

My dearest Mother,

I can not help troubling you with
a few lines to return my sincere thanks for
your very, very kind Letter which I assure
you has convey'd more pleasure to my feelings
than I have experienced a great while many
months; believe me dear Madam as far as
gratitude & affection can make any one worthy
of such kindness, I trust I ever shall prove
myself deserving of it. You will perhaps think
it strange that I am again going to mention
French Politics in this Letter & you will

think that I can neither write nor talk of
any thing else, & indeed I must say with some
reason, but the truth is, yt. I am so much
interested in the general scene wh. at present
envelopes all Europe, & in wh. that unfortunate
Country plays so very principal a part, yt.
besides writing or talking upon the subject I can
hardly even think upon any thing else, unless
interrupted by thoughts of my own wh. ill oblige
themselves, wh. besides being the most unpleasant
I am sure are the worst companions I can have,
as if I was once to give way to them & attend
to them, God knows what wd. become of me &
what I might be tempted to do, I therefore
drive them away by bending my attention to

this, or any other Topic sh. for a moment can
 engross my ideas, however I will not distract
 You by talking any more about myself, but relate
 something that may besides pleasing You perhaps
 entertain You for a few minutes, but as I have
 already said it must have some connexion
with French Politics, to be interesting at all
at this moment. Well now for mystery, You must
 have heard dear Madam of the prohibition of
 has taken place by order of the National Assembly
 to any French Person being suffer'd to quit
 their Country, particularly the Wives, Children
 & Relations of any of those who have already
 emigrated. as they say they mean to detain
 them as Hostages to be answerable for the consequence

that may come to that deluded Country, from the
attempts of their fellow Citizens to restore good
order & regularity instead of the present state
of anarchy ~~into~~ which they ~~were~~ at present
suffering. On Sunday last we understood that
a Packet from Dieppe was arriv'd in the
Port & we went down to the bottom of the Cliff
to see the Passengers land, however when we
arriv'd we found we were too late & that they
had all disembark'd, we saw several ~~strangers~~
who gave us the most ~~troubling~~ & melancholy
accounts of the fate of the 60th. who were present
at it, & wh. we all have heard of, therefore
I will not tire you my dear Madam with
any recital of what I am arriv'd ~~upon~~

in general have heard as well as the rest of us,
but proceed with telling you, that after having
convers'd with many of the Passengers, ^{they told us} that
amongst the rest, there was a poor little innocent
Child of nine months old wh. was arriv'd under
the care of an English Maid, wh. had been
pass'd over as an English Child, but yet it
was the Child of some body of consequence
in France, & yet the Mother had been inclin'd
to part with it, not being able to make herself
trusting yet her Child might arrive safe in this
Country & be shelter'd from those miseries, wh.
awaited her, & her wretched Country, I
was to do also yet. This woman had brought
with the Child a Letter to a Banker in London.

I immediately called, & had the Child properly
taken care of at the Inn ~~at~~ ^{where} they had gone
& examined the woman who had brought the
Child over, who could speak a single word
of French. She told me ^{it} when her owner
she knew not where Child it was, that she ^{believed}
was the maid of a ^{Mr.} Some an English
Lady who had lately gone over to her
Husband who for some reason or other was
resident at this moment at Dieppe, &c.
The Child she brought over was the Child
of a ~~French~~ Lady she believed of some rank
who had lately been acquainted with her
Mistress, &c. She had not the smallest guess

who the Lady was, but so far she knew. The
 Mother seemed extremely anxious to get her
 Child safe out of the Country, & that upon
 the said effort that she appeared as if she
 patiently resign herself to her Fate, yet Mrs
 Anne having a great many Children of her
 own, offered to take care of this poor little
 Infant till she could find a safe opportunity
 of conveying it into England, wh. she undertook
 to do the next day, by sending it over
 with it, & taking it as one of her own
 Children she wished to send back for the
 benefit of its active air, this plan luckily
 succeeded without any Impediment, in that
 the Women gave me so very clear an account

that it was impossible to doubt the truth of
her story wh. has since proved to be perfectly
true, I then examined the Veil in the Chamber
she was to carry to the Bishop in the City
whose name I do not at present recollect
& they think me also as the cause of a paper
of consequence wh. likewise confirmed me
in thinking th. the Women was so impostor,
therefore I let the Women & Child proceed to
London the next morning after the Child had
been properly taken ^{care} of. We learnt yesterday
by a letter from the Duchesse de Rivin she
managed to scramble over some how or other
& she is now at Goodwood, th. it is the
of the Comte Charles de Noailles, Son to the

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who by the by Mr. Brightly saw this winter as he was present at the birth of you

Prince de Saxe, & yet the Mother was distracted
till she could get it safe out of France, Madam
de Beauvilliers wrote to the two great ones at
Brighton yet, in case a Child answering
such a description should come to be arriv'd
from France yet, it might be perfectly safe
to a stouter care of, ~~but~~ the Child was gone
to London before we got this information
~~arriv'd~~. Well Madam since that, this very
morning when I got out of Bed my servant
told me yet, a Packet had arriv'd at
five this morning, & yet Lady Clement
desir'd soon to tell me that Madame
de Beauvilliers the mother of the poor little Child
was arriv'd, & in her House having effected

her escape in the most wonderful manner, &
she desired I wd. come to her as soon as I was
out in the morning, as M^{rs}. de Bonilles wish'd
much to return me thanks, for the care had
taken of her Child. I then went to Lady
Clements, & receiv'd the following very
extraordinary account from M^{rs}. de Bonilles
own mouth, she told me the whole preceding
account affecting her Child, with this differ-
ence. she had determin'd to risk her life
& to go any length, sooner than to resign
her Child, & remain in her present situation,
but she then determin'd quite quite, to
make her escape, & wh. she fortunately

did in this most extraordinary manner, & wh.
 whenever id. have done but ^{for} the bravery, the
 honor & the spirit of Capt. Burtin & of
 his crew, & wh. I think will always be to
 their immortal honor. Perhaps your
 Majesty may not have heard, of. at Tripoli
 I do not know whether it is so at any
 other Port, there is not only the greatest punishment
 decreed to be inflicted upon the Capt. of any
 vessel who carries out of France any commodity
 whatever, but likewise a very ample reward
 to any Sailor or person who will lodge
 information of any Person who has tried
 to make their escape by proposing to them
 to take them over, this greatly increases

the difficulty to any French Person of making
their escape, Mr. de Bouillon was perfectly
aware of this & knew not wh. way he might best
take he had consulted with Mr. Lowe, who
told him, if any one could make such a thing
he was certain of it. Buxton who was present
was not with this respect so. he was surpris-
edly of any of them, as he knew him tolerably
well having crossed the water several times
in his vessel, yet he thought he was an
honest Man, & one also of some spirit, he
accordingly sent for him & ^{under the seal of} confidence
told him what he had sent for him for,
he at first declined it, but afterwards
upon seeing Mr. de Bouillon agreed to

anything to bring her off, he said he wd. depend
upon his crew, & the plan they settled for
her she agreed to cut perfectly up to with
all the resolution of a man wh. she accordingly
did, & the plan was this, after having made
herself mistress of a complete Sailor's habit
wh. she was to take away amongst her things
she was to pretend to give up all idea
of getting off by way of Dieppe, & to get
off as if she was going back into the
interior part of the country to join her
Father M^{rs}. de LaBade the great M^{rs}.
of when she had got a few miles out of the
Town into a tolerably retired & safe spot she
was to leave her Carriage after having put on

the entire Powder Monkey's dress even down to the
Shirt, Trowsers, & a worn red handkerchief
tied round her Head, setting her Luggage, (Maid,
Clothes &c. pursue the journey wh. she herself
was to have taken, & walk back ^{some miles} without
a shilling of money about her, to join five or
six of Barton's crew who were to be waiting
at dusk just out of the Town for her, she
was then to pass with them thro' the Town down
to the Wharf & to stop with them on the Wharf
whilst they were talking a daint & a gambol
before they could get in to their boat, when she
came to step down the Ladder into the ship
the first Person she met was the French
Commissaire de la Douane, who ^{was} ~~was~~

with the rest to see if she had any contraband
 goods about her, after having examined her, he let
 her pass as she had the presence of mind not to
 open her mouth or utter a single syllable,
 she then lay concealed for four & twenty hours
 withing the rope of the anchor wh. was coiled
 up, waiting for a fair wind, & last night
 at a little past seven just before they
 set sail the Lieutenant & some officers of the
 Port came again on board to examine if
 they did not carry out any thing that was
 contrary to the orders he had received, she
 was so well concealed, that she heard
 them strike the tinder Box in order to procure
 a light to examine where she lay, wh. they did

whilst she pretended to be asleep & lay fasten
on her face, with her arm over the rest of it,
& on seeing the course shoes & stockings she
had on they let her pass without any further
examination taking her for what she appeared
to be one of the Ship's Boys. Here then she
arriv'd this morning perfectly safe, without
a shilling of money, a friend whom she knew
or wd. speak to, & without a rag of Cloth
but the Sailor's Jacket she had on her back.
She is a tall genteel, & even handsome looking
woman with extraordinary fine eyes & does
not above twenty Years of age at most,
exceedingly modest in her manner, & appears
to be much out of spirits, tho' happy to ady

at having escap'd out of the Clutches of her Country
People, as to her spirits being pleas'd to think
that more to the Fatigue & Anxiety she has
undergone of late than to any either very
secret or urgent cause to herself, for she is
now arriv'd where her Child & herself are in
perfect safety, & where she has friends &
persons of consequence who will immediately
pursue her with every thing she can
want. Capt. B. return'd the Men who brought
her safely over, in the same Capt. from
whom I sent you Majesty the last account
& who has been over to France & back
again since that time. I ought to apologize

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to You my dear Madam for reading You such
a terrible long scroll, but as it is really
the most extraordinary Adventure I ever heard
of in all my life, for a Person so young &
so delicate to escape so many dangers
by their own firmness & spirit, yet I really
thought it wd. be unpardonable in me being
on the spot & having learnt the whole story
from her own mouth not to communicate it
to Your Majesty, especially as in a very few
Days I suppose it will be in every News Paper
& it appears so much like what might be
inserted in a modern novel, yet one wd. be
led to discredit it, if one was not able to
ascertain all the facts wh. ^{are} the present story

Adieu my dearest Mother, I am sure you will
 long before this have been tired of the sight
 of my handwriting, I will therefore conclude
 with desiring you to believe me,

ever yr. dutiful & affectionate

Brighton.

Son,

August twenty ninth.

1792.

George

P.S.

Pray Madam make one of my Sisters read
 this I dare to you as I am sure it will tire
 yr. eyes. I saw M^{me}. de Bouillon dress'd in L^y.
 Clement's Maid's Cloaths & with the Hoop & parting
 she made her escape in. I say let me request of
 you my dear Maman, to buy me at the King's Fair & embrace
 my Sisters for me who I am sure will rejoice with us all in the escape of this
 poor Madam —

scapje of Comtesse de Mailles

The Prince of Wales

To

The Queen

29 Aug: 1792