

AA [Aug. 21. 1804]

Dow Lady Elgin to Princess Elizabeth.

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You may imagine my Dear Princess Elizabeth that your very long silence has not pass'd unnoticed. It has vexed me very much, at some time knowing the Anxiety you labour under, I resolved to wait patiently a Summons, I flatter'd myself I should daily receive, to carry Dear Princess Charlotte to Windsor, before the Family went to Weymouth. The Princess of Wales had been once here, & we were at Blackheath once as usual. But on Sunday Her Royal Highness arriv'd in great Spirits, saying she had great News to tell us, & desired us to guess what would give the greatest pleasure - Princess Charlotte immediately ~~excl~~ exclaim'd, going to Windsor - not just that reply'd her Royal Highness, but you are going to New, to see their Majesties, & the King has writt me to desire I would tell you to come in order to take leave of you & me (addressing P before He goes to Weymouth) She then said that we might go in her Carriage, but that I declin'd, as Princess Charlotte is so nervous, that I thought she had better remain quiet as I knew she would be agitated from her joy - The Princess staid to Luncheon & I was so pleas'd with some Ambiguous hints I was led to think, that even the Prince would perhaps be at New, & I caught a sort of Glimpse of Pleasure that has not presented itself to my Ideas, of a long time.

At once however it struck me, that I never received an Invitation in my Life, but
 from the Queen, in abode from one of my D^r Princesses, & my Spirits vanished before
 the Prince of Wales left us — The singularity of the invitations worried me, &
 as I heard the Prince of Wales was to be in London that day, I wrote a little Note
 to His Royal Highness, merely stating all was well, & that the Prince of Wales
 had brought an invitation for Her Royal Highness to go to Frew to see their
 Majestys before they went to Weymouth — I thought that could do no harm &
 it satisfied my mind, that I did not go of myself — I assure you I felt quite
 awkward at thoughts of presenting my Precious Love, & myself, without a
 little Note, or message from the Queen — But no Words can express my
 Sensations on getting there — The Dear good King was waiting to
 receive Princess Charlotte, & took us into the Dining Room, & was most kind
 Yet when he said He was alone, & had come merely to see the Prince of Wales
 & Princess Charlotte — I was quite Stupified. He then added, He was to take
 Princess Charlotte to Himself, as the Prince wish'd it, but he could say
 nothing yet. His Majesty was going on when the Prince of Wales came
 & He went wth her to the inner Apartment & desired I might take a Walk
 with my little Darling — I had time therefore to compose myself so at least
 as to be on my Guard — but you cannot my D^r Princess imagine my

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49284

Situation — to be in that Torment Mansion, without a Person to look at, and to
recollect that there was a time when every Step I took presented me with
Friends that I Honored, Esteem'd, & Loved, and to see His Majesty Alone
without his charming Supports, quite overwhelmed me — He eat very
well his pudding & Dumplings, but I am afraid over exerted himself
His Conversation was mostly about Weymouth at Dinner, He would help
& was so attentive to us all, M^{rs} Life was with the Princess a ~~very~~
worthy good Woman — I write all these Circumstances in Confidence
to you my D^r Princess, in case you think it will be agreeable to the
Dear Queen how the Party went on — The few minutes I was with
His Majesty, after, was employ'd by my asking many questions after
all at Windsor, & it gave me great comfort to hear all was well — for I
was afraid it might be otherwise — The Queen had given over
wine & had no Complaint but want of Sleep — I sincerely
hope His Majesty will not suffer from His jaunt, He is still weak

I am sadly afraid I have not a chance of being sent for
by the Queen and never did I so anxiously wish to see her
You may believe this account of the Prince of Wales giving up
His Child astonishes me — I hope it is a Complement to His

1850

Majestys & that the D^r Love will be under the Queens Care I had wrote
you a long letter on the Subject of D^r Princess Charlotte, who is improving
much, but I will not send it till you are at Weymouth, but I anxiously
beg a few lines to give me some information about this extraordinary
Event - I could see it in a pleasing View, & God Grant it may be
so but I am so feeble hearted, that I literally tremble at every thing
I would have come over to see myself & see the D^r Family
& ^{say} ~~say~~ Adieu do not forget me, but I cannot leave my Precious Charge
nor can I venture to take her without an Invitation - We have ^{not} been
separated since I saw your Royal Highness last, nor can I with Comfort
till I get a Friend or Subgoverness - Do write me one Line & believe me
(with the most affectionate Duty to the Dear Queen, & sincere Prayers for the
greatest Advantage from the Sea to our Beloved Sovereign, & all his Family
that I remain Yours very Faithfull & Sincerely Gratefull Friend & Servant

Shoosers Hill Tuesday Evening

almost blind

M. Elgin