

39175 - 6

H. P. H. to Peers. of Wales

Apr. 25 1796

Madam,

Your Letter exacts from me a few words of reply; after which I hope this unpleasing kind of correspondence will entirely cease.

You have completely misapprehended the language which you state to have been held to you at Brighton & two Months ago by some of our mutual Friends. I can comprehend the zeal, I can admit the good sense & honest intention of any representations which they may have spontaneously made, for their evident purpose was to prevent your adopting

AA
3
a conduct injurious to your own peace as well as
mine; But nothing can be farther from my
sentiments than to sanction at any time a
statement incorrect in its application.

With regard to another Lady it was impossible
that I could have begun the discussion with
you. And to prove to you that you deceive
yourself, I only recollect her name having
been mention'd in any manner to our
conversation three times; in each of
which instances it was introduced by you;
First when you mention'd the anonymous
letters; secondly in the Garden when you
told me a circumstance respecting Payne
which nobody could know but yourself; &

39176

lastly in the conversation alluded to in my last
Letter which took place but a few Weeks since.

I am happy that you see the indelicacy
of the appellation which escaped you respecting
Lady Jersey. Let me beg you to recollect that
I have never intimated the most distant desire
for your marking partiality towards her.

My wish has always been that there should
not be any distinction in your behaviour
to any of your Ladies; unless any of them
should fail in respect, or personal attention
to you; of which I can not but assure myself
they are all equally incapable. Without
a reason, you ought to feel that it might be
at least a striking incivility to me to show

38108

a wanton distaste towards any of your Ladies
whom I had with solicitous attention to your
dignity, chosen to form your Household. And
if this spleen were exercised against one
whom I had mention'd to You in terms of that
particular esteem & friendship which long
acquaintance had established, woud it not be
towards one the most offensive & everything
undut that woud be adopted.

By bundles attachment to the
Queen, both as a Friend & as a Mother woud
ever make me feel with unconcern gratification
the tribute of praise so justly due to her
character; let me trust that you will
take example from the amiable solititude
with which she has always studied the

Henry's disposition & promoted his comfort. This
Madam is not to be effected by imitating imi-
-mations or fretful complaints. The sort
of appeal which you have made to the Duke
& the Princess Sophia of Gloucester, by shewing
to them your first Letter & my Answer, can not
have any evil consequence; because they are
both too much interested in the credit of
the Family to talk of the subject elsewhere.
I have however told you that our situation
allows no partial appeal, even within my
own family with any degree of propriety.
Every such partial appeal must be unfair
made with regard to me. Because delicacy
keeps me silent on some peculiar points

3

which even to yourself I never can insinuate.
I would not let any indication of those private
feelings appear in a Letter the object of
which is (what the tone of mine ever shall
be) to moderate and not to wound your sen-
sations. I regret sincerely that an etiquette
not established by me, but determined by
fix'd custom, prevents your mode of life
from being more easy & amusing. In what
depends upon me to render it more comfortable
you will always find me sincerely disposed
to meet any reasonable representations of yours.
But my efforts must be ineffectual if on your
part I do not find dispositions to be satisfied.
Let me hope that this painful contest will

now be closed. If you wish for more of my
 company, it must strike you that the natural
 mode of obtaining it is to make my own time
 not obnoxious to me; & You will judge whether
 a captious time towards me, or indirect
 managements against my tranquillity are
 well calculated to make me feel at ease
 in your Society. It is my sincerest wish
 to live upon terms of quiet & friendly civility
 with You. I am, Madam,

Belton House. Most sincerely Yours,
 April 25th.
 1796—
 George B.

The Prince of Wales

To

The Prince of Wales,

April 25th 1796

(p. 2)

Comms to the King's letter
No 24. of April. April 25.
1796