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Sir,

As a subject, and one who had the honor of being admitted into Your Royal Highnesses family, I consider it a sacred duty to express the grief I feel for having incurred your displeasure.

Your Royal Highness will do me the justice to allow that I was actuated by no ambitious views, but by loyalty and attachment, when I accepted the employment which has been the source of my degradation. I have no near connexions to plead my cause - my sole protection must be derived from the honourable feelings of Your Royal Highness. I am not disposed to seek it from the influence of patronage; and still less from the clamours of faction.

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Your Royal Highness was graciously pleased to promise me, through Lord Moira, that you would support me in every difficulty, and that you would never give me up. These claims, from accusations to me unbecoming, Your Royal Highness may perhaps think I have forfeited: I will therefore only venture to enforce them so far as to solicit your attention to a few words in my justification. Indeed I need not enforce them — as a good and just Prince, Your Royal Highness will listen to the vindication of an individual, who appeals to no other tribunal.

Anxious as I was to evince my dutiful attachment to your Royal Highness and to Princess Charlotte, permit me to say that I could not have accepted the employment offered me if I could have foreseen that I was to be the

constant and sole inmate of Nassick House, I concluded that the responsibility must almost wholly devolve on the Lady who was appointed Governess, and that my intended colleague and myself, as "Ladies Companions to Princess Charlotte" the title specified when I came into office, were only to share the duty of attending Her Royal Highness, and to cultivate, what was ever my most ardent wish, the greatest harmony between Her Royal Highness, and every branch of the Royal family.

No colleague was appointed; and circumstances, no doubt imposed on by Your Royal Highness, rendered my situation very different from what I had expected; but they could not change the nature of my employment, nor invest me with a character, against which Your Royal Highness will recollect my remonstrating, when

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The papers erroneously styled me Sub-Governor.

All this gave me praise; but did not alter my sentiments. I felt the delicacy of my situation, and I devoted myself entirely to the duties which had fallen to my lot. I gave up all society, and nearly all intercourse with my friends. I can solemnly declare that I never left Warwick House, but to attend Her Royal Highness, unless the Duchess of Leeds was there, and, even then so rarely, that I do not believe I made six visits in the space of a year and half.

For many weeks last winter a violent cough and almost constant fever could not induce me to remain one day in my room. I never went to rest until Princess Charlotte had retired to her chamber, and I always rose before Her Royal Highness; awaiting

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myself of this short interval to see any one with whom I had business.

Princess Charlotte never went out unattended by the Duchess of Leeds or by me, a circumstance so obvious that I should not mention it, if I had not accidentally heard the contrary was reported; the carriage was never ordered without my knowledge; and visitors were announced to the Duchess or to me. No gentlemen were in the habit of visiting Her Royal Highness, nor was she left alone, or expressed a wish to that effect, even with her Masters.

If I have erred, it has been against my intention and without my knowledge. I have no acquaintance, nor have I had any communication, with persons of seditious principles, improper conduct, or sentiments

hostile to Your Royal Highness. I trusted the whole tenour of my life would have exempted me from the suspicion. I can only say that I have done my duty to the best of my power; and I can safely avow that, during my attendance on Princess Charlotte, not only Her Royal Highness's conduct, in the moral sense of the word, has been blameless; but her time usefully employed in the cultivation of her talents.

My devoted attachment to Princess Charlotte will not be considered as a crime by Your Royal Highness, who was generously pleased, on account of that very attachment, and of her condescension in wishing it, to place me about her; but after it had been the pleasure of Your Royal Highness to

Dismiss me, I could not wish Princess Charlotte to urge my stay. God forbid I should become a source of controversy between Your Royal Highness and Princess Charlotte! May you rather be united and happy when I am forgotten!

I only beg for the restoration of Your Royal Highness's favour, which may put an end to the injurious suspicions so sudden a dismissal may have raised against me; and, if, when struck to the heart by the accumulated anguish of sustaining the weight of Your Royal Highness's displeasure, the pang of parting from my beloved Mistress, and the obloquy of being discarded from her service, any

expressions may have escaped me, which might offend
Your Royal Highness, or appear inconsistent
with my dutiful and loyal attachment, I humbly
entreat your Royal Highnesses forgiveness -

I am,
Sir,

With the most profound respect

Your Royal Highnesses
most dutiful servants

24th July
1814.

Ellis Cornelie Knights

Princess Charlotte

Mrs Knight
24th July 1814