have had so many many proofs that you wished
to do any thing that might be of use to her & her children
on account of the friendship with which you honor'd
M^{rs} Dawson, & should Your Royal Highness now
have the great goodness to grant her request which
she did not presume to make herself it would
add to the number of favours & kindnesses which
I have received from you — I cannot help taking
this opportunity of again mentioning another very
particular friend of mine to Your Royal
Highness, whom I did take the liberty of addressing
you about in the summer General Pigeon whom
also Your Royal Highness has always been so good
to if you would at any time think of him
when any Government may become vacant
it would make him most happy, & give
me very great satisfaction — I took the

liberty of doing it might be mentioned to your
Royal Highness the accounts I had of my dear
Charles before he returned & of my happiness of seeing
him so much recover'd, & getting him safe in England
for a little while at least. But alas my dear Sir
I am in misery at the little probability of another
dear fellow returning for aye, & am particularly
wretched about him and not having heard from
him since the taking of Providence tho' thank God
I heard he was safe after that; I fear I am
forgetting myself by mentioning all these things
that interest me so much but when I recollect
how very very kind your Royal Highness has
always been to me, & particularly those two dear
Sons whom you so graciously took under your
generous Protection, I will again beseege

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forgiveness upon this Subject also —

I cannot help while penning this Letter to mention
the heart felt satisfaction it gave me to hear
from Sir Walter Scarshead the day before
I left London that your Royal Highness was
so much better, & can I ever express the anxiety
I felt when you were ill, & attached as the
whole Kingdom is to you, I am certain
you have not a Subject more sincerely so
than

Your Royal Highness's
most Devoted Grateful
& Humbly Attached
Faithful Servant
Richard

Duchess of Rutland
July 15. 1812