

Rev. G. F. Nott, to Bishop of Salisbury.

49639-40

My Lord,

The more I reflect on your Lordship's direction that I should make some reply to what has been urged against me, the greater do I find the difficulty; for the charges being all of a general nature, I really know not what I am called upon to disprove.

Your Lordship indeed gives me to understand, that the principal cause of the displeasure under which I have the misfortune to labour, is, "my having obtained an undue influence over the mind of Her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte."

In answer to this I will simply state, that when Her Royal Highness was entrusted to Lady de Clifford's and your Lordship's care, it was found that owing to a fatal neglect in Her Royal Highness's previous education, there were many points in character, and disposition, that required amendment; and even some particular faults were pointed out to which you were commanded to direct your attention. These were faults of a nature not to be corrected until Her Royal Highness's confidence should be gained, and that degree of influence over

her mind acquired, which would ensure the proper reception of advice.

The manner in which my instruction was delivered fortunately from the first engaged Her Royal Highness's attention. In the course of my attendance it was perceived that insensibly I was acquiring that sort of influence, which had been previously judged desirable. I could not be insensible of this myself, in common with every part of the establishment. I spoke of it to Lady de Clifford, and your Lordships; and so far were you from thinking it improper I should gain this sort of influence over Her Royal Highness's mind, that you both agreed it ought to be encouraged, rather than repressed; your Lordship thinking it would essentially promote the progress of Her Royal Highness's studies; and her Ladyship expressly directing me, and in repeated instances begging me to employ it, for the general regulation of Her Royal Highness's conduct, even in minute particulars, as well as in the improvement of her disposition.

As I am not called upon to mention the particular instances in which the influence was thus exerted for Her Royal Highness's benefit, under your Lordship's direction and that of Lady de Clifford, I need not enumerate them. My sole business is to speak to the fact; and, if by the charge adduced no more is meant than that I had

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acquired an influence over Her Royal Highness's mind, it cannot surely be now thought presumption in me to say, that I believe I once had: but it was an influence originating in the conviction Her Royal Highness was pleased to entertain of my sincerity in the discharge of ^{my} duty: and the only object to which it was ever applied, was the promoting to the utmost of my power, Her Royal Highness's improvement in learning and in goodness.

Viewed in this light therefore, I will venture to think the charge cannot fix any imputation of blame upon me.

But my Lord, if by that charge is meant, that I had recourse to artful, and improper means towards acquiring this influence over Her Royal Highness's mind; or, that I ever in one single instance exerted that influence directly, or indirectly to my own personal advantage; or that I ever availed myself of it to injure others, or weaken the regard, and respect due to those placed about Her Royal Highness; or, above all, that I abused it to instil into Her Royal Highness's mind undutiful, and disrespectful sentiments towards His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, then my Lord, in the most solemn, and unequivocal manner I deny the charge in all its parts; and I must add, that the consciousness of my

innocence, if I were to listen to that alone, would lead me not to deprecate, but solicit enquiry in any shape. I know that I could make it plainly to appear, that to the utmost of my honest endeavour, and the opportunities afforded me, I have faithfully discharged the important task assigned me.

At the same time I am very sensible of the delicate situation in which I stand; and I have every wish to shew my dutiful submission to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and my faithful attachment to His service; but so long as imputations of baseness and dishonesty are thrown upon me, I must be allowed, my Lord to feel that something is due to the vindication of my own character. I am confidently persuaded that such feelings on my part will not be disapproved by the goodness, the justice, and the Humanity of His Majesty.

I am,

My Lord

Your Lordships

most faithful

and obliged

Geo. Geo. Nott

May 6. 1809