

John Hughes & Lord Berkeley to Lord Craven.

Aug. 8 1810

50938-9

Berkeley Castle

My Lord

50939

The above letter was dictated by the Earl of Berkeley, and after he had signed it, on the Morn<sup>g</sup> of the 1<sup>th</sup> August, delivered to me with his own hand: he strictly charged me, that it should be kept a secret from Lord Dursley, & that I should take care to forward it to your Lordship. It is with great regret I state that his Lordship died this Morn<sup>g</sup> at 1/4 past 8 o'clock.

I have the Honor to be  
Your Lordship's O<sup>b</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup> &c.  
John Hughes

Wednesday Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>  
1810.

John H

88907

1792

M  
impe  
on  
Ch  
and  
M  
und  
you  
you  
as  
requ  
Ma  
him  
best  
Low  
low  
Pa  
Be

John Hughes & Lord Berkeley to Lord Craven.

Aug. 8 1810

50939

Berkeley Castle

My dear Craven

I feel I am very ill, indeed I think it impossible for me to recover, and I have but one thought on this side the grave, which is, my dear Wife and Children. I know you will fulfil my last request, and therefore it is the greatest comfort to me to get Mr. Hughes to commit my wishes to paper, for I am unable to do more than write my Name. God bless you my dear Nephew, I need not wish you to love your Aunt my Wife, for that I think you do already, as well as my eldest Son Dursley - and therefore I request on my death bed, you will go yourself to His Majesty, either with this, or in my name, and implore him, not to withdraw his goodness from my family, but to continue to my eldest Son Lord Dursley, the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Gloucester, who was born in wedlock, after my lawful marriage in the Parish Church of Berkeley to Mary now Countess of Berkeley in the Year 1745.

I presume to approach His Majesty thro' you,

08807  
feeling that during the forty years I have been his  
servant in Gloucestershire, I have made the peace  
of the County my first care, and carried into effect  
every Act of Parliament, for the good of His Majesty's  
government, without being influenced by what  
Minister was in or out, as all the County can testify.

I am sure my Brother George will be gratified at  
seeing the Sentinence given to my eldest Son Lord  
Dursley.

The only act of my life that I lament at this  
moment, is the concealing my first Marriage.

Once more my dear Father, God bless you, I need  
not hope you will assist my dear Wife and Son  
all in your power, in establishing my first marriage.  
I have done all in my power to clear the character  
of the best of Wives, who through her life has  
returned me good for evil.

Yours  
Berkeley

A true copy.