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39169-70 H. R. H. to P. Cress of Hales.

Apr. 21 1796

Madam,

You must allow me to answer in English your Letter of this morning as you sufficiently understand the Language; because it is expected for me to explain myself without any possible ambiguity upon the subject of the unwise, groundless, & most injurious imputation, which you have thought fit to cast upon me. In the first place Madam I beg You to recollect that I detailed to you the peculiar circumstances by which I must be led for some time into a course of Travels abroad, that You might not misconstrue my absence into any purpose'd neglect towards You; but unless You are



conscious that the time which you have unfortunately  
taken must necessarily make your society un-  
comfortable to me, you ought in conder to have  
been satisfied with the reasons I gave. As to  
the sentence of your Letter which insinuates that  
I oblige you to dine à tête à tête with Lady Jersey  
I should be left in astonishment at a statement  
so utterly contradictory to truth, did I not  
perceive with great concern an object in that  
apertion to which I shall advert presently.

I am more immediately called to notice the  
indelicate expressions which you have used  
towards me in the allusion you make to Lady  
Jersey. Believe me Madam, that the persons



who endeavours to poison your mind with the  
 vile calumnies which have been propagated  
 in the World respecting Lady Jersey, are no less  
 seriously your enemies than mine. They hope  
 to further their private malignant views, by  
 fomenting discord between You & Me, at the  
 expense of us both. What else Madam than  
 unconquerable disgust in my mind could be  
 the consequence, were it in your power to make  
 me meanly & dishonourably sacrifice in the eyes  
 of the Publick a Woman who I declared to you  
 on your arrival, not to be my Mistress, as you  
 indeciously term her, but a Friend to whom I am  
 attached by the strong ties of habitude, esteem &  
 respect. Were it otherwise, were my connexion with



Lady Jersey of a different nature, such repugnance  
at the idea, if I may take the liberty of saying you  
comes singularly from you. I can not forget that  
you have launched out to me in praises of another  
Woman, whose character never could have been  
known to you, but through the interested or  
slandering suggestions of designing Individuals,  
praises, the only drift of which could be to  
reconcile me to a Person, whose conduct I  
must always report with just indignation.

Let me remind you Madam, that the intimacy  
of my friendship with Lady Jersey, under all  
the false colours which slander has given to it,  
was perfectly known to you, before you accepted  
my head, for you yourself told me so, immediately  
on your arrival here, reciting the particulars



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of the anonymous Letters which transmitted the  
information to Brunswick, & giving yourself  
credit for having suppress'd all mention of  
their prospect but to myself. This had an  
ear two Days before we were married; I then  
took the opportunity of explaining to you, that  
Lady Jersey was one of the oldest acquaintances  
I had in this country, & that the confidence  
reputing from so long a friendship, had  
enabled her to offer advice which contributed  
not a little to decide me to marriage.  
You will recollect Madam, that you have  
several Ladies in your family besides Lady  
Jersey, any, or every one of whom it is in your  
power to summon either for Dinner, or for  
company at any time of the Day. Lady Villiers



as Sister to Lady Cholmondeley, you know to be  
likewise admitted to obey your invitation. If  
the choice be not more extensive it is not my fault,  
but it is the consequence of the etiquette existing  
from all times for the situation of the Princess of  
Wales. You know Madam, that at times when  
Lady Jersey has not been in waiting, you have  
asked to Dinner other of your Ladies, (or at  
least might always have done so had you pleas'd)  
than the one which happen'd to be in attendance.  
What impedid, or what impedes your doing so  
in the case of Lady Jersey? I never said anything  
to you, which could ever influence you, to make a  
distinction between any of your Ladies, leaving  
it to your own taste & judgment to regulate your  
society among them, as might be most gratifying



to yourself; but Madam I much fear that the  
 insinuation of your being forced to keep company  
 with Lady Jersey, alone, through a long Day as you  
 state it, was not meant for me, who must have  
 the total want of foundation of such a representation.  
 I am very apprehensive that you have been  
 inconsiderate enough to imagine that you might  
 hereafter appeal to the Copy of that Letter, in order  
 to prove to others not so well informed the grounds  
 you had for dissatisfaction. This is the true subject  
 from the proud & insidious compliment paid to  
 the English Nation in another passage, involving  
 however a most unjustifiable charge against  
 me by the contrast which I may be supposed to  
 stand. The strange incoherence of your writing  
 & your train of expression may possibly have made



we misunderstand this; but it is necessary that  
I should speak to the point, as I am determin'd to  
leave nothing doubtful between us. If Madam,  
such a purpose has been indistinctly floating  
in your mind, I recommend to you to ascertain  
to yourself, exactly what result you expect from  
it. What improvement does your situation  
admit, which does not depend, wholly on the  
prudence & propriety of your own private conduct.  
We have ~~to~~ unfortunately been oblig'd to  
acknowledge to each other, that we can not  
find happiness in our Union. Circumstances  
of character & education which it is needless  
to discuss now, render that impossible. It  
then only remains that we should make the  
situation as little uncomfortable to each other



as its nature will allow. It has been my studious  
wish to soften it in that respect to you. I have  
been solicitous that you should have every grati-  
fication which the nature of the times, the  
manners of this Country, & the established customs  
of your Bank would admit, with a due regard  
at the same time to the pecuniary difficulties  
I so humbly & unjustly labour under. These  
difficulties undoubtably preclude you from a  
part of those pleasures which might be attend-  
ed a Prince of Wales, but you will know that  
no blame can on that head rest with me, or  
with the King whose honourable support, I  
must always acknowledge with most grateful  
sensitivity. However these wishes in my part



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For your comfort, can in no way be so effectually  
counteracted as by your attempting, & in which  
you must fail to establish an interest, & a comfort  
incomparable to mine. The unfair & insidious  
attacks, which you seem disposed to make upon  
my tranquillity & wellfare must disengage me  
to contribute to your satisfaction & pleasure  
in the degree I should desire. Let me therefore beg  
of you to make the best of a situation, unfortu-  
nate for us both, which is only to be done, by  
not wantonly creating a magnifying uncon-  
fortable circumstances. I have desired Lady  
Chelmsdeley to have the goodness to be the bearer  
of this Letter, that she may explain to you any  
phrase, should there be any which you might  
not perfectly comprehend. I am, Madam



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Yours most sincerely,

April 21<sup>st</sup>. 1756 - George B.



Answer to the Principi  
Letter April 21. 1796.

(No. 1.)

The Prince of Wales  
to  
The Prince of Wales  
April 21. 1796