

Duplicate of preceding 50026-29

GE0/MAIN/50026A-50029A

Not to be filmed.
Letter addressed by Her Royal Highness
the late Princess Charlotte to her Mother the
Princess of Wales in October 1817
My Dearest Mother

A very few days will elapse before I may
claim to be addressed by the endearing appellation
with which I have commenced this letter; when
Providence may develop to me new duties which
may in some measure temper but can never
supersede those moral & pious obligations which
have been heretofore imposed upon me.

Were I to disguise my true sentiments or to affect
feelings other than those which occupy
my bosom in the prospect of becoming a
Mother I should feel myself unworthy of that

paternal affection which constitutes at least the
second bliss of life. -- United to a man whose
whole attentions are directed to the promotion of
my Happiness I cannot but feel a pleasure in the
anticipation of that hour of penitential hopes which in
shall enable me to present as new ties of commu-
nial love and to the nation a new & abundant
source of future promise & consolation Political
considerations in this instance stand in compe-
tition with the more near & natural feelings of
the heart While as a wife I am alive to all those
anxious susceptibilities which accompany my
situation I am compelled by circumstances to
extend my views to contemplations widely dif-
ferent in their kind as in their latitude con-
templations involving the nearest & most dura-

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the ble interests of a people to whom I owe a debt scarcely
those -ly to be liquidated - gratitude for unbounded af-
of -fection - To relieve in some degree this weight
in the of obligation & to justify the universal confidence
which in the strength & consistency of my character
some - have determined should it please Providence to
durst - bless me with an offspring so to regulate its early
political reason & to direct its infant energies that the les-
sons I have received from you & the wisdom of
of which time & observation have confirmed may be
those handed down to my child with a view to the per-
my - petuation of the great principle - that the legi-
to - timate end of all governments is the welfare
of society & that political & private virtue is the
con - surest foundation & best bulwark of a throne
at dura - But O my Mother when my timid imagination

devolves upon the uncertainty that veils futurity;
when I look to the dark possibilities which may put
a period to the dreams of hope even shadows shake
my courage & I feel myself the victim of terrors which
reason would almost denominate absurd. At
such a trying moment why am I debarred from
the consoling voice of maternal affection Why is
not my mother allowed to pour cheerfulness into
the sinking soul of her inexperienced & trembling
child. I have no friend no relation near me whose
advice may guide or whose admonitions may check
my conduct Surrounded by Strangers with a
single exception my heart feels itself alone &
should the protection of heaven for a moment leave
me & I feel the presence of a Mother would assure

redly impart a serenity & resignation to my mind
which would smooth the pillow of my dying head
& prevent my distracted soul from erring in the
hour of her severest trial. --- Secluded from
the giddy world I have learned to set a true value on
that retirement which has taught me a more per-
fect knowledge not only of myself but of the so-
ciety over which I may one day called to rule. Folly
& pride no longer wear to me the imposing blazonry
which they exhibited to my early years. I have read
reflected & conversed & I trust the evidence of a fu-
ture day will rescue me from the imputation of
having read reflected & conversed in vain.

The sufferings of my early years acute as they were
in their operation have not been unproductive
of instruction. Their effect has been to correct
that sanguineness of disposition which was too

commonly a source of severe & deep disappointments & which even
uniformly led to view things through a prejudiced insu-
medium. A sort of premature experience has given
me that insight into human life & human charac-
-ter which in ordinary cases & circumstances is the re-
sult of the study and the observation of years —
Your virtues My dear Mother & your afflictions added
strength to the affection which nature had entwined
about my heart & urged me to cling to you in all
changes & under all shades of persecution with a
constancy which those who hated you termed obstinacy
but which those who loved you elevated by the name
of honorable perseverance. I felt that I was not
merely acquiescing in the first of moral duties.
In proportion however as I have loved you do I now
feel the bitterness of your absence. You have
no substitute in this heart. There is none to
occupy your place to my seeking eye.

which Even the affectionate attentions of an amiable consort are
deemed insufficient to supply the chasm in my bosom but
as given leave me unsatisfied. I have illustrious relations it is
true but they offer me no kindred spirits & if they did there
are - an certain slumbering recollections would awaken in
my brain & check my ardour to receive them. I
could have but one Mother & no variations of place or cir-
cumstances can remove her from my sight
all Heaven impressed her image on my Soul & time has es-
tablished it there as its native & legitimate sphere
By a refinement of exactness indeed one may be sepa-
rated on earth & I as well as yourself may be doomed
not the victim of an unjust & malignant spirit of
persecution. But in a better world our congenial
Spirits will rush to meet each other where no en-
vious nor hateful friends can interfere to impede
the pleasures which flow from the pure foun-
tain of filial & maternal love. - Such

Such sentiments as these naturally arise on the contem-
plation of my situation at this moment. Should it be
the pleasure of Providence that I surmise the hour of
approaching danger I may at some future period
be endued with power to restore you to that situation
which you were formed to embellish but in which
the jealousies of inferior minds would not suffer you
to remain. But if an all-wise decree should summon
me from this sphere of anxious apprehension not for
myself but for my mother a pang of terror shoots
across my wildered brain. Even then my last prayer
would be to Heaven to gift you with that sublime
feeling of pious resignation which would teach
you how to bow submissive to the chastening
stroke of our common Father & to console your
afflicted heart with the anticipation of our
reunion in a world where felicity in unison

ruined & to which malice is inadmissible.
Believe me my Adored Mother I fear less to die than
to live. The prospect of protracted existence is so ben-
-edict with dangers & difficulties so shadowed with
clouds of uncertainties so replete with anxieties & ap-
-prehensions that I must shrink from the contempla-
-tion of it & fly for refuge even to the probability of my
removal from so joyless an inheritance. The page
of history has determined that happiness is not the
possession of those who move in the lofty circles to
which my birth entitles me to look. I cannot hope
for an exception in my favour; all the joys of
life are centered in my present retirement & they
are even poor because you are not a participator
in them but even this unequalled enjoyment must
be brief; & I must emerge into a situation uncongeni-
-al to my soul & destructive to all my hopes of
felicity on earth. What cause then have I to
shun that issue which others may behold with

honor. What cause have I to covet that existence,
which others so highly prize. Death would obliterate
no image of delight from my heart save that which
in the portrait of a beloved mother Nature has
still left to the hoping doubting yet fearing

Charlotte

Ch-r-m-nt

October 10th 1817