

Lady Berkeley to HRH

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Sir,

With every feeling of respect  
and Duty I presume to trespass upon  
your Royal Highness, to draw your attention  
towards my suffering Family. I take this  
Step Sir, under the strongest conviction that  
your Royal Highness will ever be found  
ready to do Justice to the meanest of your  
Subjects. My Claims to your notice upon  
the score of old and long tried friendship,  
are very far superseded by those relating  
to my private Marriage; They arise Sir,  
from the Oup, the dreadful injury we  
have all sustained from the suppression  
of your Royal Highness's Evidence, upon  
points where you alone could speak -  
Evidence entrusted to you, as an atonement  
for wrong, without an Idea at the time

20017  
A ever could be a legal benefit to this Family.  
And that we do sustain an injury does  
not depend upon the speculation of any one.  
The fact speaks for itself. The Lord  
of Chancellor, that great and learned  
Man, so eminently distinguished for  
the soundness of his Judgment; after  
I believe thirty Day given to the case,  
for want of your Majesty's Evidence  
before him came to a wrong conclusion.  
Your Majesty already knows the  
opinions of three most eminent Counsel  
upon the value of your Testimony; and  
therefore I shall pass over them,  
imploving you to allow me to draw  
your attention to the late Lord Thurloe.  
He was the first person to whom you  
mention'd the confidential communication

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made from time to time by the late  
Lord Berkeley to you. Lord Thurston  
went to me, and while the tears coursed  
down his venerable cheeks, as he stretched  
his hand to me he said, "here is indeed"  
"the most used woman in the World"  
"with the purest Character."  
He steadily advised the setting up the  
first Marriage, as you the Royal Highness  
well knows. Lord you Sir, and the  
Duke of Bedford expressed yourselves  
so strongly interested for my Children  
by the first Marriage, that I have  
often known you almost angry with  
me, when I have shrunk from the  
trial to which I might be exposed,  
giving as my reason for so doing,  
the long concealment of my Marriage  
(and) the inferiority of my Birth,

21003  
And the State of Mr Tudors Beason.  
Now after Sir, have I implor'd Lord  
Shurton, in the advice which he might  
give my Husband, not to consider me,  
that I could bear any thing. And  
had rather my Children should suppose  
I had been the Mistress of their Father  
than risk the implication of my Husband  
in the supposed destruction of the Register.  
Then did Lord Shurton bid me look  
at you my Prince, Guardian, and protector,  
then would your Royal Highness most  
solemnly promise to stand forth and  
give your testimony. For at that time  
by your desire you were named Guardian  
to my Children in Lord Beaulieu's Will.  
but Lord Shurton saw some objection to  
it. Alas 'tis I did not think from

Lady Berkeley to HRH

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my Trial, but you my sole reliance,  
Friend, friend, and Guardian, was,  
by some most wicked means prevented  
from giving my Evidence that I suspect  
it could only receive through your  
Testimony. In placing these circumstances  
thus plainly before your Royal Highness  
I am sure I shall be pardon'd, I do it Sir,  
to call your attention to them, for whenever  
I have ventured to approach you, your  
Conduct has been uniformly the same to me.  
I presume Sir, next to call your attention  
to the additional Disappointment of my Eldest  
Son. On the Death of his Father he  
requested to know of your Royal Highness  
how you would have him presented  
to you, your Answer was "as that which"  
"you knew him to be the Earl of Berkeley"  
"adding to me have you forgotten I was"  
"intrusted with the secret of your Marriage"

21004

from the beginning" and after the  
investigation when my son attended  
the Sermon, your Majesty Highness was  
graciously pleased to say to him, that  
you could not in conscience call him  
by any name unless by the Title of his  
Father or words to that effect, and desired  
him not to be presented to the Queen  
as any thing else. I thank Sir, for  
checking to him, and how his expectations  
have been raised; and if added to the above  
his being sent to Berkeley-Castle by command  
of your Majesty Highness for proof of his  
Hereditary Baroncy, and your Sir, so  
often expressing a wish to create him  
Baron Berkeley, as a publick proof  
that you knew him to be the Child  
of misfortune not of Disgrace. Can  
I Sir, his anxious Mother

Lady Berkeley to HRH

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with most thanks, but at the same time  
most humbly, and most dutifully, wishing  
to draw your attention to him.  
Imploving you in your great goodness  
to take ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> situation into your consideration  
and grant some public mark of your  
respect for us. And if your kind  
willing attention to your Royal Highness's  
commands; if the firmest and strongest  
ties of confidential friendship can add  
to our claims, with every flattering promise  
on the part of your Royal Highness. I  
need not doubt, but you will grant  
me that which I ask, for to lose  
Berkeley House under the present  
circumstances of my family, to have  
my children still more scattered from  
me, with the world on my possession

of your Majesty's Highness's Evidence  
And something is done for my Eldest  
Son, would be to wound the afflicted  
Mother and sole guardian of the  
Children still Deprived, who will ever continue

To be your Majesty's Highness's  
Most faithful affectionate  
And dutiful Servant

M. Berkeley

Berkeley House  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup>  
1813

Lady Berkeley