

King George 4th his Message to George Prince of Wales

M E S S A G E from the late King to
the Pr. of *Wales*, with the Answers.



THE Vice-Chamberlain is order'd to go to my Son, and to tell him from me, that he and his Domesticks must leave my House. He is likewise commanded to go to the Princess, to tell her from me, That notwithstanding the Order sent to my Son, she may remain at *St. James's*, until her Health will suffer her to follow her Husband. You are moreover commanded to tell the Princess from me, That it is my Pleasure, that my Grandson and Granddaughters remain at *St. James's*, where they are, and that the Princess is permitted to come to see them, when she has a Mind; and that the Children are permitted from Time to Time to go and see her and my Son. The Vice-Chamberlain must further tell the Princess, that, in the present Situation of my Family, I think, that whilst she stays at *St. James's*, she would do well to see no Company.

S I R,

HIS Majesty having been informed, that many Reports are spread, for the most part ill grounded, relating to what has passed in the Royal Family, has ordered me to send you the inclosed Account thereof. I am with a great deal of Respect,

Your most Obedient and most Humble Servant,

Jo. Addison.

London, Dec. 3. 1717.

AS soon as the young Prince was born, the King informed himself what was the Custom in the like Case, in the Kingdom, with regard to the Ceremony of Baptism; and having found by the Registers, that when it was a Boy, and that the King was Godfather, it was usual for him to name for second Godfather, one of the chief Lords of the Court, and ofteneft the Lord Chamberlain; he named for that Office the Duke of *Newcastle*, who is possess of that Employment, at the same time naming the Godmother, the Duchess of *St. Albans*, Groom of the Stole to the Princess: Nevertheless, his Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales* was so chagrin'd at it, that *Thursday* last, after the Solemnity of the Baptism was over, being no longer able to master his Resentments, came up to the Duke of *Newcastle*, and gave him very injurious Language, supposing that he had made Interest for that Honour, contrary to his Highness's Inclinations. The King was then in the Chamber, but not near enough to hear what the Prince said to the Duke; the latter thinking himself obliged to inform the King of it, and the Prince having owned the Facts to the Dukes of *Kingston*, *Kent*, and *Roxborough*,

whom
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whom his Majesty sent that Morning on that Occasion, his Majesty order'd him a second Message, not to go out of his Apartment till further Orders. On *Saturday*, the Prince writ a Letter to the King, and on *Sunday* Morning writ another; but his Majesty not having found them satisfactory, and having besides many Reasons to be discontented with the Prince's Conduct in several other Particulars, signified to him yesterday Afternoon, by his Vice-Chamberlain, Mr. *Cook*, that he must go out of the Palace of *St. James*, and to Madam the Princess, that she might stay as long as she thought proper: But as to the Princesses his Grand-daughters, and the young Prince, it was the King's Will, that they should stay near him in the Palace, and that the Princesses should be permitted to see them as often as she desired. Nevertheless, the Princess being unwilling to quit the Prince her Husband, retired with him to the Lord *Grantham's*, her Great Chamberlain, in whose House their Royal Highnesses lay last Night.

S I R,

I Received with all Submission your Majesty's Commands, confining me to my own Apartment till your Majesty should signify your further Pleasure to me. So great a Mark of your Majesty's Displeasure surprized me extremely, never having entertain'd a Thought of your Majesty unbecoming a dutiful Son. I was made to believe your Majesty appeared easy in the Choice I had made of the Duke of *York* to be Godfather to my Son; and that the Duke of *Newcastle* might represent him, and not be Godfather himself. Being persuaded of this, I could not but look upon it, as an unaccountable Hardship, that he would be Godfather in spite of me: But when your Majesty thought proper to command it, I submitted. This Treatment of the Duke of *Newcastle* touch'd me sensibly, and so far rais'd my Indignation, that, at the Sight of him, upon this Occasion, I could not help shewing it. But as the Respect I have always had for your Majesty, hindered me from expressing my Resentments against him, whilst he was charged with your Majesty's Orders, I hope your Majesty will have the Goodness not to look upon what I said to the Duke privately, as Want of Respect to your Majesty, which was contrary to my Intentions. I ask your Pardon, and beg your Majesty would be persuaded, that I am with the greatest Respect, &c.

S I R,

I Hope your Majesty will have the Goodness to excuse me, if in the Condition I was in yesterday, when I took the Liberty to write to your Majesty, I omitted to mention, that I will shew no Resentment to the Duke of *Newcastle*, upon what has past; and I take the Opportunity to assure your Majesty of it, being with profound Respect, S I R, &c.

S I R,

I Have just now obeyed your Majesty's Orders, having left *St. James's*. The Princess goes along with me, and our Servants shall follow with all imaginable Expedition.