

R. Willett to Capt. J. H. Payne

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Dr. Payne

Merly May 31. 1787

I thank you for y^r friendly
inquiries abt my present health; it hath continued to mend
ever since I left the cursed town of London; indeed, I was
better before I left it, & am surpriz'd the maid should give
that acct of it to you & others that alarm'd you, I was,
particularly, better the morning I set out than I had
been for some time before, or I should not have come away.
But, if I am better in my bodily health, my mind is
suffering very much; Mrs Willett hath been very ill
ever since our arrival, with a bilious fever; sometimes
it is a little better, & then returns with violence; & what
aggravates my feelings very much, our correspondence
with Wimbome is entirely cut off by the small Pox preventing
so much there at this time, so we can get no medical
assistance, & I am forc'd to be Physician, Apothecary &
nurse my self

I am heartily glad that y^r Royal Master

R. H.

hath settled his affairs to his satisfaction & with credit.
it is the first instance of a Prince of Wales's debts being
paid by the publick, & I hope will never occur again;
the republicans will rejoice; but the warm friends of the
family will be sorry that the necessity was took place
I look on the expense for finishing Carlton house with a
more favourable eye, & consider it as the permanent
residence of the second character in the Kingdom, & therefore
properly a publick expense; I could wish to see 50,000^l per
ann voted for building a palace more suitable to the
dignity of a King of England; these are expenses that do
honor to a Country, are permanent, & succeed to posterity;
while the payment of debts, incurred by frivolous expenses,
do it no credit; I am only sorry that such an excellent spot
of ground as that on which Carlton house stands had not
had an entirely new edifice erected on it; the back part was
to the gardens with never do it better;

I am heartily sorry that any sum need should lessen the
satisfaction you began to feel in the recovery of Lady Bury's
health; I hope our next week will be more favorable; my own
health, & the present state of Mrs. Willett's make it impossible

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to compose my mind sufficiently for writing to W. B. Cotton, Kempton;
as soon as I feel my self collected enough to write to Lavinia, I will
inclose the letter to you, & desire of course that

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I am glad that Stuart's answer was read so favourably, tho'
I rather wonder that a Lady who was sent to bring a
quantity of furniture should be so delicate about a settlement
that might be made in a few days more, especially
as her charms had been so much overlooked to the age
of 27 at least;

If Mr. Pitt is in town, give me my love to Lavinia, & the rest of
the family; Mrs. Willett & Mr. Pitt's desire their compliments

Yours
R. Willett

From Mr. W. W. R. R.
dated May 31 - 1797