

Charlotte Atkins to Col. Geo. Keane

Dec. 25 1812

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Sir

It is impossible to imagine my astonishment and chagrin when I was favoured with your letter yesterday and being informed that the poem I had the honor to address to H. M. H. the Prince Regent on the first of last month was neither delivered or any mention made of it, I know not what to conjecture, a servant who has lived with me some years was the person I sent with it, as the poem was rather large I wished to convey the idea that it was a Memorial from my Mother and to give the air of a thing of little consequence, when I gave it to this man to carry, I said, here is a poem of Mr Walpole which you are to take to your house it is for H. M. H. the Prince Regent go to the house and deliver it there not to the Porter at the gate

if you one asked who it comes from of course
by Mr Walpole. if not only deliver it — he returned
and informed me he had safely delivered Mr
Walpole parcel — that he was questioned and called in
there were three or four attendants one of whom
desired to know who the parcel come from he
replied from Mr Walpole — what Mr Walpole, one year
Mr Walpoles servant no sir whose servant one year, her
sisters, what is your lady's name Atkyns, write her
name & where she lives she lives a Peculiarly opposite
Lord W gardens, write her name, the man felt frightened
& replied Sir I cannot write, the person who questioned
him said very well it shall be delivered to
H R H —; this Sir is the statement the man gave me
as I had respectfully intreated him the H R H to conduct
A intimate to me through some channel whether
the parcel was ^{was} ~~delivered~~ I felt alarmed and took the
liberty to write a few lines the same servant was the
bearer of the letter it was received as before
on the Wednesday or Thursday & wrote again, the

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20321

business was it could not be admitted but should
be sent to the secretary of state not having being
old A draft of the secretarys he was to go he
returned this letter, I thought it, by uncaring, increased
the consequence was I wrote to Lord Liverpool
and his Lordship was Minister for the foreign affairs
when I last came from abroad I thought it best to
write to him stating that a parcel of consequence
which I had taken the liberty to address to H. P. H.
the Prince Regent as I thought I already did
myself the pleasure to communicate to you; I making
the goodness of the Prince Regent heart I know not
how to account for not having received any intimation
of the safety of the parcel but it only concerned me
personally I thought I should have had the Honor
of some answer, but when H. P. H. would have
been that read the different communications it
contained I was persuaded he would feel the necessity
of tranquillizing my mind this is decided me upon
taking the liberty to trouble you should I hear
had sent you the parcel all would have been

right — it contained a statement of the different journeys
I made to & from the continent from May 1799 to June
1808 it was the journal of facts with all the
observations I had made from my great knowledge of
the people there I had seen — the different papers that
certain persons (whose names I added) had made at
His Majesty's Ministers of which I was the bearer —
& particularly one from Holland at the time the expedition
in July 1799 was going from this country — a letter I had
received from the King of Rome, another from a confidant
found out agent of his while I was secretly at Paris —
Many circumstances relating to England — a statement
which regarded me personally — and a letter, all
these were bound separately and written upon that
it might read which he chose the first —
only imagine in what my anxiety must be lest the
papers should have fallen into improper hands
I who knew the intrigues the spies that one continually
employed and who penetrate into almost the secrets
of the greatest consequence even in the inmost recesses
of offices & Palaces, I who always conducted myself

With that secrecy and caution that in all that has passed
 no one ever has committed from either want of probity
 firmness, or secrecy - the life of many persons may
 be endangered - Well ^{as} of my own, that I should not
 see & wish as I have done many a hundred times
 were it for my effectual good but to lose it
 as might be the case from my improper people
 either the parcel would be an unnecessary sacrifice
 in the different times that I went to & from
 in open books nothing came yet into the papers
 but I had been taken up by His Majesty's ships
 & sea the statement of which was in the parcel, &
 when that had been given me to the Rear Admiral
 in detail and the great effect it would have at
 the time proposed; the limits of a letter and the
 hour of the post will not permit me to go on,
 & I am in only to intreat that inquiry may be made
 as nothing is so easy - yet is it possible that a
 parcel or letter delivered at another house addressed
 to H R H the Prince Regent, Private, written or if
 that it should not ^{be} given or had it been sent to

to the Secretary of State since when it concerned
if it did not announce my Public business ~~it~~
would have been delivered to His Royal Highness
I have never had any reason to suspect my
servant not that even I put his fidelity to the
proof, as I never trust servants and was
always without any attendant whatever in all
my journeys; I sent the parcel without any air
of confidence or secrecy or being a certain
method of its arrival — I have not questioned
him since I received your letter lest if
there was any treachery he might be alarmed
nor shall I tell I have the pleasure to receive
your answer, I might be that like many
other servants are in foreign pay that
I am always to caution that it would not
answer to pay mine, the man is a particularly
well behaved person, upon enquiry it will
be easy found out if he really did deliver the parcel

20323
as he is
he told me
before he
will do me
to His Royal
the liberty to
the cause
that you will
with H R H
I think I ought
was
he
will
men
A paper
the affair
him, I have
Christman
there must
a mention

20323

as he is in limbo and mine is particular
 he told me at the time he took off his great coat
 before he went in; I have now his to request you
 will do me the honor to present the letter enclosed
 to His Royal Highness, & to beg his pardon for taking
 the liberty to give him so much trouble but
 the cause will plead my excuse, and I request
 that you will after you have had a communication
 with H R H that you will write to me

I think I ought to come to Town the parcel
 was of the greatest import as
 the contents which I hope H R H
 will, if it is in the hands of
 Ministers and I can hardly think
 A possible under all the circumstances of
 the affair being ^{H R H will see the result} commended to be brought to
 him, I have a copy of most part of it
 I have in the words of
 be your obliged servant

C. W. B. [Signature]

Christmas Day 1812

there must be great caution in the management of
 A mention comes in to make a very explosion

