

Sir F. Gibbs

March 15. 1812.

A.A. No. 33

19399

Beaufort Square

Mar. 15th 1812

Dear Sir

In obedience to the Prince Regent's commands, signified to me by your letter of yesterday, I have considered the paragraph to which you refer me in the British Deep of the 13th instant, & think it not only indecent & offensive to the highest degree, but clearly in the eye of the Law ~~of~~ a Libel, for which the Author or Publisher, if he were prosecuted, ought to be convicted.

Whether it be advisable to make it the subject of a Prosecution or not, is a Question of more difficulty.

After the experience which I have had of the temper of juries in trials for Libel, I cannot be assured, even in such a case as the present, that they would convict, for however the generality may be disposed, one

prejudiced & obstinate man may,
& sometimes does, turn the rest into
a bad Verdict, & I apprehend that
whatever mischief might result from
leaving such a publication unnoticed
would be increased beyond all
calculation by an unsuccessful attempt
to convict the Publisher. It is on
this account only that I feel it my
duty to point out the chance of
failure in such a Prosecution.

For myself, I have not the least
objection to filing an Information,
but the consequences may be of so
much importance to the Public,
that I think the measure should
be well considered before it is resolved
on. I am

Dear Sir

yr obed^t.

A faithful Serv^t
W Gibbs