

May 31 1796

Sir

The reluctance I must ever feel in giving
 yr Majesty anxiety upon any occasion, has made me
 to the last moment refrain from representing to
 your Majesty the extremity to which I am now
 driven by the conduct of the Princess.

Your Majesty is already in possession
 of the correspondence that has passed between
 the Princess of Wales and myself to which I must
 now add the letter which I yesterday received.

It is needless therefore for me to appeal to you
 Sir whether or not I have honestly endeavoured
 to avoid an open rupture. Your Majesty will
 I am certain give me credit for considerations
 of the fullest attention towards you as well as
 for due regard to public opinion when I call
 to your mind my long patience with that
 character of the Princess which I unfortunately
 perceived even before the hour that united me
 to her; I have but to appeal to the best of Women
 and of Mothers, for the prognostic which I then
 formed, and can truly say that no consideration
 upon earth but unalterable devotion to your
 Majesty and the sense of its being the entire
 sacrifice of myself offered to your comfort; could
 have made me even at that moment fulfill
 the engagement; whence I perfectly augured
 all the unhappiness, which I since have experienced.

Your Majesty is but too well acquainted
 with the cause of my estrangement from the
 Princess. Independent of particulars which
 delicacy forbids me to repeat upon paper

(2) I need but recapitulate her private conduct in the family, the nature of which your Majesty is, or may be apprized of; from others of your Children besides me. The cruel calumnies with which she has loaded the Duke & Duchess of York; especially the Duchess, (whose course of life would have been the noblest example that the Princess could have followed):

Her attempts to sow the seeds of discord among every branch of us, her odious endeavours to vitiate the principles of my innocent sisters; & the disgusting strain of falsehood in which she constantly indulges herself; among other instances carrying it so far as to have advanced charges of ^{of manner} Brutality against me, upon occasions, when my Mother, my sisters, & the attendants present, were all of them witnesses that nothing that could give a colour to the imputation had ever passed.

Motives of public policy recommended a suppression of personal feelings at least as far as could strike the eyes of the world therefore I aimed at such an arrangement as might enable me to pass my life with the Princess upon such terms as might satisfy all outward appearances

The insidious conduct of the Princess has totally frustrated this hope. The manner in which she has shifted her ground of complaint, both to me and to your Majesty will evince that her design was to avoid accommodation, notwithstanding

~~Notwithstanding~~ the letter which your Majesty
condescended to write to her, as well as to the
Duke of Gloucester, misled by advisers in
whose hands she is become an absolute
tool, she has flattered herself she could reduce
me to such a situation as could give her
a decided political superiority in this
country.

This was only to be effected
by the degradation of my character;

I have been well aware of the unremitting
assiduity with which calumnies of every sort
for some years past have been circulated
to my disadvantage; It was a natural ^{object}
of the propagators of these slanders to get
their calumnies apparently confirmed by
the testimony of the Princess & she unfortunately
saw an end to be answered by adopting
the views of these traducers. It was hence
their joint view to impress the world with
a belief that she suffers the most harsh,
the most unjust, the most ungenerous
treatment from me, an insinuation
which she has sedulously endeavoured
to palm upon the public by theatrical
tricks on every occasion where she could
hope they would have any effect.

The impossibility of combatting
this dishonest policy without deviating from
that principle of silence and forbearance
which I had laid down for myself, made me
perhaps not sufficiently attentive to the
impression she was making upon public
opinion.

71) The extent to which that erroneous sentiment has gained ground was proved at the Opera-house on Saturday night in a manner upon which I need not comment as I ^{can} call God to witness that I never did or said a harsh thing to the Princess since she has been in my House, & Your Majesty will judge what I ought to feel upon an event that cannot be misconstructed.

The matter is now brought to public issue between the Princess and me, and her conception of the advantage she has gained from my former silence derived of late through deference to your Majesty's wishes will be clear from the letter I have the honor to enclose. A composition obviously not her own especially when compared with her first letter and the former part of the correspondence and in an insolence of tone wholly unbecoming, and which would not easily have occurred to a Woman.

Your Majesty must be sufficiently sensible of the danger there would be in setting the example of submission to the licentious judgement of a crowd, but in this case there would be the further mischief of fulfilling all the views of a party, who in the run which they make at me, strike at the whole Royal Family.

A compliance with the terms the Princess holds out would be an acquiescence on my part of every charge which they wish to fix upon me.

However general maybe the misguided clamor of the world, to bend my neck

As a man and as a husband under the
 practices of a designing Woman or rather
 those of a party of whom she is now
 irrecoverably become the Instrument,
 is a baseness of which your Son, shall
 never be found capable as long as I
 remain satisfied with my own integrity
 and conscious of those principles of justice
 and honor which have always hitherto
 and ever shall dictate my conduct thro'
 life.

Since it would and be quite
 ruinous to my character and interest
 as well as destructive to my peace of
 mind, for the rest of my life, to have
 further communication or intercourse
 of any kind with so dangerous a person
 as the Princess. I have only earnestly
 to supplicate y^r Majesty to order
 measures for our final separation

You must see Sir, that where
 tempers are so widely different, educations,
 manners, & habits, so completely opposite,
 it would be difficult in the extreme to
 maintain domestic tranquillity; but
 when to these obstacles are added the sense
 of the virulent persecution which I have
 so unjustly suffered; it must be idle to think
 of real reconciliation & it is evident the
 Princess does not wish it on her part.

A reconciliation only ostensible
 whilst it would inflict an indelible stain
 on my character, could not be productive
 of even quiet, & would but give the Princess
 more advantageous ground for Machinations
 against me and the whole of our family.

16/ My deliberate resolution being formed upon such ground of ^{Yr} Majesty will perceive that it is impossible to be shaken I shall therefore acquaint the Princess with this step when your Majesty's birth-day is past, intimating that all further correspondence ceases between us.

In this state of things ^{Yr} Majesty will undoubtedly feel it impossible for me to return to my own House as long as the Princess shall abide there; and I trust ^{Yr} Majesty will think it necessary on this occasion, for my honor as well as for that of your family and for the satisfaction which the Public have a right to expect on a matter so interesting to the Nation, not to conceal the true grounds of my difference with the Princess and to free the case from those calumnious and fallacious pretences which she has thrown over it.

I cannot close this letter without adverting to the situation of my poor little Girl, as a Father I must feel the greatest anxiety to secure to her the advantages of an Education suitable to her birth, & which unfortunately her Mother has never known. Straightened as my Income is I shall be happy to defray any expense attending her, but I must at the same time express my earnest Hopes that the Child may have the blessing of being brought up under the immediate eye of ^{Yr} Majesty & her Grandmother, that she may have the chance of proving such as my Sisters are now. The power is vested in ^{Yr} Majesty of making that arrangement and I trust that your Kindness will so exert it.

Overpowered with unhappiness, it has
not been been in my power, to comprize
all my feelings in a shorter letter; pardon
my prolixity and allow me to conclude
with assuring you that impressed with
every feeling of Duty and Affection for
your person that can be felt for the best
of Parents I remain Sir

Your Majesty's
Most attached & most devoted
Son and Subject
George P.

May 31st 1796.

A. W. S. the Prince
of Wales, May 31st

1896.

(S.M.)