

Duchess of Rutland to H.R.H.

39539-40

Belvoir Castle
Grantham
Saturday Dec. 22
1798

Dear Sir,

I have this Day had the Honor to receive your Royal Highness's most Gracious & Friendly Letter of the 20.th for which it is impossible for me ever to express the high Sense I feel, & also of your repeated kind-ness to me - I imagine that a Letter I had the Honor of addressing to your Royal Highness on the 19.th must have crossed yours on the road in which I presumed to solicit the Honor you so kindly propose to confer upon us, & in which I also took the liberty of enclosing a List of the Company & of mentioning a Numerous Party we expect which I did not know how far it might be proper to ask you to Honor with your Presence - I cannot express how sensible & grateful both Rutland & I are of your great Goodness & Condescension to us both, & to all

our Family, & particularly for all the very flattering & kind Expressions you so graciously bestow upon Him. He arrived safe & well from Ireland the day before yesterday, & desires me to express his grateful Thanks to your Royal Highness, & means to take the liberty of doing so in his own Hand -

It is impossible for me to express how deeply I feel impress'd by the great condescending Friendship you have always shewn to me & mine in times past as well as present -

You are too good Sir to have thought of answering my former Letter, it was more than I could expect that you would take that trouble - I am extremely sorry to hear your Royal Highness has been unwell with the Phumation, but hope you are now quite recover'd - I ventured to express a Hope in my former Letter that you would do us the Honor of coming on the 2.^d or 3.^d of January which I presume I repeat now, as we wish much to have the Happiness

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of seeing you then, & we also fear there would be
great confusion on the day, if your Royal Highness
only arrived that Day, & great difficulty from the
concourse of People & number of Carriages, & likewise
I fear we must dine at five o'clock that Day
I must also again repeat I hope your Royal
Highness will arrive before it is dark as the roads
are now so extremely bad every way to the Castle
May I presume to request your Royal Highness
to give directions to someone to let me know what
Day & time we may hope for the honor of seeing
you at Belvoir Castle, that we may have every
thing prepared as well as the state it is now in
will permit, which we are much concerned is
not such as we wish for to receive you; I should
also be extremely obliged to you if you would direct
them at the same time to mention any thing
by which we could render it more agreeable to

Your Royal Highness, or more comfortable for your
accommodation — Rutland desires me to present
his best respects to your Royal Highness, & I hope
you will allow me to assure you it will ever
be his ambition, as it is, & always has been since
to prove the gratitude, regard & attachment
with which I am

Dear Sir

With the greatest respect
Your Royal Highness,

Most obliged & Devoted

Humble Servant

Rutland

Duchess of Rutland

Dec. 22. 1790.