

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 call'd 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 obtain'd an undue influence over the mind of H. R. H. The Pr<sup>ce</sup> Charlotte." In answer to this, I will simply state that when H. R. H. was entrusted to your Lordship's & Lady de Clifford's care, it was found that owing to a fatal neglect in H. R. H. previous education, there were many points in character, & disposition that required amendment, & even some particular faults were pointed out, to which you were commanded to direct your attention. These faults were of a nature not to be corrected until H. R. H.'s confidence should be gain'd, & that degree of influence over her mind acquired, which would ensure the proper reception of advice. The manner in which my instruction was from the first deliver'd, — fortunately was such as engag'd H. R. H.'s attention.

In the course of my attendance it was observed that I was insensibly acquiring that sort of influence which had been previously judg'd desirable. Of this I could not but be sensible myself in common with every part of the establishment. I spoke of it to Lady de Clifford, & your Lordship; and so far were you from thinking it improper I should gain this sort of influence over H. R. H.'s mind, that you both agreed it ought to be encourage'd, rather than repress'd: your Lordship thinking it would essentially promote the progress of H. R. H.'s studies, and her Ladyship expressly directing me and in repeated instances begging me, to employ it for the general regulation of H. R. H.'s conduct, even in minute particulars as well as in the improvement of her disposition.

As I am not call'd upon to mention the particular instances in which this influence was exerted for H. R. H.'s benefit under your Lordship's direction, & that of Lady de Clifford, I need not enumerate them. My sole

*[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

business is to speak to the fact: and if by the charge adduced no more is meant than that I had acquired an influence over H. R. H.'s mind, it surely cannot now be thought presumption in me to say, I believe I once had: but it was an influence that originated in the conviction H. R. H. was pleased to entertain of my sincerity in the discharge of my duty: and the only object to which I ever applied it, was the promoting, to the utmost of my power H. R. H.'s improvement in learning and in goodness.

View'd 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 & improper means towards acquiring this influence <sup>over</sup> H. R. H.'s mind: Or, that I even in a single instance exerted that influence either directly, or indirectly to my own personal advantage, Or, that I ever avail'd myself of it to injure others, or weaken the regard & respect due to those placed about H. R. H., or, above all that I abused it to instil into H. R. H.'s mind uncharitable, & disrespectful sentiments towards H. R. H. the P. of Wales: then my Lord, in the most solemn & unequivocal manner I deny the charge in every part of it, and I must add that the consciousness of my innocence were it to listen to that alone would lead me, not to deprecate but solicit enquiry in any shape. I know that I could make it to appear plainly, that to the utmost of my honest endeavour, and the opportunities afforded me I have faithfully discharged the important task assigned me.

I am very sensible of the delicate situation in which I stand: and I have every wish to shew my dutiful submission to H. R. H. 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 to feel something is due to the vindication of my own character, and

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 Lordship's

faithful

& obedient servant

G. Fr. Nott—

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