

H. R. A. b. H. M.

Draft

June 3 1796

Sir,

It is with the truest sense of obligation that I acknowledge the kind style of the Letter which I had the honor of receiving this morning from Your Majesty. ^{But} In addition to every other grief that expresses my heart, I feel the severest pain, almost being able to conform, to that ^(line) which Your Majesty indicates, & for which with the humblest deference & respect I will venture to offer my reasons at the feet of the best of Princes, confident that you will listen to them & weigh them dispassionately. Believe me dear Sir, it was no warmth conceived ^{by recent circumstances} that dictated my Letter to Your Majesty, but a deliberate view of the urgency of my situation. I neither feel nor act from ~~or~~ ^{or} ~~dictated~~ ^{dictated} ~~injury~~ or a bare point of honor but from a policy, that surrounded as I am by distresses is become inevitable

Your Majesty does not
 receive that submission to
 the Prince which ^{as what,} she now
 requires, is to subscribe to
 the truth of every charge which
 has been so refreshingly &
 so actively circulated
 against me. The ground
 of her disaffection as
 she stated it in her letter
 to your Majesty, is perfectly
 different, from that which
 which she has endeavored
 to impress the Publick, as a
 medium through which
 she could ^{elicited} convey belief
 for every other column
 Your Majesty seems to
 apprehend the conduct of
 the Prince might have
 been different had I attempted
 to guide her. Allow me
 to say that it was this
 very endeavor to supply
 her want of experience, &
 to guard her against the
 insidious practices of those
 who might see ^{as well} ~~as~~
 myself, the frailty of

the answer unfortunate it may
 be for others involved in it, it
 is well for me, that notwithstanding
^{concerning} ~~the charge~~
~~which she has thought fit~~
 to bring upon me is the malignity
 of her & her advisors, that could
 any thing of a more atrocious ^{kind}
~~even~~ ^{meditation} be done
 upon the appearance of probability
 in the eyes of the Publick, it
 would infallibly have been
 imputed against her.

gaining a dangerous influence
 over her, that has entailed
 upon me the charge which has
 most excited the public
 mind. Whenever I have
 given her advice in the
 mildest manner, it has
 been represented as a brutal
 check; I am represented
 as keeping her a State Prisoner.
 Your Majesty knows that
 it was my apprehension
 of any appearance of favouring
 a Party, that made me
 wish that the Society for
 the Princess at Carlton
 House, should only be composed
 of such as formed the true
 select Society at the Queen's
 House, any remaining
 circumstances not admitting
 indiscriminate leaving
 Rooms, or Greatly so called.
 As it was necessary that
 some motive should be found
 to give credibility ^{to the existence of} such
 reports and not on any part, the
 name of an unfortunate
 Lady has been wickedly

Had been Sir I most solemnly
declare, that with as to the
change of ~~conduct~~ ^{conduct} ~~made~~
by the Princess in her last
Letter of ~~improvement~~ ^{improvement} ~~between~~
in that day, it is the ~~first~~
word I ever heard of it, & I
not only never that I never
received the slightest in-
formation of ~~conduct~~ in the
quarter to the Princess, but
I assure Your Majesty of my
complete conviction that such
never existed, as it certainly
could have been mentioned to me
at the time & I should have
reported it accordingly by it
will likewise Your Majesty
that had there been ground for
any such charge the Princess
would not have kept it back
until her last Letter, or
then ~~have~~

be brought forward as the ~~reason~~
of this treatment; & by the
absolute submission to the
Princess, I am ~~well~~
upon ^{already} to confirm the charge
against that Lady & myself
but
in confirming that to
establish all the rest of
the complicated ~~pleader~~
the ~~Princess~~ I am to submit
~~after such a submission~~
& leaving the Princess
triumphant in the hands
that have guided her, my
situation would be deplorable
deplorable indeed, for
either with regard to the Publick
or ~~as to~~ ~~being~~ ~~at~~ ~~home~~
in my own ~~State~~ I should
be reduced to the state of
an absolute Dependence
upon her. No view of
policy or affecting myself
can be set in the balance
against such a consequence
When Your Majesty says
that it ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~done~~ ~~by~~ ~~holding~~
to my present resolution
I may think that also
it can not be my intention
to distress, you must

2.

every thing of the most lively
 duty & fondest affection
 within me, ~~substantive~~ &
 which you will do me the
 justice ^{to} from the knowledge
 & experience you have had
 my heart from the earliest moment
 of my life, have seen the
 predominant feeling in
 my breast. But these
 sensations can not be
 awakened without my
 feeling myself entitled
 from them to appeal
 to your justice, whether
 the expressions you are
 pleased to use respecting
 the conduct & temper
 of the Princess are not
 more lenient, than ~~your~~
 facts, most of them known
 to you, & the evident
 nature of her present
 attempt can possibly
 merit at your hands,
 when such an acquittal
 of her by your Majesty,
 stamps truth upon every
~~illand~~ slander against me

not only

but carries with it my
decided mind both in point
of situation & character.

My Fall is inevitable
unless I meet support
from your Majesty, which
I hope I have ^{sifted} received by
the discernment of my conduct
upon this trying occasion,
& which support ~~will~~ ^{may}
never be ineffectual if
honestly applied by your
servants, & by those who
possess attachment to
your person & crown.

Do not please Sir, regard
me as disrespectful
in venturing again to return
the letter, which I suppose
may remain in your hands
as ^{proof} ~~testimony~~ ^{a testimony} of the
true causes of my unhappiness.

My heart bleeds with the
concerns I am giving you
but I am confident that
your liberality & protection
will see the small remedy
made which I desire.

39209

~~Draft of a letter to the~~
King. June 3^d. 1796
dated from the Grange.

George B.

The Prince of Wales,
to
The King

June 3^d. 1796.