

The book: or the investigation of the conduct of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales / being the evidence given under a Commission from the King; with Her Royal Highness's defence and other important documents.

Contributors

Caroline, Queen, consort of George IV, King of Great Britain, 1768-1821.

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OR

THE INVESTIGATION

OF THE CONDUCT OF

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

CAROLINE
THE

PRINCESS OF WALES,

BEING THE EVIDENCE GIVEN

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A COMMISSION

FROM THE

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With her Royal Highness's Defence,

AND OTHER IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS.

LONDON:

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1813.

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THE BOOK, &c.

COPY OF HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSION.

GEORGE R.

Whereas our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, THOMAS Lord ERSKINE, our Chancellor, has this day laid before us an Abstract of certain written declarations touching the conduct of her Royal Highness the Princess of WALES, we do hereby authorise, empower, and direct the said THOMAS Lord ERSKINE, our Chancellor; our right trusty and well-beloved Cousin and Councillor GEORGE JOHN Earl SPENCER, one of our Principal Secretaries of State; our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor W. WINDHAM Lord GRENVILLE, First Commissioner of our Treasury; and our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, EDW. Lord ELLENBOROUGH, our Chief Justice, to hold pleas before our self, to enquire into the truth of the same, and to examine, upon oath, such persons as they shall see fit touching and concerning the same, and to report to us the result of such examination.

Given at our Castle of Windsor, on 29th May, in the 46th year of our Reign. G. R.

COPY OF THE DEPOSITION OF CHARLOTTE
LADY DOUGLAS.

I think I first became acquainted with the Princess of Wales in 1801. Sir John Douglas had a house at Blackheath. One day in November, 1801, the snow

was lying on the ground. The Princess and a Lady, who, I believe, was Miss Heyman, came on foot, and walked several times before the door. Lady Stewart was with me, and said, she thought that the Princess wanted something, and that I ought to go to her. I went to her. She said, she did not want any thing but she would walk in ; that I had a very pretty little girl. She came in and staid some time. About a fortnight after Sir J. D. and I received an invitation to go to Montague-house, after that I was very frequently at Montague-house, and dined there. The Princess dined frequently with us, About May or June, 1802, the Princess first talked to me about her own conduct. Sir S. Smith, who had been Sir John's friend for more than 20 years, came to England about November, 1801, and came to live in our house. I understood the Princess knew Sir Sydney Smith before she was Princess of Wales. The Princess saw Sir S. Smith as frequently as ourselves. We were usually kept at Montague-house later than the rest of the party, often till three or four in the morning. I never observed any impropriety of conduct between Sir S. Smith and the Princess, I made the Princess a visit at Montague-house, in March, 1802, for about a fortnight. She desired me to come there, because Miss Garth was ill. In May or June following, the Princess came to my house alone : she said she came to tell me something that had happened to her, and desired me to guess. I guessed several things, and at last I said, I could not guess any thing more. She then said she was pregnant, and that the child had come to life. I don't know whether she said on that day or a few days before, that she was at breakfast at Lady Willoughby's, that the milk flowed up to her breast and came through her gown ; that she threw a napkin over herself and went with Lady Willoughby into her room, and adjusted herself to prevent its being observed. She never told me who was the father of the child. She said she hoped it would be a boy. She said that if it was discovered

she would give the Prince of Wales the credit of being the father, for she had slept two nights at Carlton-house within the year. I said that I should go abroad to my mother. The Princess said she should manage it very well, and if things came to the worst, she should give the Prince the credit of it.— While I was at Montague-house, in March, I was with child, and one day I said I was very sick, and the Princess desired Mrs. Sander to get me a saline draught. She then said that she was very sick herself, and that she would take a saline draught too. I observed, that she could not want one, and I looked at her. The Princess said, yes, I do. What do you look at me for with your wicked eyes; you are always finding me out. Mrs. Sander looked very much distressed; she gave us a saline draught each. This was the first time I had any suspicion of her being with child. The Princess never said who was the father? When she first told me she was with child, I rather suspected that Sir S. Smith was the father, but only because the Princess was very partial to him. I never knew he was with her alone.— We had constant intercourse with the Princess, from the time when I was at Montague-house, till the end of October. After she had first communicated to me that she was with child, she frequently spoke upon the subject. She was bled twice during the time.— She recommended me to be bled too, and said that it made her have a better time, Mr. Edmeads bled her; she said, one of the days that Mr. Edmeads bled her, that she had a violent heat in her blood, and that Edmeads should bleed her. I told the Princess that I was very anxious how she would manage to be brought to bed, without its being known; that I hoped she had a safe person. She said yes, that she should have a person from abroad; that she had a great horror of having any men about her upon such an occasion—she said, I am confident in my own plans, and I wish you would not speak to me on that subject again. She said, I

shall tell every thing to Sander. I think this was on the day on which she told me of what had happened at Lady Willoughby's—Sander was a very good woman, and might be trusted, and that she must be with her at the labour; that she would send Miss Garth to Brunswick, and Miss Milfield was too young to be trusted, and must be sent out of the way. I was brought to bed on the 23d of July, 1802. The Princess insisted on being present.—I determined that she should not, but I meant to avoid it without offending her. On the day on which I was brought to bed, she came to my house and insisted on coming in. Dr. Mackie, who attended me, locked the door on the opposite side of the —, but there was another door on the opposite side of the room, which was not locked, and she came in at that door, and was present during the time of the labour and took the child as soon as it was born, and said she was very glad she had seen the whole of it. The Princess's pregnancy appeared to me to be very visible. She wore a cushion behind and made Mrs. Sander make one for me. During my lying-in the Princess came one day with Mrs. Fitzgerald. She sent Mrs. F. away, and took a chair, and sate by my bedside. She said you will hear of my taking children in baskets, but you won't take any notice of it. I shall have them brought by a poor woman in a basket. I shall do it as a cover to have my own brought to me in that way; or, that is the way in which I must have my own brought when I have it. Very soon after this two children, who were twins, were brought by a poor woman in a basket. The Princess took them, and had them carried up into her room, and the Princess washed them herself. The Princess told me this herself.—The father a few days afterwards, came and insisted on having the children, and they were given to him. The Princess afterwards said to me, "You see I took the children, and it answered very well." The father had got them back, and she could not

blame him : that she should take other children, and have quite a nursery. I saw the Princess on a Sunday, either the 30th or 31st October, 1802, walking before her door. She was dressed so as to conceal her pregnancy. She had a long cloak, and a very great muff. She had just returned from Greenwich Church. She looked very ill, and I thought must be very near her time.

About a week or ten days after this, I received a note from the Princess, to desire that I would not come to Montague House, for they were apprehensive that the children they had taken had had the measles in their clothes, and that she was afraid my child might take it. When the Princess came to see me during my lying-in, she told me that, when she should be brought to bed, she wished I would not come to her for some time, for she might be confused in seeing me. About the end of December I went to Gloucestershire, and stayed there about a month. When I returned, which was in January, I went to Montague House, and was let in. The Princess was packing up something in a black box. Upon the sofa a child was lying, covered over with a piece of red cloth. The Princess got up, and took me by the hand. She then led me to the sofa, and said, there is the child, I had him only two days after I saw you. The words were, either I had him, or I was brought to bed : the words were such as clearly imported that it was her own child. She said she got very well through it ; she showed me a mark on the child's hand, it is a pink mark. The Princess said, she has a mark like your little girl. I saw the child afterwards frequently with the Princess quite till Christmas, 1803, when I left Blackheath, I saw the mark upon the child's hand, and I am sure that it was the same child, I never saw any other child there. The Princess Charlotte used to see the child and play with him. The child used to call the Princess of Wales "Mamma." I saw the child looking at the window of the Princess's house about a month ago, before

the Princess went into Devonshire, and I am sure that it is the same child. Not long after I had first seen the child, the Princess said, that she had the child at first to sleep with her for a few nights; but it made her nervous, and now they had got a regular nurse for her.

She said, we gave it a little milk at first, but it was too much for me, and now we breed it by hand, and it does very well. I can swear positively that the child I saw at the window is the same child as the Princess told me she had two days after she parted with me. The child was called William. I never heard that it had any other name. When the child was in long clothes, we breakfasted one day with the Princess, and she said to Sir John Douglas, This is the Deptford boy. Independently of the Princess's confession to me, I can swear that she was pregnant in 1802. In October, 1804, when we returned from Devonshire, I left my card at Montague House, and on the 4th of October I received a letter from Mrs. Vernon, desiring me not to come any more to Montague House. I had never, at this time, mentioned the Princess's being with child, or being delivered of a child, to any person, not even to Sir John Douglas. After receiving Mrs. Vernon's letter, I wrote to the Princess on the subject. The letter was sent back unopened. I then wrote to Mrs. Fitzgerald, saying, that I thought myself extremely ill used. In two or three days after this, I received an anonymous, which I produce, and have marked with the letter A, and signed with my name, both on the letter and the envelope. The Princess of Wales has told me, that she got a bed-fellow whenever she could, that nothing was more wholesome: she said, that nothing was more convenient than her own room—it stands at the head of the staircase which leads into the Park, and I have bolts in the inside, and have a bed-fellow whenever I like. I wonder you can be satisfied only with Sir John. She said this more than once. She has told me that Sir Sydney

Smith had lain with her. That she believed all men liked a bed-fellow, but Sir Sydney better than any body else; that the Prince was the most complaisant man in the world; that she did what she liked, went where she liked, had what bed-fellow she liked, and the Prince paid for all.

(Signed) CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS.
June 1, 1806.

Sworn before us, June 1st, 1806,
at Lord Grenville's, Downing-
street, Westminster,

(Signed) ERSKINE, GRENVILLE,
SPENCER, ELLENBOROUGH.

THE DEPOSITION OF SIR JOHN DOUGLAS, KNT.

I had a house at Blackheath, in 1801. Sir Sydney used to come to my house. I had a bed for him.—The Princess of Wales formed an acquaintance with Lady Douglas, and came frequently to our house.—I thought she came more for Sir Sydney Smith than for us. After she had been some time acquainted with us, she appeared to me to be with child. One day she leaned on the sofa, and put her hand upon her stomach, and said,—Sir John, I shall never be Queen of England.—I said, Not if you don't deserve it. She seemed angry at first. In 1804, on the 27th of October, I received two letters by the twopenny post, one addressed to me, which I now produce, and have marked with the letter B. both on the envelope and the enclosure, and the other letter addressed to Lady Douglas, and which I now produce, and have marked with the letter C. both on the envelope and the enclosure.

(Signed) JOHN DOUGLAS.
June 1.

Sworn before us, at Lord Grenville's
House, in Downing-street, West-
minster, June 1, 1806s

(Signed) ERSKINE, GRENVILLE,
SPENCER, ELLENBOROUGH.

THE DEPOSITION OF ROBERT BIDGOOD.

I have lived with the Prince 23 years next September; I went to the Princess in March, 1798, and have lived with her Royal Highness ever since. About the year 1802, early in that year, I first observed Sir Sydney Smith come to Montague House; he used to stay very late at night; I have seen him early in the morning there, about ten or eleven o'clock. He was at Sir John Douglas's; I was in the habit, as well as Sir John and Lady Douglas, of dining, or having luncheon, or supping there almost every day. I saw Sir Sydney Smith one day in 1802, in the blue room, about eleven o'clock in the morning, which is full two hours before we ever expected to see company. I asked the servants why they did not let me know that he was there? The footman informed me that they had let no person in. There was a private door to the Park, by which he might have come in if he had a key to it, and have gone into the blue room without any of the servants perceiving him. I never observed any appearance of the Princess which could lead me to suppose that she was with child. I first observed Captain Manby come to Montague House either in the end of 1803 or the beginning of 1804. I was waiting one day in the anti-room, Captain Manby had his hat in his hand, and appeared to be going away; he was a long time with the Princess, and as I stood on the steps, waiting, I looked into the room in which they were, and in the reflection in the looking-glass, I saw them salute each other; I mean, that they kissed each other's lips. Captain Manby then went away. I then observed the Princess have her handkerchief in her hands, and wipe her eyes as if she was crying, and she went into the drawing-room. The Princess went to Southend in May, 1804; I went with her. We were there, I believe, about six weeks before the African came in. Sicard was very often watching with a glass to see when the ship would arrive. One day he said he saw the African, and soon after the Captain put off in a boat from the ship. Sicard went down the shrubbery to meet him. When the Captain came on shore, Sicard conducted him to the Princess's house, and he dined there with the Princess and her Ladies. After this he came very frequently to see the Princess. The Princess had two houses on the Cliff, Nos. 8 and 9. She afterwards took the drawing-room of No. 7, which communicated by the balcony with No. 8, the three houses being adjoining. The Princess used to dine in No. 8, and after dinner to remove with the company into No. 7, and I have several times seen the Princess, after having gone into No. 7 with Captain Manby and the rest of the company, retire alone with Captain Manby from No. 7 to No. 8 into No. 9, which was the house in which the Princess slept; I suspected that Captain Manby slept frequently in the house. It was a subject of conversation in the house. Hints were given by the servants, and I believe that others suspected it as well as myself.

The Princess took a child, which I understood was brought into the house by Stikeman. I waited only one week in three, and I was not there at the time the child was brought, but I saw it there early in 1803. The child who is now with the Princess is the same as I saw there early in 1803; it has a mark on its left hand, Austin is the name of the man who was said to be the father.

Austin's wife is, I believe, still alive. She has had another child, and has brought it sometimes to Montague House. It is very like the child who lives with the Princess. Mrs. Gordon was employed as a nurse for the child, and she used to bring the child to the Princess as soon as the Princess awoke, and the child used to stay with her Royal Highness the whole morning. The Princess appeared to be extremely fond of the child, and still appears so.

(Signed)

R. BIDGOOD.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's House, in Downing-street, the 6th day of June, 1806,

(Signed)

SPENCER,
GRENVILLE.

THE DEPOSITION OF WILLIAM COLE.

I have lived with the Princess of Wales ever since her marriage. Sir-Sydney Smith first visited at Montague House, about 1802. I have observed the Princess to be familiar with Sir Sydney Smith. One day, I think about February in that year, the Princess ordered some sandwiches; I carried them into the blue room to her. Sir Sydney Smith was there; I was surprised to see him there, he must have come in from the Park; if he had been let in from Blackheath, he must have passed through the room in which I was waiting. When I had left the sandwiches, I returned, after some time, into the room, and Sir Sydney Smith was sitting very close to the Princess, on the sofa. I looked at him and at her Royal Highness. She caught my eye, and saw that I noticed the manner in which they were sitting together. They appeared both a little confused when I came into the room. A short time before this, one night, about 12 o'clock, I saw a man go into the house from the Park, wrapped up in a great coat. I did not give any alarm, for the impression on my mind was that it was not a thief. Soon after I had seen the Princess and Sir Sydney Smith sitting together on the sofa; the Duke of Kent sent for me, and told me, that the Princess would be very glad if I would do the duty in town, because she had business to do in town which she would rather trust to me than any body else.

The Duke said, that the Princess had thought it would be more agreeable to me to be told this by him than through Sicard. After this I never attended at Montague-house, but occasionally, when the Princess sent for me. About July, 1802, I observed that the Princess had grown very large, and in the latter end of the same year she appeared to be grown thin; and I observed to Miss Sander, who said that the Princess was much thinner than she had been, I had not any idea of the Princess being with child. Mr. Lawrence, the painter, used to go to Montague-house, about the latter end of 1801, when he was painting. The Princess and he have slept in the house two or three nights together. I have often seen him alone with the Princess at eleven and twelve o'clock at night. He has been there as late as one or two o'clock in the morning. One night I saw him with the Princess in the blue room, after the Ladies had

retired. Some time afterward, when I supposed that he had gone to his room, I went to see that all was safe, and I found the blue room door locked, and heard a whispering in it, and I went away.

(Signed)

WM. COLE.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's House, in
Downing-street, June 6, 1808,

(Signed)

SPENCER,
GRENVILLE.

THE DEPOSITION OF FRANCES LLOYD.

I have lived twelve years with the Princess of Wales next October. I am in the coffee-room; my situation in the coffee-room does not give me opportunities of seeing the Princess. I do not see her sometimes for months. Mr. Milles attended me for a cold. He asked me if the Princess came to Blackheath backwards and forwards, or something to that effect, for the Princess was with child, or looked as if she was with child. This must have been three or four years ago.—It may have been five years ago. I think it must have been some time before the child was brought to the Princess. I remember the child being brought, it was brought into my room. I had orders sent to me to give the mother arrow-root, with directions how to make it, to wean the child, and I gave it to the mother, and she took the child away; afterwards the mother brought the child back again. Whether it was a week, ten days, or a fortnight, I cannot say, but it might be about that time. The second time the mother brought the child, she brought it into my room; I asked how a mother could part with her child. I am not sure which time I asked this. The mother cried, and said she could not afford to keep it. The child was said to be about four months old when it was brought. I did not particularly observe it myself.

(Signed)

FRANCES LLOYD.

I was at Ramsgate with the Princess in 1803.—One morning when we were in the house at East Cliff, somebody, I do not recollect who, knocked at my door, and desired me to get up, to prepare breakfast for the Princess; this was about six o'clock; I was asleep. During the whole time I was in the Princess's service I had never been called up before, to make breakfast for the Princess. I slept in the Housekeeper's-room, on the ground-floor; I opened the shutters of the windows for light. I knew at that time that Capt. Manby's ship was in the Downs. When I opened the shutters, I saw the Princess walking down the garden with a gentleman; she was walking down the gravel-walk towards the sea. No orders had been given over night to prepare breakfast early. The Gentleman the Princess was walking with was a tall man; I was surprised to see the Princess walking with a Gentleman at that time in the morning—I am sure it was the Princess. While we were at Black-

death, a woman at Charlton, of the name of Townley, told me that she had some linen to wash from the Princess's house; that the linen was marked with the appearance of a miscarriage, or a delivery. The woman has since left Charlton, but she has friends there. I think it must have been before the child was brought to the Princess, that the woman told me this. I know all the women in the Princess's house, I don't think any of them were in a state of pregnancy, and if any had, I think I must have known it. I never told Cole, that Mary Wilson, when she supposed the Princess to be in the Library, had gone into the Princess's bed-room, and had found a man there at breakfast with the Princess, or that there was a great deal to do about it, and that Mary Wilson was sworn to secrecy, and threatened to be turned away if she divulged what she had seen.

(Signed) FRANCES LLOYD.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's House, in Downing-street, June 7, 1806, before us,

(Signed) ERSKINE, GRENVILLE,
SPENCER, ELLENBOROUGH.

THE DEPOSITION OF MARY ANN WILSON.

I believe it will be ten years next quarter that I have lived with the Princess. I waited on the Ladies who attend the Princess. I remember when the child who is now with the Princess was brought there. Before it came, I heard say that it was to come. The mother brought the child. It appeared to be about four months old when it was brought. I remember twins being brought to the Princess before that child was brought. I never noticed the Princess's shape to be different in that year from what it was before. I never had a thought that the Princess was with child. I think she could not have been with child, and have gone on to her time, without my knowing it. I was at South-end with the Princess. Captain Manby used to visit the Princess there. I made the Princess's bed, and have been in the habit of making it ever since I lived with her Royal Highness. Another maid, whose name is Ann Bye, assisted with me in making the bed. From what I observed, I never had any reason to believe that two persons had slept in the bed; I never saw any particular appearance in it. The linen was washed by Stikeman's wife.

(Signed) MARY WILSON.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's house, in Downing-street, June 7, 1806, before us,

(Signed) ERSKINE, GRENVILLE,
SPENCER, ELLENBOROUGH.

THE DEPOSITION OF SAMUEL ROBERTS.

I am footman to the Princess of Wales. I remember the child being taken by the Princess. I never observed any particular appearance of the Princess in that year—nothing that

led me to believe that she was with child. Sir Sidney Smith used to visit the Princess at Blackheath. I never saw him alone with the Princess. He never stayed after eleven o'clock. I recollect Mr. Cole once asking me, I think three years ago, whether there were any favourites in the family? I remember saying that Captain Manby and Sir Sidney Smith were frequently at Blackheath, and dined there oftener than any other persons. I never knew Sir Sydney Smith to stay later than the Ladies. I cannot say exactly at what hour he went, but I never remember his staying alone with the Princess.

(Signed) SAMUEL ROBERTS.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's house, in Down-

ing-street, June 7, 1806, before us,

(Signed) ERSKINE, GRENVILLE,
SPENCER, ELLENBOROUGH.

DEPOSITION OF THOMAS STIKEMAN.

I have been Page to the Princess of Wales ever since she has been in England. When I first saw the child who is with the Princess, it is about four years ago. Her Royal Highness had a strong desire to have an infant, which I and all the house knew. I heard there was a woman who had twiss, one of which the Princess was desirous to have, but the parents would not part with it. A woman came to the door with a petition to get her husband replaced in the dock-yard, who had been removed; she had a child with her; I took the child, I believe, and showed it to Mrs. Sanders. I then returned the child to the woman. I made enquiries after the father, and afterwards desired the woman to bring the child again to the house, which she did. The child was taken to the Princess; after the Princess had seen it, she desired the woman to take it again, and bring it back in a few days, and Mrs. Sanders was desired to provide linen for it. Within a few days the child was brought again by the mother, and was left, and has been with the Princess ever since. I do not recollect the child had any mark, but upon reflection, I do recollect that the mother said he was marked with elder wine on the hand. The father of the child, whose name is Austin, lives with me at Pimlico. My wife is a laundress, and washes the linen of the Prince. Austin is employed to turn a mangle for me. The child was born in Brownlow-street. I never saw the woman to my knowledge before she came with the petition to the door. I had no particular directions by the Princess to procure a child; I thought it better to take the child of persons of good character than the child of a pauper. Nothing led me, from the appearance of the Princess, to suppose she was with child; but from her shape it is difficult to judge when she is with child. When she was with child of the Princess Charlotte, I should not have known it when she was far advanced in her time, if I had not been told it. Sir Sydaey Smith, at one time, visited very frequently at Montague House, two or three times a-week, at the time the Princess was altering her room in the Turkish style. Sir Sydney Smith's

visits were very frequent. The Princess consulted him upon them. Mr. Morell was the upholsterer: Sir Sydney Smith came frequently alone. He staid alone with the Princess sometimes till eleven o'clock at night. He has been there till twelve o'clock at night, and after, I believe, alone with the Princess.—The Princess is of that lively vivacity, that she makes herself familiar with Gentlemen, which prevented my being struck with his staying so late. I do not believe that at that time any other Gentlemen visited the Princess so often and stayed so late. I have seen the Princess, when they were alone, sitting with Sir Sydney Smith on the same sofa, in the blue-room. I had access to the blue room at all times; there was an inner room which opened into the blue room when that room was not lighted up. I did not go into it. I did not consider that I had a right to go into it. I had no idea on what account I was brought here. I did not know that the Princess's conduct was questioned, or questionable. I was with the Princess at Ramsgate; when she was at East Cliff, Captain Manby was very frequently there; went away as late as eleven o'clock. I do not remember Fanny Lloyd being called up any morning to make breakfast for the Princess. I did not like Captain Manby's coming so often and staying so late, and I was uneasy at it. I remember a piece of plate, a silver lamp, being sent to Capt. Manby; I saw it in Sicard's possession; he told me it was for Capt. Manby, and he had a letter to send with it. I have never seen Capt. Manby at the Princess's, at Ramsgate, before nine in the morning, but I have heard he has been there earlier. I had never any suspicion of there being any thing improper, either from the frequent visits of Capt. Manby, or from his conduct. I was at Cartherington with the Princess; she used to go out generally in her own chaise. I think I have once or twice seen her go out with Mr. Hood, in his one-horse chaise; they have been out for two hours, or two hours and a half together. I believe only a day or two elapsed between the time of the child being first brought and being brought again, and left with the Princess. I am sure the child was not weaned after it had been first brought. I do not recollect any Gentleman ever sleeping in the house. I do not remember Lawrence, the painter, ever sleeping there. The Princess seems very fond of the child; it is always called William Austin.

(Signed) THOS. STIKEMAN.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's House, in Downing-
street, June 7, 1806, before us,

(Signed) ERSKINE, GRENVILLE,
SPENCER, ELLENBOROUGH.

THE DEPOSITION OF JOHN SICARD.

I have lived seven years with the Princess of Wales, am house-steward, and have been in that situation from the end of six months after I first lived with her Royal Highness. I remember the child who is now with the Princess of Wales being brought there; it was about five months old when it was brought, it is

about four years ago, just before we went to Ramsgate. I had not the least suspicion of the object of my being brought here.— I had opportunity of seeing the Princess frequently; I waited on her at dinner and supper; I never observed that the Princess had the appearance of being with child; I think it was hardly possible that she should have been with child without my perceiving it. Sir Sydney Smith used to visit very frequently at Montague House, in 1802, with Sir John and Lady Douglas.— He was very often, I believe, alone with the Princess, and so was Mr. Canning and other Gentlemen. I cannot say that I ever suspected Sir Sydney Smith of any improper conduct with the Princess. I never had any suspicion of the Princess acting improperly with Sir Sydney Smith, or any other Gentleman. I remember Captain Manby visiting at Montague House. The Princess of Wales did not pay for the expence of fitting up his cabin, but the linen furniture was ordered by me by direction of the Princess, of Newberry and Jones. It was put by Newberry and Jones in the Princess's bill, and was paid for with the rest of the bill by Miss Heyman.

(Signed)

JOHN SICARD.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's House, in Downing-
street, this 7th day of June, 1806, before us,

(Signed)

ERSKINE.

GRENVILLE.

SPENCER.

ELLENBOROUGH.

THE DEPOSITION OF CHARLOTTE SANDER.

I have lived with the Princess of Wales eleven years. I am a native of Brunswick, and came with the Princess from Brunswick. The Princess has had a little boy living with her under her protection; he had a mark on his hand, but it is worn off; I first saw him four years ago, in the Autumn:— The father and mother of the child are still alive; I have seen them both; the father worked in the Dock-yard at Deptford, but he has now lost the use of his limbs; the father's name is Austin. The mother brought the child to the Princess when he was four months old; I was present when the child was brought to the Princess; she was in her own room up stairs, when the child was brought; she came out, and took the child herself. I understood that the child was expected before it was brought. I am sure that I never saw the child in the house before it appeared to be four months old. The Princess was not ill or indisposed in the autumn of 1802. I was dresser to her Royal Highness; she could not be ill or indisposed without my knowing it. I am sure that she was not confined to her room, or to her bed in that autumn; there was not, to my knowledge, any other child in the house; it was hardly possible there could have been a child there without my knowing it. I have no recollection that the Princess had grown bigger in the year 1802 than usual; I am sure the Princess was not pregnant; being her dresser I must have seen it,

if she was, I solemnly and positively swear I have no reason to know or believe that the Princess of Wales has been at any time pregnant during the time I have lived with her Royal Highness at Montague House.— I may have said to Cole, that the Princess was grown much thinner, but I do not recollect that I did. I never heard any body say any thing about the Princess being pregnant till I came here to-day. I did not expect to be asked any questions respecting the Princess being pregnant. Nobody came over to the Princess from Germany, in the Autumn of 1802, to my knowledge. Her Royal Highness was generally blooded twice a-year, but not lately. I never had any reason to suppose that the Princess received the visits of any Gentleman at improper hours, Sir Sydney Smith visited her frequently, and almost daily. He was there very late, and sometimes till two o'clock in the morning. I never saw Sir Sydney Smith in the room alone with the Princess late at night. I never saw any thing which led me to suppose that Sir Sydney Smith was on a very familiar footing with the Princess of Wales. I attended the Princess of Wales to Southend. She had two houses, No. 9 and No. 8. I knew Captain Manby, he commanded the African; he visited the Princess while his ship was there, he was frequently with the Princess. I do not know or believe, and I have no reason to believe, that Capt. Manby stayed till very late hours with the Princess. I never suspected that there was any improper familiarity between them. I never expressed to any body a wish that Capt. Manby's visits were not so frequent. If the Princess had company I was never present. The Princess was at Ramsgate in 1803; I have seen Captain Manby there frequently. He came to the Princess's house to dinner, he never stayed till late at night at the Princess's house. It was in Devonshire with the Princess lately, there was no one officer that she saw when she was in Devonshire more than the rest. I never heard from the Princess that she apprehended her conduct was questioned. When I was brought here I thought I might be questioned respecting the Princess's conduct, and I was sorry to come; I don't know why I thought so, I never saw any thing in the conduct of the Princess, while I lived with her, which would have made me uneasy if I had been her husband. When I was at South End I dined in the steward's room. I can't say whether I ever heard any body in the steward's room say any thing about the captain (meaning Captain Manby); it is so long ago, I may have forgot it; I have seen Captain Manby alone with the Princess, at No. 9, in the drawing room, at Southend; I have seen it only once or twice; it was at two or three o'clock in the afternoon, and never later. I slept in a room next to the Princess, in the house No. 9, at Southend; I never saw Capt. Manby in any part of that house but the drawing

room; I have no reason to believe he was in any other room in the house. I was at Catherington with the Princess; she was at Mr. Hood's house; I never saw any familiarity between her and Mr. Hood; I have seen her drive out in Mr. Hood's carriage with him alone; it was a gig, they used to be absent for several hours, a servant of the Princess attended them; I have delivered packets by the order of the Princess, which she gave me, sealed up, to Sicard, to be by him forwarded to Captain Manby. The birth-day of the child who lives with the Princess is the 11th of July, as his mother told me; she says that he was christened at Deptford. The child had a mark on the hand, the mother told me that it was from red wine; I believe the child came to the Princess in November.

(Signed)

C. SANDER.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's house,
in Downing-street, June 7, 1806.

(Signed)

ERSKINE, GRENVILLE,
SPENCER, ELLENBOROUGH.

THE DEPOSITION OF SOPHIA AUSTIN.

I know the child which is now with the Princess of Wales; I am the mother of it; I was delivered of it four years ago, the 11th of next July, at Brownlow-street Hospital. I have lain in there three times; William, who is with the Princess, is the second child I laid in of there. It was marked in the right hand with red wine. My husband was a labourer in the dock-yard at Deptford. When peace was proclaimed a number of the workmen were discharged, and my husband was one who was discharged. I went to the Princess with a petition on a Saturday, to try to get my husband restored. I lived at that time in Deptford-new-row, No. 7, with a person of the name of Bearblock; he was a milkman. The day I went to the Princess with the petition was a fortnight before the 6th of November.—Mr. Bennet, a baker, in New-street, was our dealer, and I took the child to Mr. Bennet's, when I went to receive my husband's wages, every week, from the time I left the Hospital till I carried the child to the Princess. I knew Mr. Stikeman only by having seen him once before, when I went to apply for a letter to Brownlow-street Hospital. When I went to Montague-house, I desired Mr. Stikeman to present my petition. He said they were denied to do such thing, but seeing me with a baby, he could do no less. He then took the child from me, and was a long time gone; he then brought me back the child, and brought half a guinea, which the Ladies sent me. He said, if the child had been younger, he thought he could have got it taken care of for me, but desired that I would come up again; I went up again on the Monday following, and I saw Mr. Stikeman; Mr. Stikeman afterwards came several times to us, and appointed me to take the child to Montague-house on the 5th of November, but it rained all day, and I did not take it. Mr. Stikeman came down to me on the Sa-

turday, the 6th of November, and I took the child on that day to the Princess's house. The Princess was out, I waited till she returned; she saw the child, and asked its age. I went down into the coffee-room, and they gave me some arrow root to wean the child, for I was suckling the child at this time, and when I had weaned the child, I was to bring it and leave it with the Princess. I did wean the child, and brought it to the Princess's house on the 15th of November, and left it there, and it has been with the Princess ever since. I saw the child last Whitsun Monday, and I swear that it is my child.

(Signed) SOPHIA AUSTIN.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's house in Downing-street, the 7th day of June, 1806,
before us,

(Signed) ERSKINE, SPENCER,
GRENVILLE, ELLENBOROUGH.

THE DEPOSITION OF ELIZABETH GOSDEN.

I am the wife of Francis Gosden, who is a servant of the Princess of Wales, and has lived with her Royal Highness eleven years. In November, 1802, I was sent for to the Princess's house to look after a little child. I understood that he had been then nine days in the house. I was nurse to the child.—One of the Ladies, I think Miss Sander, delivered the child to me, and told me her Royal Highness wished me to take care of him. The child never slept with the Princess. I sometimes used to take him to the Princess before she was up, and leave him with her on the bed. The child had a mark on the hand; it appeared to be a stain of wine, but is now worn out. I was about a year and three quarters with the child. The mother used to come often to see him. I never saw the Princess dress the child, or take off its things herself, but she has seen me do it. The child is not so much now with the Princess as he was.

(Signed) ELIZABETH GOSDEN.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's house, in Downing-street, the 23d day of June, 1806,
before us,

(Signed) ERSKINE, GRENVILLE,
SPENCER, ELLENBOROUGH.

THE DEPOSITION OF BETTY TOWNLEY.

I lived at Charlton sixteen years, and till within the last two years I was a laundress, and used to wash linen for the Princess of Wales's family. After the Princess left Charlton, and went to Blackheath, I used to go over to Blackheath and fetch the linen to wash. I have had linen from the Princess's house the same as other Ladies, I mean, that there were such appearances on it as might arise from natural causes to which women are subject. I never washed the Princess's own bed-linen, but once

or twice occasionally. I recollect one bundle of linen once coming, which I thought rather more marked than usual. They told me the Princess had been bled with leeches, and had stained the linen more. The servants told me so, but I don't remember who the servants were that told me so. I recollect once I came to town and left the linen with my daughter to wash; I looked at the clothes slowly before I went, and counted them, and my daughter and a woman she employed with her, washed them, when I was in town. I thought when I looked them over, that there might be something more than usual; my opinion was, that it was from a miscarriage, the linen had the appearance of a miscarriage. I believed it at the time. They were fine damask napkins, and some of them marked with a little red crown in the corner, and some without marks. I might mention it to Fanny Lloyd. I don't recollect when this was, but it must be more than two years and a half ago, for I did not wash for the Princess's family but very little for the last six months. Mary Wilson used to give me the linen, and I believe it was she who told me the Princess was bled with leeches, but the appearance of the linen which I have spoken of before was different from that which it was said was stained by bleeding with leeches. I remember the child coming, I used to wash the linen for the child; and Mrs. Gosden, who nursed the child, used to pay me for it. I kept a book in which I entered the linen washed. I am not sure whether I have it still, but if I have, it is in a chest at my daughter's, at Charlton, and I will produce it if I can find it.

(Signed)

B. TOWNLEY.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's house, in Downing-street, June 23, 1806, before us,

(Signed)

ERSKINE,

SPENCER,

GRENVILLE,

ELLENBOROUGH.

THE DEPOSITION OF THOMAS EDMEDS, OF GREENWICH, SURGEON AND APOTHECARY.

I am a Surgeon and Apothecary at Greenwich, and was appointed the Surgeon and Apothecary of the Princess of Wales in 1801. From that time I have attended her Royal Highness and her Household. I know Fanny Lloyd who attended in the coffee-room at the Princess's; I have frequently attended her for colds. I do not recollect that I ever said any thing to her respecting the Princess of Wales; it never once entered my thoughts, while I attended the Princess, that she was pregnant; I never said that she was so to Fanny Lloyd. I have bled the Princess twice. The second bleeding was in

1802, and it was in the June quarter, as appears by the book I kept. I do not know what she was bled for; it was at her own desire; it was not by any medical advice. I was unwilling to do it, but she wished it. If I recollect, she complained of a pain in the chest, but I do not remember that she had any illness. I did not use to bleed her twice a year. I certainly saw her Royal Highness in November, 1802; I saw her on the 16th of November, but I had not any idea of her being with child. I did not attend her on the 16th of November, but I saw her then. I was visiting a child; a male child, from Deptford. I have no recollection of having seen the Princess in October 1802. The child must have been from three to five months old, when I first saw it. I have no recollection of the Princess having been ill about the end of October, 1802. I have visited the child very often since, and I have always understood it to be the same child. The Princess used sometimes to send for leeches, and had them from me. I do not think that I attended the Princess, or saw her often in the Summer and Autumn of 1802. I had not the sole care of the Princess's health during the time I have spoken of; Sir Francis Millman attended her occasionally.

(Signed) THOMAS EDMEDS.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's house, in Down-

ing-street, June 25, 1806, before us,

(Signed)

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,

GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

THE DEPOSITION OF SAMUEL GILLAM MILLS, OF
GREENWICH, SURGEON.

I am a surgeon at Greenwich, have been in partnership with Mr. Edmeads since 1800; before he was my partner I attended the Princess of Wales's family from the time of her coming to Blackheath from Charlton; I was appointed by the Princess her Surgeon in April, 1801, by a written appointment, to take it under her patronage; the child could just

and from that time I never attended her Royal Highness or any of the servants in my medical capacity, except that I once attended Miss Garnet, and once Miss Milfield; there was a child brought to the Princess when I attended her; I was called upon to examine the child; it was a girl. It must have been in 1801, or thereabouts. The child afterwards had the measles, and I attended her. When first I saw the child I think it must have been about ten months old; it must have been prior to April, 1801. I understood that the child was taken through charity. I remember that there was a female servant who attended in the coffee-room. I never said to that woman, or to any other person, that the Princess was with child, or looked as if she was with child; and I never thought so, or surmised any thing of the kind. I was once sent for by her Royal Highness to bleed her; I was not at home, and Mr. Edmeads bled her. I had bled her two or three times before, it was by the direction of Sir Francis Millman, it was for an inflammation she had on the lungs. As much as I knew, it was not usual for the Princess to be bled twice a year. I don't know that any other medical person attended her at the time that I did, nor do I believe that there did. I don't know that Sir Francis Millman had advised that she should be bled at the time that I was sent for, and was not at home, nor what was the cause of her being then bled. I do recollect something of having attended the servant, who was in the coffee-room, for a cold; but I am sure I never said to her that the Princess was with child, or looked as if she was so. I have known that the Princess had frequently sent to Mr. Edmead's for leeches. When I saw the female child, Miss Sander was in the room, and some other servants, but I don't recollect who I was sent for to see, whether there was any disease about the child, to see whether it was a healthy child, as her Royal Highness meant walk alone. I saw the child frequently afterwards,

it was one time with Bidgood, and another time with Gosden and his wife. I don't recollect that the Princess was by at any time when I saw the child; I never saw the child in Montague-house when I attended it as a patient, but when I was first sent for to see if the child had any disease, it was in Montague-house.

(Signed)

SAM. GILLAM MILLS.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's house, in
Downing-street, June 25, 1806,
before us,

(Signed)

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,

GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

THE DEPOSITION OF HARRIET FITZGERALD.

I came first to live with the Princess of Wales in 1801, merely as a friend and companion, and have continued to live with her Royal Highness till this time. I know Lady Douglas; I remember her lying-in; it happened by accident that her Royal Highness was in the house at the time of Lady Douglas's delivery. I think it was in July, 1802. I was there myself, the Princess was not in the room at the time Lady Douglas was delivered; there was certainly no appearance of the Princess's being pregnant at that time. I saw the Princess at that time every day, and at all hours. I believe it to be quite impossible that the Princess should have been with child without my observing it. I never was at breakfast with the Princess at Lady Willoughby's. The Princess took a little girl into the house about nine years ago. I was not in the house at the time. I was in the house when the boy, who is now there, was brought. She had said before, openly, that she should like to have a child, and she had asked the servant who brought the child, if he knew of any person who would part with a child. I was at South End with the Princess. I remember Captain Manby being there sometimes. He was not there very often; he used to come at different hours as the tide served; he dined there, but never stayed late; I was at South End all the time the Princess was there, I cannot recollect that I have seen Capt. Manby there, or know him to be there later than nine or half after; never knew of any correspondence by letter with him when he was abroad. I don't recollect to have seen him ever early in the morning at the Princess's; I was at Ramsgate with the Princess, Capt. Manby may have dined there once, he never slept there to my knowledge, nor do I believe he did. The Princess rises at different hours, seldom before ten or eleven. I never knew her up at six o'clock in the morning. If she had been up so early I should not have known it, not being up so early myself. I remember the Princess giving Captain Manby an ink-stand. He had the care of two boys, whom she protected. I cannot say that Captain Manby did not sleep at South End. He may have

slept in the village, but I believe he never slept in the Princess's house. I was at Catherington with the Princess. I remember her Royal Highness going out in an open carriage with the present Lord Hood; I believe Lord Hood's servant attended them; there was only one servant, and no other carriage with them. I was at Dawlich the summer with the Princess, and afterwards at Mount Edgecombe. The Princess saw a great deal of company there; Sir Richard Strachan used to come there. I do not know what was the cause of his discontinuing his visits there. I remember Sir Sydney Smith being frequently at Montague-house; he was sometimes there as late as twelve or one o'clock in the morning, but never alone that I know of. The Princess was not in the room when Lady Douglas was brought to-bed; I know she was not, because I was in the room myself when Lady Douglas was delivered. Dr. Machie, of Lewisham, was the accoucher. I do not recollect Sir Sydney Smith ever being alone with the Princess in the evening. It may have happened, but I do not know that it did. I used to sit with the Princess in the evening, but not in the morning. I was with the Princess in the Isle of Wight; Mr. Hood and Lord Beauclerk were there with her; she went there from Portsmouth.

(Signed)

HARRIET FITZ GERALD.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's house, in
Downing-street, June 27, 1806, be-
fore us,

(Signed)

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,

GRENVILLE.
ELLENBOROUGH.

ROBERT BIDGOOD'S FARTHER DEPOSITION.

The Princess used to go out in her phaeton, with coachman and helper, towards Long Reach, eight or ten times, carrying luncheon and wine with her, when Captain Manby's ship lay at Long Reach, always Mrs. Fitzgerald was with her; she would go out about one, and return about five or six, sometimes sooner or later. The day the Africaine sailed from South-end, the Princess ordered us to pack up for Blackheath next morning. Captain Manby was there three times a week, at least, whilst his ship lay for six weeks off South-end, at the Nore; he came as timeserved; used to come in a morning, and dine, and drink tea. I have seen him next morning, by ten o'clock. I suspected he slept at No. 9. The Princess always put out the candles herself in the drawing-room, at No. 9, and bid me not wait to put them up. She gave me the orders as soon as she went to South-end. I used to see water-jugs, basins, and towels set out opposite the Princess's door in the passage. Never saw them so left in the passage at any other time. I suspected he was there at those times, and there was a general suspicion through the house. Mrs. and Miss Fitzgerald there, and Miss Hammond (now Lady Hood). My suspicion arose from seeing them in the glasses kiss each other, as mentioned before, like people fond of each other, a very close kiss. Her behaviour like that of a woman attached to a man,

used to be by themselves at luncheon at South-End, when Ladies not sent for, a number of times. There was a pony which Capt. Manby used to ride. It stood in the stable ready for him, and which Sicard used to ride. The servants used to talk and laugh about Captain Manby. It was a matter of discourse amongst them. I lived there when Sir Sydney Smith came; her manner with him appeared very familiar; she appeared very attentive to him, but I did not suspect any thing further. All the upper servants had keys of the doors to the Park, to let her Royal Highness in and out. I used to see Sicard receive letters from Mrs. Sander to put in the post instead of the bag; this was after Captain Manby had gone to sea. I suspected them to be for Captain Manby, and others in the house supposed the same.

Sworn before us, in Downing-street,

July 3, 1806.

(Signed)

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,

GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

SIR FRANCIS MILLMAN'S DEPOSITION.

I attended the Princess of Wales in the Spring, and latter end of the year 1802, *i. e.* in March and towards the Autumn. Mr. Mills, of Greenwich, attended her as her Royal Highness's Apothecary, and Mr. Mills and his partner Mr. Edmeads, have attended since. I do not know that any other medical person attended her at that time, either as apothecary or physician. In March, 1802, I attended her for a sore throat and fever. In 1803, in April, I attended her Royal Highness again with Sir William Farquhar. I don't know whether she was blooded in 1802. She was, with difficulty, persuaded to be blooded in 1803, for a pain in her chest, saying, she had not been blooded before, that they could not find a vein in her arm. I saw no mark on her arm of her having been blooded before. I observed her Royal Highness's person at the end of that year, 1802, I never observed then, or at any other time, any thing which induced me to think her Royal Highness was in a pregnant situation. I think it is impossible she should in that year have been delivered of a child without my observing it. She, during that year, and all times, was in the habit of

receiving the visits of the Duke of Gloucester. I never attended her Royal Highness but in extraordinary illness. Her Royal Highness has for the last year and a half had her prescriptions made up at Walker and Young's, St. James's-street. If she had been a pregnant woman in June, 1802, I could not have helped observing it.

(Signed)

FRANCIS MILLMAN.

Sworn before us, in Downing-street,
July 3, 1802, by the said Sir
Francis Millman.

(Signed)

ERSKINE.
SPENCER.

GRENVILLE.
ELLENBOROUGH.

Sir FRANCIS MILLMAN to the LORD CHANCELLOR.

MY LORD,—Before your arrival in Downing-street, last night, I bespoke the indulgence of the Lords of his Majesty's Council for inaccuracy as to dates, respecting my attendance at Blackheath before 1803. Having only notice in the forenoon of an examination, I could not prepare myself for it, to any period previous to that year, and I now hasten as fast as the examination of my papers will permit, to correct an error, into which I fell, in stating to their Lordships that I attended her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales in the spring of 1802, and that I then met his Royal Highness the late Duke of Gloucester at Blackheath.

It was in the Spring of 1801, and not of 1802, that, after attending her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales for ten or twelve days, I had the honour of seeing the Duke of Gloucester at her house.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, my dear Lord, your Lordship's most obliged and obedient humble servant,

(Signed)

FRANCIS MILLMAN.

THE DEPOSITION OF MRS. LISLE.

I, Hester Lisle, am in the Princess of Wales's family, have been so ever since her Royal Highness's marriage. I was not at South-end with the Princess; was at Blackheath with her in 1802, but am not perfectly sure as to dates. I am generally a month at a time, three months in the year, with her Royal Highness, in April, August, and December; was so in August, 1802. I did not observe any alteration in her Royal Highness's shape which gave me any idea that she was pregnant. I had no reason to know

or believe that she was pregnant. During my attendance hardly a day passes without my seeing her.— She could not be far advanced in pregnancy without my knowing it. I was at East Cliffe with her Royal Highness, in August, 1803; I saw Captain Manby only once at East Cliffe, in August, 1803, to the best of my recollection—he might have been oftner; and once again at Deal Castle; Captain Manby landed there with some boys the Princess takes on charity. I saw Captain Manby at East Cliffe one morning, not particularly early. I do not know of any presents which the Princess made Capt. Manby. I have seen Capt. Manby at Blackheath one Christmas; he used to come to dine the Christmas before we were at Ramsgate. It was the Christmas after Mrs. Austin's child came. He always went away in my presence. I had no reason to think he stayed after we (the Ladies) retired. He lodged on the Heath at that time. I believe his ship was fitting up at Deptford. He was there frequently. I think not every day. He generally came to dinner three or four times a week or more. I suppose he might be alone with her. But the Princess is in the habit of seeing gentlemen and tradesmen without my being present; I have seen him at luncheon and dinner both; the boys came with him, not to dinner, and not generally, not above two or three times; two boys, I think. Sir Sydney Smith came also frequently the Christmas before that, to the best of my recollection. At dinner, when Capt. Manby dined, he always sat next her Royal Highness; the constant company were Mrs. and Miss Fitzgerald and myself; we all retired with the Princess, and sat in the same room, he generally retired about eleven o'clock; he sat with us till then. This occurred three or four times a week, or more. Her Royal Highness, the Lady in Waiting, and her Page, have each a key of the door from the Green-house to the Park. Captain Manby and the Princess used, when we were together, to be speaking together se-

parately, conversing separately, but not in a room alone together, to my knowledge. He was a person with whom she appeared to have greater pleasure in talking than to her Ladies. She behaved to him only as any woman would who likes flirting. I should not have thought any married woman would have behaved properly, who should have behaved as her Royal Highness did to Capt. Manby. I can't say whether she was attached to Capt. Manby, only that it was a flirting conduct. Never saw any gallantries, as kissing her hand, or the like.

I was with her Royal Highness at Lady Sheffield's, last Christmas, in Sussex. I inquired what company was there when I came. She said only Mr. John Chester, who was there by her Royal Highness's orders; that she could get no other company to meet her, on account of the roads and season of the year. He dined and slept there that night. The next day other company came. Mr. Chester remained; I heard her Royal Highness say she had been ill in the night, and came out for a light, and lighted her candle in her servant's room; I returned from Sheffield-place to Blackheath with the Princess. Captain Manby dined there. I left him and the Princess twice alone for a short time; he might be alone half an hour with her. In the room below in which we had been sitting, I went to look for a book to complete a set her Royal Highness was lending Captain Manby. She made him a present of an inkstand, to the best of my recollection. He was there one morning in January last, on the Princess Charlotte's Birth-day. He went away before the rest of the company; I might be absent twenty minutes the second time. I was away the night Capt. Manby was there. At Lady Sheffield's her Royal Highness paid more attention to Mr. Chester than to the rest of the company.—I knew of her Royal Highness walking out twice home with Mr. Chester in the morning alone; once a short time it rained—the other not an hour—not long. Mr Chester is a pretty young man. Her at-

tentions to him were not uncommon, not the same as to Captain Manby. I am not certain whether the Princess answered any letters of Lady Douglas. I was at Catherington with the Princess. Remember Mr. now Lord Hood, there, and the Princess going out airing with him alone in Mr. Hood's little whiskey, and his servant man with them.— Mr. Hood drove; staid out two or three hours, more than once, three or four times. Mr. Hood dined with us several times, once or twice he slept in a house in the garden. She appeared to pay no attention to him but that of common civility to an intimate acquaintance. I remember the Princess sitting to Mr. Lawrence for her picture, at Blackheath and in London; I have left her at his house in town with him. I think Mrs. Fitzgerald was with her, and she sat alone with him, I think, at Blackheath. I was never in her Royal Highness's confidence, but she has always been kind and good-natured to me. She never mentioned Captain Manby particularly to me. I remember her being blooded the day Lady Sheffield's child was christened, not several times that I recollect, nor any other time, nor believe she was in the habit of being blooded twice a year. The Princess at one time appeared to like Lady Douglas; Sir John came frequently; Sir Sydney Smith visited about the same time with the Douglas's; I have seen Sir Sydney there very late in the evening, but not alone with the Princess; I have no reason to suspect he had a key of the Park-gate; I never heard of any body being found wandering about Blackheath. I have heard of somebody being found wandering about late at night at Mount Edgecombe, when the Princess was there. I heard that two women and a man were seen crossing the hall. The Princess saw a great deal of company at Mount Edgecombe. Sir Richard Strachan was reported to have spoken freely of the Princess. I did not hear that he had offered a rudeness to her person. She told me she had heard he

had spoken disrespectfully of her, and therefore, I believe, wrote to him by Sir Samuel Hood.

(Signed)
Sworn before us, in Downing-
street, July 3, 1806.

HESTER LISLE.

(Signed)

ERSKINE,
SPENCER,

GRENVILLE,
ELLENBOROUGH.

NARRATIVE OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE
DUKE OF KENT.

To introduce the following relation, it is necessary for me to premise, that on entering the Prince of Wales's bed-room, where our interview took place, my brother, after dismissing his attendants, said to me, that some circumstances had come to his knowledge with respect to a transaction with the Princess of Wales, in which he found that *I* had been a party concerned; that if he had not placed the most entire reliance on my attachment to *him*, and he was pleased to add, on the well known uprightness of my character and principles, he should certainly have felt himself in no small degree offended at having learnt the facts alluded to from *others*, and *not* in the *first* instance from *me*, which he conceived himself every way entitled to expect, but more especially from that footing of confidence on which he had ever treated me; but that fully satisfied my explanation of the matter would prove that he was not wrong in the opinion he had formed of the honourable motives that had actuated me, in observing a silence with regard to *him* upon the subject. He then was anxiously waiting for me to proceed with a narrative, his wish to hear which he was sure he had only to express to ensure my immediate acquiescence with it. The Prince then gave me his hand, assuring me he did not feel the smallest degree of displeasure towards me, and proceeded to introduce the subject upon which he required information. When, feeling it a duty I owed to him, to withhold from his knowledge

no part of the circumstances connected with it, that I could bring back to my recollection, I related the facts to him, as nearly as I can remember, in the following words :—

“ About a twelvemonth since, or thereabout (for I cannot speak positively to the exact date), I received a note from the Princess of Wales, by which she requested me to come over to Blackheath, in order to assist her in arranging a disagreeable matter, between her, Sir Sydney Smith, and Sir John and Lady Douglas, the particulars of which she would relate to me, when I should call. I, in consequence, waited upon her, agreeably to her desire, a day or two after, when she commenced the conversation, by telling me, that she supposed I knew she had at one time lived with Lady Douglas on a footing of intimacy, but that she had had reason afterwards to repent having made her acquaintance, and was therefore rejoiced when she left Blackheath for Plymouth, as she conceived that circumstance would break off all farther communication between her and that Lady. That, however, contrary to her expectation, upon the return of Sir John and her from Plymouth to London, Lady Douglas had called and left her name twice or three times, notwithstanding she must have seen that admission was refused; that having been confirmed in the opinion she had before had occasion to form of her Ladyship by an anonymous letter she had received, in which she was very strongly cautioned against renewing her acquaintance with her, both as being unworthy of her confidence, from the liberties she had allowed herself to take with the Princess's name, and the lightness of her character, she had felt herself obliged, as Lady Douglas would not take the hint, that her visits were not wished for, to order Miss Vernon to write her a note, specifically telling her that they would in future be dispensed with; that the consequence of this had been an application, through one of her Ladies, in the joint names of Sir Sydney Smith, Sir John and Lady Douglas, for an audience, to require an explanation of this, which they considered an affront, and that, being determined not to grant it, or to suffer any unpleasant discussion upon the subject, she entreated me to take whatever steps I might judge best to put an end to the matter, and rid her of all farther trouble about it. I stated in reply, that I had no knowledge of either Sir John or Lady Douglas, and therefore could not, in the first instance, address myself to them, but that I had some acquaintance with Sir Sydney Smith, and if the Princess was not averse to that channel, I would try what I could in that way effect.—This being assented to by the Princess, I took my leave, and immediately on my return home, wrote a note to Sir Sydney Smith, requesting him to call on me as soon as he conveniently could, as I had some business to speak to him upon. Sir Sydney in consequence called on me (I think) the next day, when I related to him the conversation, as above stated, that I had had with the Princess. After hearing all I had to say, he observed, that the Princess, in stating to me that her prohibition to Lady Douglas to repeat

her visits at Blackheath, had led to the application for an audience of her Royal Highness, had kept from me the real cause why he, as well as Sir John and Lady Douglas, had made it, as it originated in a most scandalous anonymous letter, of a nature calculated to set on Sir John and him to cut each other's throats, which, from the hand-writing and style, they were both fully convinced was the production of the Princess herself. I naturally expressed my sentiments upon such conduct, on the part of the Princess, in terms of the strongest animadversion; but, nevertheless, anxious to avoid the shameful eclat which the publication of such a fact to the world must produce, the effect which its coming to the King's knowledge would probably have on his health, from the delicate state of his nerves, and all the additional consequences which I foresaw would inevitably follow, were this fact, which would give the Prince so powerful a handle to express his feelings upon the countenance shown by the King to the Princess, at a time when I knew him to be severely wounded, by his Majesty's visits to Blackheath on the one hand, and the reports he had received of the Princess's conduct, on the other, to be brought to light, I felt my bounden duty, as an honest man, to urge all these arguments with Sir Sydney Smith in the most forcible manner I was master of, adding also as a farther object, worthy of the most serious consideration, the danger of any appearance of ill blood in the family at such an eventful crisis, and to press upon his mind the necessity of his using his best endeavours with Sir John Douglas, notwithstanding all the provocation that had been given them, to induce him to let the matter drop, and pursue it no farther. Sir Sydney observed to me, that Sir John Douglas was a man whom, when once he had taken a line from a principle of honour, it was very difficult to persuade him to depart from it; however, as he thought that if any man could prevail upon him, he might flatter himself with being the most likely to persuade him, from the weight he had with him, he would immediately try how far he could gain upon him, by making use of those arguments I had brought forward to induce him to drop the matter altogether. About four or five days after this, Sir Sydney called upon me again, and informed me, that upon making use, with Sir John, of those reasons which I had authorised his stating to be those by which I was actuated in making the request that he would not press the business farther, he had not been able to resist their force, but that the whole extent of promise he had been able to obtain of him, amounted to no more than that *he would, under existing circumstances, remain quiet, if left unmolested*, for that he would not pledge himself not to bring the subject forward *hereafter*, when the same motive might no longer operate to keep him silent. This result I communicated, to the best of my recollection, the following day to the Princess, who seemed satisfied with it, and from that day to the present one, (November 10, 1805). I never have heard the subject named again in any shape, until called upon by the Prince, to make known to him the circumstances of this transaction, as far as I could bring them to my recollection.

And now having fulfilled what the Prince wished me to do, to the best of my abilities, in case hereafter any one by whom a narrative of all the circumstances as related by Sir John and Lady Douglas, of whom I was informed by my brother, *subsequent* to our conversation, should imagine that I know more of them than I have stated, I hereby spontaneously declare, that what I have written is the whole extent of what I was apprised of, and had the Princess thought proper to inform me of what, in the Narrative of the Information given by Sir John and Lady Douglas, is alluded to, I should have felt myself obliged to decline all interference in the business, and to have at the same time stated to her, that it would be impossible for me to keep a matter of such importance from the knowledge of the Prince.

Dec. 27, 1805.

(Signed)

EDWARD.

THE EARL OF CHOLMONDELEY

Gave testimony in regard to the letters and drawing sent to Sir John Douglas. He thought the letter marked A. not of the Princess's hand. The writing or the drawing of Lady Douglas and Sir Sydney Smith, marked B. was in a disguised hand, but some of the letters remarkably resembled the Princess's writing. The letter C. did not bear the same resemblance.

Here the Examinations closed, and the four Commissioners made the Report thereon, which we have published, dated 14th July, 1806.

COPY OF A REPORT

MADE IN 1806, BY THE FOUR COMMISSIONERS
APPOINTED BY THE KING, viz.

Lord ERSKINE, Chancellor,

Lord GRENVILLE, First Lord of the Treasury,

Lord SPENCER, Secretary of State,

Lord ELLENBOROUGH, Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

“ MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

“ Your Majesty having been graciously pleased, by an Instrument under your Majesty's Sign Manual, a Copy of which is annexed to this Report, to authorize, empower, and direct us to enquire into

the truth of certain written Declarations touching the Conduct of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, an Abstract of which had been laid before your Majesty, and to examine upon oath, such persons as we should see fit touching and concerning the same, and to report to your Majesty the result of such Examinations;—we have, in dutiful obedience to your Majesty's commands, proceeded to examine the several witnesses, the Copies of whose Depositions we have hereunto annexed; and in further execution of the said commands, we now most respectfully submit to your Majesty the Report of these Examinations as it has appeared to us. But, we beg leave at the same time, humbly to refer your Majesty, for more complete information, to the Examinations themselves, in order to correct any error of judgment into which we may have unintentionally fallen, with respect to any part of this business. On a reference to the above-mentioned Declarations as the necessary foundation of all our proceedings, we found that they consisted in certain Statements which had been laid before his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, respecting the conduct of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales: that these Statements, not only imputed to her Royal Highness great impropriety, and indecency of behaviour, but expressly asserted, partly on the ground of certain alleged declarations from the Princess's own mouth, and partly on the personal observations of the informants, the following most important facts, viz.—That her Royal Highness had been pregnant in the year 1802, in consequence of an illicit intercourse, and that she had in the same year been secretly delivered of a male child, which child had ever since that period been brought up by her Royal Highness in her own house, and under her immediate inspection.

“ These allegations thus made, had, as we found, been followed by declarations from other persons, who had not indeed spoken to the important facts of

the pregnancy or delivery of her Royal Highness, but had stated other particulars in themselves extremely suspicious, and still more so when connected with the assertions already mentioned. In the painful situation, in which his Royal Highness was placed by these communications, we learnt that his Royal Highness had adopted the only course which could, in our judgment, with propriety, be followed, when informations such as these had been thus confidently alleged, and particularly detailed, and had been in some degree supported by collateral evidence, applying to other points of the same nature (though going to a far less extent), one line could only be pursued. Every sentiment of duty to your Majesty, and of concern for the public welfare, required that these particulars should not be withheld from your Majesty, to whom more particularly belonged the cognizance of a matter of State, so nearly touching the honour of your Majesty's Royal Family, *and by possibly affecting the Succession of your Majesty's Crown.* Your Majesty had been pleased on your part to view the subject in the same light. Considering it as a matter which in every respect demanded the most immediate investigation, your Majesty had thought fit to commit into our hands the duty of, ascertaining, in the first instance, what degree of credit was due to the informations, and thereby enabling your Majesty to decide what further conduct to adopt concerning them. On this review, therefore, of the matters thus alleged, and of the course hitherto pursued upon them, we deemed it proper, in the first place, to examine those persons in whose declarations the occasion for this enquiry had originated; because if they, on being examined on oath, had retracted or varied their assertions, all necessity of further investigation might possibly have been precluded. We accordingly first examined on oath the principal informants, Sir John Douglas and Charlotte his wife, who both positively swore, the former to

his having observed the fact of the pregnancy of her Royal Highness, and the latter to all the important particulars contained in her former declaration, and above referred to. Their examinations are annexed to this report, and are circumstantial and positive. The most material of those allegations, into the truth of which we have been directed to enquire, being thus far supported by the oath of the parties from whom they had proceeded, we then felt it to be our duty to follow up the enquiry, by the examinations of such other persons as we judged best able to afford us information as to the facts in question. We thought it beyond all doubt, that in the course of enquiry many particulars must be learnt, which would be necessarily conclusive on the truth or falsehood of these declarations, so many persons must have been witnesses to the appearance of an actual existing pregnancy; so many circumstances must have been attendant upon a real delivery, and difficulties so numerous and insurmountable must have been involved, in any attempt to account for the infant in question, as the child of another woman, if it had been in fact the child of the Princess, that we entertained a full and confident expectation of arriving at complete proof, either in the affirmative or negative, on this part of the subject.

“ This expectation was not disappointed. We are happy to declare our perfect conviction that there is no foundation whatever for believing that the child now with the Princess of Wales is the child of her Royal Highness, or that she was delivered of any child in the year 1802; nor has any thing appeared to us which would warrant the belief that she was pregnant in that year, or at any other period within the compass of our enquiries. The identity of the child now with the Princess, its parents, age, the place and date of its birth, the time and circumstance of its being first taken under her Royal Highness's protection, are all established by such a concurrence both of positive and circumstantial evidence as

can in our judgment leave no question on this part of the subject. That child was, beyond all doubt, born in Brownlow-street hospital, on the 11th day of July, 1802, of the body of Sophia Austin, and was first brought to the Princess's house in the month of November following. Neither should we be more warranted in expressing any doubt respecting the alleged pregnancy of the Princess, as stated in the original Declaration, a fact so fully contradicted, and by so many witnesses, to whom, if true, it must in various ways be known, that we cannot think it entitled to the smallest credit. The testimonies on these two points are contained in the annexed Depositions and Letters. We have not partially abstracted them in this Report, lest by any unintentional omission we might weaken their effect; but we humbly offer to your Majesty this our clear and unanimous judgment upon them, formed upon full deliberation, and pronounced without hesitation, on the result of the whole enquiry. We do not, however, feel ourselves at liberty, much as we should wish it, to close our Report here. Besides the allegation of the pregnancy and delivery of the Princess, those Declarations, on the whole of which your Majesty has been pleased to command us to enquire and report, contain, as we have already remarked, other particulars respecting the conduct of her Royal Highness, such as must, especially considering her exalted rank and station, necessarily give occasion to very unfavourable interpretations. From the various depositions and proofs annexed to this Report, particularly from the examinations of Robert Bidgood, Wm. Cole, Frances Lloyd, and Mr. Lisle, your Majesty will perceive that several strong circumstances of this description have been positively sworn to by witnesses, who cannot, in our judgment, be suspected of any unfavourable bias, and whose veracity, in this respect, we have seen no ground to question.

“ On the precise bearing and effect of the facts

thus appearing, it is not for us to decide; these we submit to your Majesty's wisdom; but we conceive it to be our duty to report on this part of the Enquiry, as distinctly as on the former facts, that as on the one hand the facts of Pregnancy and Delivery are to our minds satisfactorily disproved; so, on the other hand, we think that the circumstances to which we now refer, particularly those stated to have passed between her Royal Highness and Captain Manby, must be credited until they shall receive some decisive contradiction; and if true, are justly entitled to the most serious consideration. We cannot close this Report without humbly assuring your Majesty, that it was on every account our anxious wish to have executed this delicate trust with as little publicity as the nature of the case would possibly allow, and we entreat your Majesty's permission to express our full persuasion, that if this wish has been disappointed, the failure is not imputable to any thing unnecessarily said or done by us, all which is most humbly submitted to your Majesty.

(Signed)

ERSKINE.
SPENCER.
GRENVILLE.
ELLENBOROUGH.

July 14, 1806.

(A True Copy)—I. BECKET.

(COPY.)

MINUTE OF THE CABINET, JAN. 25, 1807.

“ Downing-street, January 25, 1807.

PRESENT.

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| The LORD CHANCELLOR, | Lord Viscount HOWICK, |
| LORD PRESIDENT, | Lord GRENVILLE, |
| LORD PRIVY SEAL, | Lord ELLENBOROUGH, |
| Earl SPENCER, | Mr. Secretary WINDHAM, |
| Earl of MOIRA, | Mr. GRENVILLE, |
| Lord HENRY PETTY, | |

“ Your Majesty's confidential Servants have given the most diligent and attentive consideration to the matters on which your Majesty has been pleased to require their opinion and advice. They trust your Majesty will not think that any apology is necessary on their part for the delay which has attended their deliberations, on a subject of such extreme importance, and which

they have found to be of the greatest difficulty and embarrassment.

“ They are fully convinced that it never can have been our Majesty’s intention to require from them, that they should lay before your Majesty a detailed and circumstantial examination and discussion of the various arguments and allegations contained in the letter submitted to your Majesty, by the Law Advisers of the Princess of Wales. And they beg leave, with all humility, to represent to your Majesty that the Laws and Constitution of their country have not placed them in a situation in which they can conclusively pronounce on any question of guilt or innocence affecting any of your Majesty’s subjects, much less one of your Majesty’s Royal Family. They have indeed no power or authority whatever to enter on such a course of enquiry as could alone lead to any final results of such a nature.

“ The main question on which they had conceived themselves called upon by their duty to submit their advice to your Majesty, was this : Whether the circumstances which had, by your Majesty’s commands, been brought before them, were of a nature to induce your Majesty to order any further steps to be taken upon them by your Majesty’s Government ? And on this point they humbly submit to your Majesty that the advice which they offered was clear and unequivocal. Your Majesty has since been pleased further to require that they should submit to your Majesty their opinions as to the answer to be given by your Majesty to the request contained in the Princess’s letter, and as to the manner in which that answer should be communicated to her Royal Highness.

“ They have, therefore, in dutiful obedience to your Majesty’s commands, proceeded to reconsider the whole of the subject, in this new view of it ; and, after much deliberation, they have agreed humbly to recommend to your Majesty the draft of a Message which, if approved by your Majesty, they would humbly suggest your Majesty might send to her Royal Highness through the Lord Chancellor.

“ Having before humbly submitted to your Majesty their opinion, that the facts of the case did not warrant their advising that any further steps should be taken upon it by your Majesty’s Government, they have not thought it necessary to advise your Majesty any longer to decline receiving the Princess into your Royal presence. But the result of the whole case does, in their judgment, render it indispensable that your Majesty should, by a serious admonition, convey to her Royal Highness your Majesty’s expectation that her Royal Highness should be more circumspect in her future conduct ; and they trust that in the terms in which they have advised, that such admonition should be conveyed, your Majesty will not be of opinion, on a full consideration of the evidence and answer, that they can be considered as having at all exceeded the necessity of the case, as arising out of the last reference which your Majesty has been pleased to make to them.”

The following Message was recommended on the 25th of Feb. 1807, by the under-mentioned persons :—

The LORD CHANCELLOR,
LORD PRESIDENT,
LORD PRIVY SEAL,
Earl SPENCER,
Earl of MOIRA,
Lord HENRY PETTY,

Lord Viscount HOWICK,
Lord GRENVILLE,
Lord ELLEN BROUGH,
Mr. Secretary WINDHAM,
Mr. T. GRENVILLE.

(COPY.)

MESSAGE FROM THE KING,

TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

“ The KING having referred to his confidential Servants the proceedings and papers relative to the written Declarations which had been laid before his MAJESTY, respecting the conduct of the Princess of WALES, has been apprized by them, that after the fullest consideration of the examinations taken on that subject, and of the observations and affidavits brought forward by the Princess's Legal Advisers, they agree in the opinions submitted to his MAJESTY in the original Report of the four Lords by whom his MAJESTY directed that the matter should, in the first instance, be enquired into; and that in the present stage of the business, upon a mature and deliberate view of this most important subject, in all its parts and bearings, it is their opinion, that the facts of the case do not warrant their advising that any further step should be taken in the business by his MAJESTY's Government, or any other proceedings instituted upon it, except such only, as his MAJESTY's Law Servants may, on a reference to them, think fit to recommend for the prosecution of Lady DOUGLAS, on those parts of her deposition which may appear to them to be justly liable thereto.

“ In this situation, his MAJESTY is advised that it is no longer necessary for him to decline receiving the PRINCESS into his Royal presence.

“ The KING sees with great satisfaction the agreement of his Confidential Servants, in the decided opinion expressed by the four Law Lords upon the falsehood of the accusations of pregnancy and delivery brought forward against the PRINCESS by Lady DOUGLAS. On the other matters produced in the course of the Enquiry, the KING is advised, that none of the facts or allegations stated in preliminary examinations, carried on in the absence of the parties interested, are to be considered as legally or conclusively established. But in those examinations, and even in the answer drawn in the name of the PRINCESS by her legal advisers, there have appeared circumstances of conduct on the part of the PRINCESS, which his MAJESTY could never regard but with serious concern. The elevated rank which the PRINCESS holds in this country, and the relation in which she stands to his MAJESTY and the ROYAL FAMILY, must always deeply involve both the interests of the State, and the personal feelings of his MAJESTY, in the propriety and correctness of her conduct; and his MAJESTY, therefore, cannot forbear to express, in the conclusion of the business, his desire and expectation, that such a conduct may in future be observed by the PRINCESS, as may fully justify those marks of paternal

regard which his MAJESTY always wishes to show to every part of the ROYAL FAMILY.

“ His MAJESTY has directed that this Message should be transmitted to the Princess of WALES by his LORD CHANCELLOR; and that copies of the Proceedings which have taken place on this subject, should also be communicated to his dearly-beloved Son, the Prince of WALES.”

MINUTE OF COUNCIL, APRIL 22, 1807.

PRESENT.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| The Lord Chancellor (Eldon) | Earl Bathurst |
| The Lord President (Camden) | Viscount Castlereagh |
| The Lord Privy Seal (Westmorland) | Lord Mulgrave |
| The Duke of Portland | Mr. Secretary Canning |
| The Earl of Chatham | Lord Hawkesbury |

Your Majesty's confidential servants have, in obedience to your Majesty's commands, most attentively considered the original Charges and Report, the Minutes of Evidence, and all the other Papers submitted to the consideration of your Majesty, on the subject of those charges against her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

In the stage in which this business is brought under their consideration, they do not feel themselves called upon to give any opinion as to the proceeding itself, or to the mode of investigation in which it has been thought proper to conduct it. But adverted to the advice which is stated by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to have directed his conduct, your Majesty's confidential servants are anxious to impress upon your Majesty their conviction, that his Royal Highness could not, under such advice, consistently with his public duty, have done otherwise than lay before your Majesty the Statement and Examinations which were submitted to him upon this subject.

After the most deliberate consideration, however, of the evidence which has been brought before the Commissioners, and of the previous examinations, as well as of the answer and observations which have been submitted to your Majesty upon them, they feel it necessary to declare their decided concurrence in the clear and unanimous opinion of the Commissioners, confirmed by that of all your Majesty's late confidential servants, that the two main charges alleged against her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, of pregnancy and delivery, are completely disproved, and they further submit to your Majesty their unanimous opinion, that all the other particulars of conduct brought in accusation against her Royal Highness, to which the character of criminality can be ascribed, *are either satisfactorily contradicted, or rest upon evidence of such a nature, and which was given, under such circumstances, as render it, in the judgment of your Majesty's confidential servants, undeserving of credit.*

“ Your Majesty's confidential servants, therefore, concurring in that part of the opinion of your late servants, as stated in

their Minute of the 25th January, that there is no longer any necessity for your Majesty being advised to decline receiving the Princess into your Royal presence, humbly submit to your Majesty, that it is essentially necessary, *in justice to her Royal Highness, and for the honour and interests of your Majesty's Illustrious Family*, that her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, *should be admitted, with as little delay as possible, into your Majesty's Royal presence, and that she should be received in a manner due to her rank and station, in your Majesty's Court and Family.*

“ Your Majesty's confidential servants likewise beg leave to submit to your Majesty, that considering that it may be necessary that your Majesty's Government should possess the means of referring to the true state of this transaction, it is of the utmost importance, that these documents, demonstrating the ground on which your Majesty has proceeded, should be preserved in safe custody; and that for that purpose the originals, or authentic copies of all these papers, should be sealed up and deposited in the Office of your Majesty's Principal Secretary of State.”

*EVIDENCE FROM THE PRINCESS'S
BOOK.*

PRINCESS OF WALES'S LETTER TO THE KING.

We this day present our Readers with the Letter of her Royal Highness the Princess of WALES to the KING, which the Hon. COCHRANE JOHNSTONE read as a part of his speech, and which he said he could prove, at the Bar of the House, to have been written by the late Mr. PERCEVAL, in conjunction with Lord ELDON and Sir THOMAS PLUMER. We give it without a comment.

TO THE KING.

“SIRE,—Impressed with the deepest sentiments of gratitude for the countenance and protection which I have hitherto uniformly received from your MAJESTY, I approach you with a heart undismayed, upon the occasion so awful and momentous to my character, my honour, and my happiness. I should, indeed (under charges such as have now been brought against me), prove myself undeserving of the continuance of that countenance and protection, and altogether unworthy of the high station which I hold in your MAJESTY'S family, if I sought for any impartiality, for any indulgence, for any thing more than what is due to me in justice. My entire confidence in your MAJESTY'S virtues assures me that I cannot meet with less.

“The situation which I have been so happy as to hold in your MAJESTY'S good opinion and esteem, my station in your MAJESTY'S august family, my life, my honour, and through mine, the honour of your Majesty's family have been attacked. Sir JOHN and Lady DOUGLAS have attempted to support a direct and precise charge, by which they have dared to impute to me the enormoust guilt of High Treason, committed in the foul act of Adultery. In this charge the extravagance of their malice has defeated itself. The Report of the Lords Commissioners acting under your MAJESTY'S Warrant, has most fully cleared me of that charge.

“But there remain imputations, strangely sanctioned and countenanced by that Report, on which I cannot remain silent without incurring the most fatal consequence to my honour and character. For it states to your MAJESTY, that the ‘circumstances detailed against me must be credited till they are decisively contradicted.’—To contradict with as much decision as the contradiction of an accused can convey; to expose the injustice and malice of my enemies; to show the utter impossibility of giving credit to their testimony; and to vindicate my own innocence, will be the objects, Sire, of this Letter.

“ In the course of my pursuing these objects, I shall have much to complain of, in the substance of the proceeding itself, and much in the manner of conducting it.

“ That any of the charges should ever have been entertained upon testimony so little worthy of belief, which betrayed in every sentence the malice in which it originated; that even if they were entertained at all, your MAJESTY should have been advised to pass by the ordinary legal modes of enquiry into such high crimes, and to refer them to a Commission, open to all the objections which I shall have to state to such a mode of enquiry; that the Commissioners, after having negatived the principal charge of substantive crime, should have entertained considerations of matter that amounted to no legal offence, and which were adduced, not as substantive charges in themselves, but as matters in support of the principal accusation; that through the pressure and weight of their official occupations, they did not—perhaps could not—bestow that attention on the case, which, if given to it, must have enabled them to detect the villainy and falsehood of my accusers, and their foul conspiracy against me; and must have preserved my character from the weighty imputation which the authority of the Commissioners has for a time cast upon it; but, above all, that they should, upon this *ex-parte* examination, without hearing one word that I could urge, have reported to your MAJESTY an opinion on these matters, so prejudicial to my honour, and from which I can have no appeal to the laws of the country (because the charges, constituting no legal offence, cannot be made the ground of a judicial enquiry); these, and many other circumstances, connected with the length of the proceedings, which have cruelly aggravated to my feeling, the pain necessarily attendant upon this enquiry, I shall not be able to refrain from stating and urging as matters of serious lamentation at least—if not of well-grounded complaint.

“ In commenting upon any part of the circumstances which have occurred in the course of this enquiry, whatever observations I may be compelled to make upon any of them, I trust I shall never forget what is due to officers in high station and employment under your MAJESTY. No apology, therefore, can be required for any reserve in my expressions towards them. But if, in vindicating my innocence against the injustice and malice of my enemies, I should appear to your MAJESTY not to express myself with all the warmth and indignation which innocence so foully calumniated must feel, your MAJESTY will, I trust, not attribute my forbearance to any insensibility to the grievous injuries I have sustained, but will graciously be pleased to ascribe it to the restraint I have imposed upon myself, lest, in endeavouring to describe in just terms the motives, the conduct, the perjury, and all the foul circumstances which characterise and establish the malice of my accusers, I might use language, which, though not unjustly applied to them, might be improper to be used by me to any body, or unfit to be employed by any body, humbly, respectfully, and dutifully addressing your MAJESTY, That a fit opportunity has occurred for laying open my heart to your MAJESTY, perhaps I shall hereafter have no reason to lament; for more than two years I had been informed, that upon

the presumption of some misconduct in me, my behaviour had been the subject of investigation, and my neighbours' servants had been examined concerning it; and for some time I had received mysterious and indistinct intimations, that some great mischief was meditated towards me; and in all the circumstance of my very peculiar situation, it will not be thought strange, that however conscious I was, that I had no just cause for fear, I should yet feel some uneasiness on this account. With surprise certainly (because the first tidings were of a kind to excite surprise), but without alarm, I received the intelligence, that for some reason, a formal investigation of some parts of my conduct had been advised, and had taken place.

“ His Royal Highness the Duke of KENT, on the 7th of June, 1806, announced it to me. He announced to me, the Princess of WALES, the near approach of two Attornies (one of them I since find the Solicitor employed by Sir JOHN DOUGLAS), claiming to enter my dwelling with a Warrant to take away one half of my Household, for immediate examination upon a charge against myself. Of the nature of that charge I was then uninformed.— It now appears it was the charge of High Treason, committed in the infamous crime of Adultery. His Royal Highness will, I am sure, do me the justice to represent to your MAJESTY, that I betrayed no fear—that I manifested no symptoms of conscious guilt—that I sought no excuses to prepare or to tutor my servants, for the examination which they were to undergo. The only request which I made to his Royal Highness was, that he would have the goodness to remain with me till the servants were gone, that he might bear witness that I had no conversation with them before they went. In truth, Sire, my anxieties under a knowledge that some serious mischief was planning against me, and while I was ignorant of its quality and extent, had been so great, that I could not but rejoice at an event which seemed to promise me an early opportunity of ascertaining what the malice of my enemies intended against me. It has not been, indeed, without impatience the most painful, that I have passed the interval which has since elapsed. When it was not only known to the world (for it was known to the world) that enquiry of the gravest nature had been instituted into my conduct, I looked to the conclusion with all the eagerness that could belong to an absolute conviction that my innocence and my honour, to the disgrace and confusion of my accusers, would be established, and that the groundless malice and injustice of the whole charge would be manifested to the world, as widely as the calumny had been circulated. I knew that the result of an *ex-parte* enquiry, from its very nature, could not, unless it fully asserted my entire innocence, be in any degree just; and I had taught myself more firmly to believe, that it was utterly impossible that any opinion which could in the smallest degree work a prejudice to my honour and character, could even be expressed in any terms, by any persons in a Report upon a solemn formal Enquiry, and more especially to your MAJESTY, without my having some notice and some opportunity of being heard; and I was convinced, that if the proceeding allowed me, before an opinion was expressed, the ordinary

means which accused persons have of vindicating their honour and their opinion, which could then be expressed, be fully vindicated and effectually established. What then, Sire, must have been my astonishment and my dismay, when I saw, that notwithstanding the principal accusation was found to be utterly false, yet some of the witnesses to those charges which were brought in support of the principal accusation,—witnesses whom any person interested to have protected my character, would easily have shown, out of their own mouths, to be utterly unworthy of credit, and confederates in joint conspiracy with my false accusers, are reported ‘to be free from all suspicion of unfavourable bias; their veracity, in the judgment of the Commissioners not to be questioned;’ and their infamous stories and insinuations against me ‘to be such as deserve the most serious consideration,’ and as such to be credited ‘till decisively contradicted.’

“The Enquiry, after I thus had notice of it, continued for above two months. I venture not to complain, as if it had been unnecessarily protracted. The important duties and official avocations of the Noble Lords appointed to carry it on, may naturally account for and excuse some delay. But however excusable it may have been, your MAJESTY will conceive the pain and anxiety which the interval of suspence has occasioned, and your MAJESTY will not be surprised if I further represent, that I have found a great aggravation of my painful sufferings, in the delay which occurred in communicating the Report to me; for though it is dated on the 14th of July, I did not receive it till the 11th of Aug. notwithstanding your MAJESTY’s gracious commands. It was due unquestionably to your MAJESTY, that the result of an Enquiry commanded by your MAJESTY, upon advice which had been offered, touching matters of the highest import, should be first and immediately communicated to you. The respect and honour due to the Prince of WALES, the interest which he must necessarily have taken in this Enquiry, combined to make it indispensibly fit that the result should be forthwith also stated to his Royal Highness. I complain not, therefore, that it was too early communicated to any one; I complain only, and I complain most seriously (for I felt it most seriously) of the delay in its communication to me.

“Rumour has informed the world, that the Report had been early communicated to your MAJESTY and to his Royal Highness. I did not receive the benefit intended for me, by your MAJESTY’s most gracious command, till a month after the Report was signed. But the same rumour has represented me, to my infinite prejudice, as in possession of the Report during that month; and the malice of those who wished to stain my honour, has not failed to suggest all that malice could infer from its remaining in their possession so long. May I be permitted to say, that if the Report acquits me, my innocence entitle me to receive from those to whom your Majesty’s commands had been given, an immediate notification of the fact that it did acquit me. Sentence should not have left to settle in any mind, much less upon your MAJESTY’s, for a month before I could even begin to prepare for an answer, which, when begun, could not speedily be concluded; and that if the Report could be represented as both acquitting

and condemning me, the reasons which suggested the propriety of an early communication in each of the former cases, combined to make it proper and necessary in the latter.

“ And why all considerations of my feelings was then cruelly neglected—why I was kept upon the rack, during all this time, ignorant of the result of a charge which affected my honour and my life—and why, especially in a case where such graver matters were to continue to be credited to the prejudice of my honour, till they were decidedly contradicted, the means of knowing what it was, that I might at least endeavour to contradict, were withheld from me a single unnecessary hour, I know not, and I will not trust myself in the attempt to conjecture.

“ On the 11th of Aug., however, I at length received from the LORD CHANCELLOR a packet, containing copies of the Warrant or Commission authorising the Enquiry, of the Report, and of the Examinations on which the Report was founded; and your MAJESTY may be graciously pleased to recollect, that on the 13th I returned my grateful thanks to your MAJESTY for having ordered these Papers to be sent me. Your MAJESTY will readily imagine, that, upon a subject of such importance, I could not venture to trust only to my own advice, and those with whom I advised, suggested, that the Declaration or Charge, upon which the Enquiry had proceeded; and which the Commissioners refer to in their Report, and represent to be the essential foundation of the whole proceedings, did not accompany the Examination and the Report, and also that the Papers themselves were not authenticated.

“ I ventured, therefore, to address your MAJESTY upon the supposed defect in the communication, and humbly requested that the Copies of the Papers which I then returned might, after being examined and authenticated, be again transmitted to me, and that I might also be furnished with the Copies of the written Declarations, so referred to in the Report, and my humble thanks are due for your MAJESTY'S compliance with my request.—On the 29th of August I received, in consequence, the attested Copies of those Declarations, and of a Narrative of his Royal Highness the Duke of KENT; and a few days afterwards, on the 3d of September, the attested Copies of the Examinations which were taken before the Commissioners.

“ By the copy of the Commission, a warrant which I have received, under which the Enquiry has been prosecuted, it appears to be an instrument under your MAJESTY'S Sign Manual, not countersigned, not under any seal. It recites that an abstract of certain within declarations, touching my conduct (without specifying by whom those declarations were made, or the nature of the matters touching which they had been made, or even by whom the abstract had been proposed) had been laid before your MAJESTY, into the truth of which it purports to authorise the four Noble Peers, who are named in it, to enquire and examine upon oath such persons as they think fit, and report to your MAJESTY the result of their examination.

“ By referring to the within Declaration, it appears that they contain allegations against me, amounting to the charge of high

treason, and also other matters which, if understood to be, as they seem to have been acted and reported upon by the Commissioners, not as evidence confirmatory (as they are expressed to be in the title) of the principal charge, but as distinct and substantive subjects of examination, cannot, as I am advised, be represented as in law amounting to crimes—how most of the Declarations referred to were collected, by whom, at whose solicitation, under what sanction, and before what persons, magistrates, or others, they were made, does not appear. By the title, indeed, which all the within Declarations, except Sir JOHN and Lady DOUGLAS, bear, viz. “*That they had been taken for the purpose of confirming Lady DOUGLASS’s statement,*” it may be collected, that they had been by her, or at least by Sir JOHN’s procurement; and the concluding passage of one of them, I mean the 4th declaration of WILLIAM COLE, strengthens this opinion, as it represents Sir JOHN DOUGLAS, accompanied by his Solicitor, Mr. LOWTON, to have gone down as far as Cheltenham, for the examination of two witnesses, whose declarations are there stated. I am, however, at a loss to know at this moment, whom I am to consider, or whom I could fix upon, as my false accuser. From the circumstance last mentioned, it might be inferred that Sir JOHN DOUGLAS, or one of them, is the accuser. But Lady DOUGLAS in her within declaration so far from representing the information which she then gives, as moving voluntarily from herself, expressly states, that she gives it under the direct command of his Royal Highness the Prince of WALES, and the Papers leave me without information from whom any communication to the PRINCE originated, which induced him to give such commands.

“ Upon the question how far the advice is agreeable to law, under which it was recommended to your MAJESTY to issue this Warrant or Commission, not counter-signed, nor under seal, and without any of your MAJESTY’s advisers, therefore, being on the face of it responsible for its issuing, I am not competent to determine. And undoubtedly, that the two high legal authorities, the LORD CHANCELLOR, and the LORD CHIEF JUSTICE of the King’s Bench, consented to act under it, it is with the greatest doubt and diffidence that I can bring myself to express my suspicion of its illegality. But if it be, as I am given to understand it is, open to question, whether consistently with law, your MAJESTY should have been advised to command by this Warrant or Commission, persons not to act in any known character, as Secretaries of State, as Privy Councillors, as Magistrates otherwise empowered, but to act as Commissioners, and under the sole authority of such Warrants, to enquire without any authority, to hear and determine any thing upon the subject of those enquiries, into the known crime of High Treason, under the sanction of oaths to be administered by them as such Commissioners, and to report the result thereof to your MAJESTY. If, I say, there can be any question upon the legality of such a Warrant or Commission, the extreme hardship with which it has operated upon me, the extreme prejudice which it has done to my character, and to which such a proceeding must ever expose the person who is the object of it, oblige me till I am fully convinced of its legality, to forbear acknowledging its au-

thority, and with all humility and deference to YOUR MAJESTY,
to protest against all the proceedings under it."

DEFENCE
OF THE
PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Report and Examinations were transmitted to her Royal Highness. She took the advice of the late Mr. Perceval, Lord Eldon, and Sir Thomas Plumer, who drew up an elaborate Defence, the first part of which was wholly occupied in a harsh and severe animadversion on the nature of the proceeding—the formality of the King's Warrant—the legality of the Commission—the *ex-parte* nature of the Examinations, &c. &c. &c. upon all of which we have already given our opinion. This part of the Defence is a tissue of special pleading, betraying great narrowness of mind in her legal advisers, since such pleading could not serve her cause by leading to her vindication, and was evidently grounded more in political hostility to the Ministers in power, than in a moral sense of the duty which they owed to their client. After stating that the Report of the Commissioners most fully cleared her of the charge of high treason, by the foul crime of adultery, there remained imputations, strongly sanctioned by that Report, stating that the circumstances detailed against her must be credited till they were decisively contradicted. These were entertained on testimony so little worthy of belief, betraying the malice in which it originated, that it was with no little astonishment that she perceived the Commissioners had acted upon it. It was extraordinary that they should entertain charges amounting to no

legal offence, even if clearly proved, and still more so that they did not employ the attention that was necessary to detect the villainy of the foul conspiracy which was evidently formed against her life and honour. Above all, that they should have thought themselves justified in reporting on such evidence, without hearing one word on her behalf, to his Majesty, from whom there could be no appeal to the laws, because the charges could not be made the ground of judicial enquiry. She trusted that his Majesty would not attribute her warmth, in speaking of the manner of this prosecution, to any want of duty or respect to the Throne, but to her own sense of dignity, and to the just feelings which she entertained for the honour of the Royal Family, of which she was a Member.

For more than two years she had been told of insinuations against her honour—that her neighbour's servants had been under secret examinations—and dark intimations were given to her of some mischief hatching for the destruction of her peace, if not aiming at her life. On the 7th of June, 1806, the Duke of Kent communicated to her that a formal investigation was actually commenced into her conduct; and she instantly heard that two Attornies (one the Solicitor of Sir John Douglas) were arrived at her house, to execute warrants to take half of her household servants away, for the purpose of examination. It now appeared that the design was a charge of the crime of high treason, in the infamous crime of adultery, by which an attack was made directly on her life. The first feeling of her heart prompted her to request his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent to remain with her till her servants were gone, that he might bear witness that she held no conversation with any of them previous to their departure, which he accordingly did. This at least may serve to shew that there was no alarm on her part, arising from any consciousness of guilt, or that she had any need of putting

her servants on their guard, much less of giving them instructions. The Enquiry went on for two months from this time, without her receiving the least communication on the subject, or knowing what dark and fatal machinations might be going on. At length, the Report, though dated the 14th July, did not reach her till the 11th August. She could not, in a situation of such peril to her life and honour, trust to her own judgment, and therefore she consulted legal men in forming her defence. They advised her that the body of the charges was not complete, as the Declarations upon which the King's Warrant originated had not accompanied the Examinations and Report, and that the whole had not been officially authenticated. By a representation to his Majesty these omissions were rectified. On the 29th August she received the Declarations (including the Duke of Kent's), and on the 3d of September the papers were authenticated.

After this introduction the technical objections to the warrant, tribunal, and form of proceeding follow, which, on account of their quibbling quality, we do not think it very requisite to detail, but proceed to the specific answers to the Evidence. She was ready to acknowledge that her honour was of more importance to the State than that of any other woman; that her conduct therefore might be fitly subjected, when necessary, to a severer scrutiny than that of others, but it could not follow, because her character might be of more importance, that it might be attacked with more impunity. For two years she had been slandered in the most ignominious way—insinuations thrown out against her in her neighbourhood—spies placed on her conduct—the servants in the neighbouring families tampered with, and that by the Earl of Moira, as would appear by the deposition of Jonathan Partridge, porter to Lord Eardley. She humbly trusted, that before any other proceeding should be gone into, it would be considered as fit that it should be by another more known and regular tribunal, and in

a manner more consonant with the forms of British judicature.

She now proceeded to observe on the evidence adduced: and, first, of the testimony of Lady Douglas. The first observation that must strike every one, was the folly of gratuitously and uselessly confessing to a person, almost a stranger, a secret of such vital importance as that of pregnancy, if it had been really so. Lady Douglas had, in fact, courted her acquaintance, by the most humble attentions, and she was not a person who either by her manners or acquirements could engage any part of her confidence. The Princess proceeds to examine her Declaration, made on the 3d December, 1805, though it was not communicated to his Majesty till the month of May, and though she did not feel herself called upon to enter into any refutation of an evidence that was totally discredited, yet, in justice to her own feelings, she must show how inconsistent, vague, and futile it was in every part, and accordingly the Princess goes through it passage by passage. The other Declarations were made by persons of a character and description, as one would have thought would of itself have deprived them of all credit. Such informations—such *ex-parte* examinations were of themselves sufficient to make the Commissioners hesitate—but to report upon them to his Majesty, with all the weight and authority of their high names, she was perfectly at a loss to account for. The evidence was described as containing matters of “great impropriety and indecency of behaviour, and as other particulars in themselves extremely suspicious, and still more so, when connected with the assertions already mentioned.” And they go on to say, “that particularly what passed between her Royal Highness and Captain Manby must be credited until they receive some decisive contradiction; and, if true, are justly entitled to the most serious consideration.” Now, what did the whole rest upon? Hearsays—rumours

—suspicions, and the reports of very doubtful persons. All the witnesses, except Mrs. Lisle, were witnesses of the informers. For Mrs. Lisle she had great respect; but all the rest were placed by the Prince about her; and what is it, that they say?—They speak only to such generalities, as makes it difficult, at such a distance of time, to recollect facts with sufficient accuracy to contradict them.

Cole, for instance, talks of her eating sandwiches with Sir Sydney Smith: that he sometimes came to dinner, and to supper, and staid till twelve or one, or later. These were assertions which she could not contradict, because they were true. His conversation, and the history of his achievements, amused her. She was fitting up a Turkish tent, and he assisted her. He gave her the plan of Murat Bey's. He taught her how to draw Egyptian Arabesques, &c. and this occasioned his frequent visits, and some, probably, as early in the morning as Bidgood mentions. Bidgood might also have met them walking in the park alone; for the Ladies might have gone up to take off their cloaks, and dress for dinner, while they remained alone. At some of these times Cole and Bidgood might have seen Sir Sydney, when he had not entered through the waiting-room: but she never knew that he had a key to the park; and as to being alone with him, it must have happened with many others as well as him; and she did not conceive it to be inconsistent with the manners of society. It was only in the drawing-room—in no other room, did she ever see Gentlemen; and as to eating sandwiches, she had herself ordered them to be brought in, according to daily custom, and he undoubtedly might have been sitting on the same sofa. She might have often been seen sitting on the same sofa with other Gentlemen, as well as Sir S. Smith; but it was impossible for her to say what corner of a sofa he might have occupied four years ago. Her conscience perfectly acquitted her of any improper free-

dom; and, unless it should be considered, that a Princess of Wales could never descend to the familiarities and intercourse of private life, it must be under any circumstances extremely hard; but under her's, it could hardly be expected from her.

There were four different Declarations from Cole—all different from the deposition which he afterwards made, and materially differing from one another. It was her misfortune that Cole and Bidgood had not been sifted and questioned as they ought to be. The Law Lords were not always, nor even often, present; and the examinations were left to Earl Spencer and Lord Grenville. Cole was not punishable, because the two Lords could not administer an oath; and yet, mark the conduct of this man. He had observed a man in a great coat at midnight, without feeling or giving any alarm;—and yet this man had his nerves so shocked as to start at seeing a gentleman sitting on a sofa at mid-day. He could suffer the approach of a man at midnight to his master's bed, because he did not believe him to be a thief—and yet could have his suspicions aroused at seeing a friend with his mistress in an open room! It was no doubt the watchman whom he saw at midnight, whose duty it was to go his rounds, both without and within the house—and it was his duty to have ascertained who it was, if he had doubts on the subject. He ascribes his removal to his starting. It was not so—Cole was a disagreeable man; he had been educated above his station; he spoke French, and played on the violin, &c. He would frequently play on her harpsichord, and read her books. He showed a forwardness and impertinence which were disgusting. He had lived at Devonshire House, and was recommended from thence to the Prince. He carried thither all the observations which he made on the Princess's family, which determined her to remove him; and for this purpose she desired the Duke of Kent to acquaint him that she wished him to wait on

her at Carlton House, and the arrangement would have been made desirable to him, if he had conducted himself with propriety.

The Lamperts, servants of Lady Douglas, the Commissioners had not thought proper to examine, no doubt from their sense of the ignominy into which Lady Douglas had plunged herself; but it was unfortunate that by the absence of Sir Sydney Smith she was unable to call on him to refute the Declaration of the Lamperts.

The next person imputed to the Princess was Mr. Lawrence the painter. Mrs. Lisle said, that she sat to him in London and at Blackheath; and Cole said, "he slept two or three nights at Montague House. That one night she was with him alone in the blue room, after the Ladies had retired; and that afterwards, when he supposed that Mr. Lawrence had gone to bed he went to see whether all was safe, and he found the blue room locked, and heard a whispering in it, upon which he went away." In his first Declaration he said, that much suspicion was "entertained of Mr. Lawrence," but he does not mention the whispering nor the locked door. This contradiction is worthy of remark. It is perfectly true that in 1800 or 1801, Mr. Lawrence painted a large picture of her and her daughter, and he asked to be permitted to sleep a few nights at Montague House, that he might get up and work on the picture in the morning. Sir William Bechey had done the same. Accordingly, an apartment was assigned to him at the other end of the house. He did not dine with the Princess, but he came down sometimes to music in the evening. He sometimes read, as he reads Shakspeare with great elegance, and he sometimes played at chess with the Princess. It frequently might have happened that he stayed till one or two o'clock. The Ladies and he went together,—but it might have happened that once he was left with her, as he himself recollects that it did happen for a minute or two after the Ladies

had retired. He lived in the greatest intimacy with Mr. Lock and Mr. Angerstein, and the Princess had asked him to dine with her with them. No doubt she often sat alone to him, and often continued in conversation with him after the sitting for the day was over,—but it never occurred to her that it was necessary to her honour to have a witness upon all such occasions. Mrs. Lisle says, that she left the Princess at Mr. Lawrence's, but thinks Mrs. Fitzgerald was with her.

As to Captain Manby, the evidence of Bidgood, Frances Lloyd, and Mrs. Lisle are to be considered;—and first as to Mrs. Lisle's evidence: she had placed two boys under his care, and Mrs. Lisle says, “that he was the person with whom the Princess took greater pleasure in speaking to than any other; that she behaved to him only as a woman would do who likes flirting—but she would not have thought that any married woman would have behaved properly who behaved as she did to him. She would not say she was attached to him, but it was a flirting conduct. She never saw any gallantry, as kissing her hand or the like.”

This was the sum of her evidence. The Princess was introduced to Captain Manby at Lady Townshend's. She put two boys under his care. While the *Africaine*, his ship, was fitting out, he took apartments at Blackheath, and she sometimes saw him.—Having placed these boys under him, she made him a present of a little plate, as it was constantly her practice to make a present of some sort, where she imposed trouble. In like manner Sir Samuel Hood had two of her boys, and she gave him an epergoue. She admits that she frequently conversed with Captain Manby, but Mrs. Lisle's evidence was not sufficiently sifted; she ought to have explained more distinctly what she observed, and not to be left to speak in generalities. The Princess's conscience acquitted her of every improper freedom. Mrs. Lisle had at this time lost a favourite daughter, which no

doubt gave to her mind a serious and even severe turn in judging of a person's behaviour in company, who had not the happiness to live in the society and confidence of her husband; but certainly Mrs. Lisle would not have continued to reside with the Princess, if circumstances of an unseemly sort had presented themselves to her eye. Look round the world, and to the conduct of ladies of the most unimpeached character, and say, if they were subjected to the same severe turn of mind, whether there might not be adduced instances of gaiety and harmless playfulness which might be misinterpreted into levity. This was the part of the case that hung the heaviest on the Princess's mind.

For as to Bidgood's evidence his saying that he saw Captain Manby salute the Princess in the reflection of a glass, this was totally destroyed by the oath of Captain Manby, that there was no glass in the room. As to the charge of driving out with a luncheon to Longreach only with the coachman and helper—why did not the Commissioners examine the coachman and helper? They might have told the destination of the drives and the object of them.—The affidavit of S. Gillam Mills, annexed, would show the insidious pains that were taken upon which to found a charge. The truth was, that upon two occasions of her driving to Belvidere, accompanied by Mrs. Fitzgerald, Captain Manby was of the party; and they did take some refreshment at Lord Eardley's; and it was equally true, that she walked with him at Ingress; that she was on board the *Africaine*; but she never went with him into any room, or into the house either at Belvidere or elsewhere.

At South-end there are more circumstances—and she enumerates the points of the evidence. The three houses, Nos. 7, 8, 9—Captain Manby sleeping often in the house—seen next morning at ten o'clock—putting the candles out—not waiting—water jug, bason, and towels, &c. the Princess could not recol-

lect accurately. She remembers there was a dispute among the servants as to the perquisite of candles. Hers were to belong to her maid—and she told Bidgood to leave them—but as to water jugs, bason, and towels, she could not treat with gravity. What! have these things in an open passage, where all her people were passing, to announce to them all that he was there, and thus to promulgate a secret which was no less than High Treason, and which was to cost her her life! The Commissioners could not, surely, believe any story so gross. Mrs. Sander and Mary Wilson both justified her from this slander.

Frances Lloyd said she was aroused out of bed, to make breakfast for Capt. Manby, at six o'clock. This might have happened; because it was twice agreed that they should go out upon water parties, one of which only took place: and she remembers to have walked down the lawn early on one of the mornings fixed for such an excursion; and might, at such time, have been seen by F. Lloyd. It will hardly be credible, that Earl Moira sent for Mr. Mills the day after Fanny Lloyd's declaration: but it will be seen by his and Mr. Edmeades deposition, what pains were taken to tamper with witnesses.

The next person was Mr. Hood, now Lord Hood, who married Miss Hammond, one of the ladies in the Princess's household. It is perfectly true she rode out with him twice in his whisky without having her own servants. This was immediately after the death of the Duke of Gloucester, and while he lay unburied. She went out in the whisky for air; but wished not to be seen with a retinue of servants, while his Royal Highness lay unburied.

The next persons imputed to her were Mr. Chester and Captain Moore. By Mrs. Lisle's evidence it is said, that Mr. John Chester was invited by her special order. Now, instead of this, he was only one of several invited. She begged of Lady Sheffield that every thing of the name of North, all the

Legges, all the Chesters, and Mr. Elliot should be invited. All about the candle, and being found in the gallery, would have been explained if Lady Sheffield had been examined. It is most likely that she might have walked with Mr. John Chester, but what was there in all this that she ought to be called on to answer?

As to Captain Moore, Mrs. Lisle had borrowed a book from him. Her mother, the Duchess of Brunswick, was fond of the late Dr. Moore's writings, and the Captain lent them a MS. of his late father, in return for which she made him a trifling present.

As to the anonymous papers marked A. B. C. she solemnly denied all knowledge of them. They were submitted to Mrs. Fitzgerald, together with the seal—she denied that they were the hand-writing of the Princess, or that the seal was her's; and yet this was not contained in her examination.

The Princess concludes her defence with some few observations on the Report of the Commissioners.—There were great omissions in it.—She was desirous that it should be opened up again; but she deprecated secret tribunals. Against false charges of friends, turned enemies—of servants, who seemed traitors and spies, and the foul conspiracy of social and domestic treason, she could look to no security for her honour but to the principle of justice, which constantly actuated the conduct of his Majesty.—For a Princess of Wales to have been placed in a situation, in which it was essential to her honour to request a Gentleman to swear that he was not locked up in a room with her alone; and another, that he did not give her a lascivious salute, and never slept in her house, is to have been actually degraded and disgraced. “I have been, Siré,” said the Princess, “placed in this situation. Could I forbear to announce a conspiracy against my honour and station in the country? At all events, I trust you will restore me to the blessing of your gracious presence,

and confirm to me, by your gracious words, your satisfactory conviction of my innocence.

“ October 3, 1806.

“ CAROLINE P.”

Then follow Affidavits.

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THE DEPOSITION OF THOMAS EDMEADES, OF GREENWICH, COUNTY OF KENT, SURGEON.

“ On Tuesday, May 20, 1806, I waited upon the Earl of Moira, by his appointment; who, having introduced me to Mr. Conant, a Magistrate for Westminster, proceeded to mention a charge preferred against me by one of the female servants of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, of my having said that her Royal Highness had been pregnant.— His Lordship then asked me if I had not bled her Royal Highness,—and whether at that time I did not mention to a servant, that I thought her Royal Highness in the family way,—and whether I did not also ask if the Prince had been down to Montague-house? I answered, that it had never entered my mind that her Royal Highness was in such a situation; and that, therefore, certainly I never made the remark to any one, nor had I asked whether his Royal Highness had visited the House. I said, that at that time a report of the nature alluded to was prevalent, but that I treated it as the infamous lie of the day. His Lordship adverted to the circumstance of her Royal Highness having taken a child into her house; and observed, how dreadful mistakes about Succession to the Throne were, and what confusion might be caused by any claim of this child: I observed, that I was aware of it, but repeated the assertion, that I had never *thought* of such a thing as was suggested, and therefore considered it impossible, in a manner, that I could have given it utterance. I observed, that I believed, in the first instance, Mr. Stikeman, the Page, had mentioned this child to her Royal Highness, and that it came from Deptford, where I went when her Royal Highness first took it, to see if any

illness prevailed in the family. Mr. Conant observed, that he believed it was not an unusual thing for a medical man, when he imagined that a Lady was pregnant, to mention his suspicion to some confidential domestic in the family, I admitted the *bare* possibility, *if* such had been my opinion; but remarked, that the *if* must have been removed, before I could have committed myself in so absurd a manner.

Lord Moira, in a very significant manner, with his hands behind him, his head over one shoulder, his eyes directed towards me, with a sort of smile observed, “that he could not help thinking there must be *something* in the servant’s deposition,” as if he did not give perfect credit to what I had said. He observed, that the matter was then confined to the knowledge of a few; and that he had hoped, if there had been any foundation for the affidavit, I might have acknowledged it, that the affair might have been hushed. With respect to the minor question, I observed, that it was not probable that I should condescend to ask any such question as that imputed to me, of a menial servant, and that I was not in the habit of conferring confidentially with servants. Mr. Conant cautioned me to be on my guard; as, if it appeared on further investigation, I had made such enquiry, it might be very unpleasant to me, should it come under the consideration of the Privy Council. I said, that I considered the report as a malicious one, and was ready to take oath before any Magistrate, that I had not at any time asserted, or even thought, that her Royal Highness had ever been in a state of pregnancy since I had had the honour of attending the household. Mr. Conant asked me whether, *whilst* I was bleeding her Royal Highness, or *after* I had performed the operation, I did not make some comment on the situation of her Royal Highness from the state of the blood, and whether I recommended the operation. I answer-

ed in the negative to both questions; I said that her Royal Highness had sent for me to bleed her, and that I did not then recollect on what account. I said that I had bled her Royal Highness twice, but did not remember the dates. I asked Lord Moira whether he intended to proceed in the business, or whether I might consider it as at rest, that I might have an opportunity, if I thought necessary, of consulting my friends relative to the mode of conduct I ought to adopt. He said, that if the subject was moved any farther, I should be apprised of it, and that at present it was in the hands of a few. I left them; and in about an hour, on further consideration, wrote the note of which the following is a copy, to which I never received any reply:—

“ Mr. Edmeades presents his respectful compliments to Lord Moira, and on mature deliberation, after leaving his Lordship upon the conversation which passed at Lord Moira’s this morning, he feels it necessary to advise with some friend on the propriety of making the particulars of the conversation known to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, as Mr. Edmeades would be very sorry that her Royal Highness should consider him capable of such infamous conduct as that imputed to him, on the deposition of a servant, by Lord Moira, this morning.

“ London, May 20, 1805.”

I have been enabled to state the substance of my interview with Lord Moira and Mr. Conant with the more particularity, as I made memorandums of it within a day or two afterwards; and I do further depose, that the papers hereunto annexed, marked A. and B. are in the hand-writing of Samuel Gillam Mills, of Greenwich aforesaid, my partner; and that he is at present, as I verily believe, upon his road from Wales through Gloucester to Bath.

(Signed) THOMAS EDMEADES.

Sworn at the Public Office, Hatton-garden, this 26th day of September, 1806.

(Signed) THOMAS LEACH.

A.

Memorandums of the heads of conversation between Lord Moira,
Mr. Lowten, and myself.

May 14, 1806.

MAY 13, 1806.—I received a letter from Lord Moira, of which the following is an exact copy:—

St. James's-place, May 13, 1806.

SIR,—A particular circumstance makes me desire to have the pleasure of seeing you, and indeed renders it indispensable that you should take the trouble of calling on me. As the trial in Westminster Hall occupies the latter hours of the day, I must beg you to be with me as early as nine o'clock to-morrow morning. In the mean time it will be better that you should not apprise any one of my having requested you to converse with me.

I have the honour, Sir, to be,

Your obedient servant,

To Mr. Mills.

(Signed)

MOIRA.

This is the paper A. referred to by the affidavit of Thos. Edmeades, sworn before me the 26th Sept. 1806,

THOS. LEACH.

B.

I consequence of the above letter, I waited on his Lordship exactly at nine o'clock. In less than five minutes I was admitted at his room, and by him received very politely. He began the conversation by stating he wished to converse with me on a very delicate subject—that I might rely on his honour, that what passed was to be in perfect confidence; it was his duty to his Prince, as his Councillor, to enquire into the subject, which he had known for some time; and the enquiry was due also to my character. He then stated, that a deposition had been made by a domestic of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, deposing, as a declaration made by me, that her Royal Highness was pregnant, and that I made enquiries when interviews might have taken place with the Prince. I answered, that I had never de-

clared the Princess to be with child, nor ever made the enquiries stated—that the declaration was an infamous falsehood. This being expressed with some warmth, his Lordship observed that I might have made the enquiries very innocently, conceiving that her Royal Highness could not be in that situation but by the Prince. I repeated my assertion of the falsehood of the declaration, adding, that though the conversation was intended to be confidential, I felt my character strongly attacked by the declaration, therefore it was necessary the declaration should be investigated. I had no doubt but the character I had so many years maintained would make my assertion believed before the deposition of a domestic. I then requested to know what date the declaration bore? His Lordship said he did not remember, but he had desired the solicitor to meet me, who would shew it me. I then observed, that I should in confidence communicate to his Lordship why I was desirous to know the date. I then stated to his Lordship, that soon after her Royal Highness came to Blackheath, I attended her in an illness, with Sir Francis Millman, in which I bled her twice. Soon after her recovery, she thought proper to form a regular medical appointment, and appointed myself and Mr. Edmeades to be surgeons and apothecaries to her Royal Highness. On receiving my warrant for such appointment, I declined accepting the honour of being appointed apothecary, being inconsistent with my character, being educated as surgeon, and having had an honorary degree of physic conferred on me. Her Royal Highness condescended to appoint me her surgeon only. His Lordship rang to know if Mr. Lowten was come: he was in the next room. His Lordship left me for a few minutes, returned and introduced me to Mr. Lowten, with much politeness as Dr. Mills, repeating the assurance of what passed being confidential. I asked Mr. Lowten the date of the declaration that had been asserted to be made by me. He said in the

year 1802. I then, with permission of his Lordship, gave the history of my appointment, adding, since then I had never seen the Princess as a patient. Once she sent for me to bleed her. I was from home. Mr. Edmeades went; nor had I visited any one in the house, except one Mary, and that was in a very bad case of surgery; I was not sure, whether it was before or after my appointment. Mr. Lowten asked me the date of it; I told him I did not recollect. He observed from my warmth of expressing my contradiction of the deposition, that I saw it in a wrong light; that I might suppose, and very innocently, her Royal Highness to be pregnant, and then the enquiries were as innocently made. I answered, that the idea of pregnancy never entered my head; that I never attended her Royal Highness in any sexual complaint; whether she ever had any I never knew. Mr. Lowten said, I might think so from her increase of size. I answered, No—I never did think her pregnant, therefore never could say it, and that the deposition was an infamous falsehood. His Lordship then observed, that he perceived there must be a mistake, and that Mr. Edmeades was the person meant, whom he wished to see. I said he was then at Oxford, and did not return before Saturday. His Lordship asked if he came through London. I said I could not tell.

Finding nothing now arising from conversation, I asked to retire. His Lordship attended me out of the room with great politeness.

When I came home I sent his Lordship a letter, with the date of my warrant, April 10, 1801. He answered my letter, with thanks for my immediate attention, and wished to see Mr. Edmeades on Sunday morning. This letter came on the Saturday; early on the Sunday I sent Timothy to let his Lordship know Mr. Edmeades would not return till Monday. On Tuesday I promised he should attend, which he did.

The preceding memorandum is an exact copy of what I made the day after I had seen Lord Moira.

(Signed) SAM. GILLAM MILLS.

Croome-hill, Greenwich, Aug. 30, 1806.

This is the paper marked B, referred to in the affidavit of Mr. Edmeades.

Sworn before me, this 26th Sept. 1806.

(Signed) THO. LEACH.

AFFIDAVIT OF THOMAS LAWRENCE, ESQ.

I, Thomas Lawrence, swear, that in the year 1801, I did sleep several nights at Montague House, and that frequently between the close of the day's setting, and her Royal Highness's dressing for dinner, I was alone with the Princess. That I saw her in the evening, and remained till twelve, one, or two o'clock, but never alone, except in one single instance, and that for a short time, when I remained with her Royal Highness in the blue room or drawing-room, as I remember, to answer some questions that had been put to me. I cannot recollect the particulars, but solemnly declare that I have not the least objection for all the world to have heard or seen what took place; that I never was alone with her Royal Highness in any other place; that I never was with the door locked, bolted, or fastened, otherwise than in the common and usual manner, which leaves it in the power of any person on the outside to open it. So help me God,

THOMAS LAWRENCE.

Hatton-garden, Sept. 24, 1806.

T. LEACH.

FARTHER DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO THE INVESTIGATION OF 1806.

MY LORD,—In consequence of certain inquiries directed by his Majesty, Lady Douglas, wife of Sir John Douglas, of the Marines, has deposed upon oath, that she was told by her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, that at a breakfast at Lady Willoughby's house, in May or June, 1802, &c.—(*Extract from Lady Douglas's Deposition.*)

It being material to ascertain, as far as possible, the truth of this fact, I am to request that your Lordship will have the goodness to desire Lady Willoughby to put down in writing every circumstance in any manner relative thereto (if any such there be), of which her Ladyship has any recollection; and also to apprise me, for his Majesty's information, whether at any time, during the course of the above-mentioned year, Lady Willoughby observed any such alteration in the Princess's shape, or any other circumstances, as might induce her Ladyship to believe that her Royal Highness was then pregnant.

I am, &c.

20th June, 1806:

SPENCER.

Sidmouth, 21st June, 1806.

MY DEAR LORD,—In obedience to your commands, I lost no time in communicating to Lady Willoughby, the subject of your private letter, dated the 20th instant, and I have the honour of inclosing a letter to your Lordship from Lady Willoughby. I have the honour, &c. GWYDIR.

June 21, 1806.

My Lord,—In obedience to the command contained in your Lordship's letter communicated to me by Lord Gwydir, I have the honour to inform you, that I have no recollection whatever of the fact stated to have taken place, during a breakfast at Whitehall, in May or June, 1802; nor do I bear in mind any particular circumstances relative to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales at the period to which you allude.

I have the honour, &c.

Earl Spencer.

WILLOUGHBY.

Sidmouth, July 3, 1806.

MY LORD—I immediately communicated to Lady Willoughby the Queries transmitted to me in the envelope of a letter dated July the 1st, which I had the honour to receive this day from your Lordship. I return the Queries, with Lady Willoughby's Answers, in her own hand-writing.

We are both truly sensible of your Lordship's kind attention in not requiring Lady Willoughby's personal attendance. She will most readily obey the order of the council, should her presence become necessary.—I have the honour, &c.

GWYDIR.

To Earl Spencer, &c.

(A true copy)—J. Becket.

QUERIES.

1. Does Lady Willoughby remember seeing the Princess of Wales at breakfast or dinner at her house, either at Whitehall or Bockenham, on or about the months of May or June, 1802?

2. Has her Ladyship any recollection of the circumstance of her Royal Highness having retired from the company at such breakfast or dinner, on account, or under the pretence of having spilt any thing over her handkerchief? And if so, did Lady Willoughby attend her Royal Highness on that occasion? And what then passed between them relative to that circumstance?

3. Had Lady Willoughby frequent opportunities in the course of that year, to see her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and at what periods? And did she at any time during the year, observe any appearance which led her to suspect that the Princess of Wales was pregnant?

4. Is Lady Willoughby acquainted with any other circumstances leading to the same conclusion, or tending to establish the fact of a criminal intercourse, or improper familiarity, between her Royal Highness and any other person whatever? And if so, what are they?

ANSWERS.

1. In the course of the last ten years the Princess of Wales has frequently done me the honour to breakfast and dine at Whitehall, and Langley, in Kent. Her Royal Highness may have been at my house in the months of May or June, 1802; but of the periods at which I had the honour of receiving her, I have no precise recollection.

2. I do not remember her Royal Highness having at any time retired from the company either at Whitehall, or at Langley, under the pretence of having spilt any thing over her handkerchief.

3. To the best of my remembrance I had few opportunities of seeing the Princess of Wales in the year 1802, and I do not recollect having observed any particular circumstances relative to her Royal Highness's appearance.

4. During the ten years I have had the honour of knowing the Princess of Wales, I do not bear in mind a single instance of her Royal Highness's conduct in society, towards any individual, tending to establish the fact of a criminal intercourse, or improper familiarity.

WILLOUGHBY.

**THE DEPOSITION OF JONATHAN PARTRIDGE,
Porter to Lord Eardly, at Belvedere.**

I remember being informed by Mr. Kenny, Lord Eardly's late steward, now dead, that I was wanted by Lord Moira, in town; accordingly I went with Mr. Kenny to Lord Moira's, in St. James's-place, on the King's birth-day, in 1804. His Lordship asked me, if I remembered the Princess coming to Belvedere some time before? I said, yes; and told him that there were two or three ladies, I think three, with her Royal Highness, and a gentleman with them, who came on horseback: that they looked at the pictures in the house, had their luncheon there, and that her Royal Highness's servants waited upon them, as I was in a dishabille. His Lordship asked me, whether they went up stairs? and I told him that they did not. He asked me, how long they staid? and I said, as far as I recollected, they did not stay above an hour, or an hour and quarter: that they waited some little time for the carriage, which had gone to the public-house, and, till it came, they walked up and down altogether in the portico before the house. His Lordship, in the course of what he said to me, said, it was a subject of importance, and might be of consequence. His Lordship, finding that I had nothing more to say, told me I might go.

Some time afterwards, his Lordship sent for me again, and asked me, if I was sure of what I said being all that I could say respecting the Princess? I said, it was; and that I was ready to take my oath of it, if his Lordship thought proper. He said it was very satisfactory; said I might go, and he should not want me any more.

(Signed) JONATHAN PARTRIDGE.

Sworn at the County Court of Middlesex,
in Fullwood's Rents, the 25th day of
September, 1806, before me,

(Signed) THOMAS LEACH.

The Deposition of Philip Krackeler, one of the Footmen of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and Robert Eaglestone, Park-keeper to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

These Deponents say, that on or about the 20th day of June last, as they were walking together across Greenwich Park, they saw Robert Bidgood, one of the Pages of her Royal Highness, walking in a direction, as if he were going from the town of Greenwich, towards the house of Sir John Douglas, and which is a different road from that which leads to Montague House, and they, at the same time, perceived Lady Douglas walking in a direction to meet him. And this deponent, Philip Krackeler, then desired the other Deponent to take notice, whether Lady Douglas and Mr. Bidgood would speak to each other; and both of these Deponents observed, that when Lady Douglas and Mr. Bidgood met, they stopped, and conversed together for the space of about two or three minutes, whilst in view of these Deponents; but how much longer

their conversation lasted, these Deponents cannot say, as they, these Deponents proceeded on their road, which took them out of sight of Lady Douglas and Mr. Bidgood.

(Signed)

PHILIP KRACKELER.
ROBERT EAGLESTONE.

Sworn at the Public-Office, Hatton-garden,

Sept. 27, 1806, before me,

(Signed)

THOMAS LEACH.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCESS OF WALES TO THE KING.

SIRE,—By my short letter to your Majesty of the 12th inst. in answer to your Majesty's communication of the 10th, I notified my intention of representing to your Majesty, the various grounds on which I felt the hardship of my case; and, a review of which, I confidently hoped, would dispose your Majesty to recal your determination to adjourn, to an indefinite period, my reception into your royal presence; a determination which, in addition to all the other pain which it brought along with it, affected me with the disappointment of hopes which I had fondly cherished, with the most perfect confidence, because they rested on your Majesty's gracious assurance.

Independently, however, of that communication from your Majesty, I should have felt myself bound to have troubled your Majesty with much of the contents of the present letter.

Upon the receipt of the paper, which, by your Majesty's commands, was transmitted to me by the Lord Chancellor, on the 28th of last month, and which communicated to me the joyful intelligence, that your Majesty was "advised, that it was no longer necessary for you to decline receiving me into your Royal presence," I conceived myself necessarily called upon to send an immediate answer to so much of it as respected that intelligence. I could not wait the time which it would have required, to state those observations, which it was impossible for me to refrain from making at some period, upon the other important particulars which that paper contained. Accordingly, I answered it immediately: and, as your Majesty's gracious and instant reply of last Thursday fortnight, announced to me your pleasure, that I should be received by your Majesty, on a day subsequent to the then ensuing week, I was led most confidently to assure myself, that the last week would not have passed, without my having received that satisfaction. I therefore determined to wait in patience, without further intrusion upon your Majesty, till I might have the opportunity of guarding myself from the possibility of being misunderstood, by personally explaining to your Majesty, that whatever observations I had to make upon the paper so communicated to me, on the 28th ult. and whatever complaints respecting the delay, and the many cruel circumstances which had attended the whole of the proceedings against me, and the unsatisfactory state in which they were at length left by that last communication, they were observations and complaints which affected those only, under whose advice your Majesty had acted, and were not, in any degree, in-

tended to intimate even the most distant insinuation against your Majesty's justice or kindness.

That paper established the opinion, which I, certainly, had ever confidently entertained, but the justness of which I had not before any document to establish, that your Majesty had, from the first, deemed this proceeding a high and important matter of State, in the consideration of which, your Majesty had not felt yourself at liberty to trust to your own generous feelings, and to your own Royal and gracious judgment. I never did believe, that the cruel state of anxiety, in which I had been kept, ever since the delivery of my answer (for at least sixteen weeks), could be at all attributable to your Majesty: it was most unlike every thing which I had ever experienced from your Majesty's condescension, feeling, and justice; and I found, from that paper, that it was to your confidential servants I was to ascribe the length of banishment from your presence, which they, at last, advised your Majesty, it was no longer necessary should be continued. I perceive, therefore, what I always believed, that it was to them, and to them only, that I owed the protracted continuance of my sufferings, and of my disgrace; and that your Majesty, considering the whole of this proceeding to have been instituted and conducted under the grave responsibility of your Majesty's servants, had not thought proper to take any step, or express any opinion, upon any part of it, but such as was recommended by their advice. Influenced by these sentiments, and anxious to have the opportunity of conveying them, with the overflowings of a grateful heart, to your Majesty, what were my sensations of surprise, mortification, and disappointment, on the receipt of your Majesty's letter of the 10th instant, your Majesty may conceive, though I am utterly unable to express.

That letter announces to me, that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, upon receiving the several documents which your Majesty directed your Cabinet to transmit to him, made a personal communication to your Majesty of his intention to put them into the hands of his lawyers, accompanied by a request, that your Majesty would suspend any further steps in the business, until the Prince of Wales should be enabled to submit to your Majesty the statement which he proposed to make; and it also announces to me, that your Majesty, therefore, considered it incumbent on you, to defer naming a day to me, until the further result of the Prince of Wales's intention should have been made known to your Majesty.

This determination of your Majesty, on this request, made by his Royal Highness, I humbly trust your Majesty will permit me to entreat you, in your most gracious justice, to reconsider. Your Majesty, I am convinced, must have been surprised at the time, and prevailed upon by the importunity of the Prince of Wales, to think this determination necessary, or your Majesty's generosity and justice would never have adopted it. And if I can satisfy your Majesty of the unparalleled injustice, and cruelty, of this interposition of the Prince of Wales, at such a time, and under such circumstances, I feel the most perfect confidence that your Majesty will hasten to recal it.

I should basely be wanting to my own interest and feelings,

if I did not plainly state my sense of that injustice, and cruelty; and if I did not most loudly complain of it. Your Majesty will better perceive the just grounds of my complaint, when I retrace the course of these proceedings from their commencement.

The four Noble Lords, appointed by your Majesty to enquire into the charges brought against me, in their Report of the 14th July last, after having stated that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales had laid before them, the charge which was made against me, by Lady Douglas, and the declarations in support of it, proceed in the following manner:—

“In the painful situation in which his Royal Highness was placed by these communications, we learnt that his Royal Highness had adopted *the only course* which could, in our judgment, with propriety be followed. When informations such as these had been thus confidently alleged, and particularly detailed, and had been in some degree supported by collateral evidence, applying to other facts of the same nature (though going to a far less extent), *one line only* could be pursued.

“Every sentiment of duty to your Majesty, and of concern for the public welfare, required that these particulars should not be withheld from your Majesty, to whom more particularly belonged the cognizance of a matter of State, so nearly touching the honour of your Majesty’s Royal Family, and, by possibility, affecting the succession of your Majesty’s Crown.

“Your Majesty had been pleased, on your part, to view the subject in the same light. Considering it as a matter, which, on every account, demanded the most immediate investigation, your Majesty had thought fit to commit into our hands the duty of ascertaining, in the first instance, what degree of credit was due to the information, and thereby enabling your Majesty to decide what further conduct to adopt respecting them.”

His Royal Highness then, pursuing, as the four Lords say, *the only course*, which could, in their judgment, with propriety, be pursued, submitted the matter to your Majesty. Your Majesty directed the Enquiry by the four Noble Lords. The four Lords, in their Report upon the case, justly acquitted me of all crime, and expressed (I will not wait now to say how unjustly) the credit which they gave, and the consequence they ascribed to other matters, which they did not, however, characterise as amounting to any crime. To this Report I made my answer.—That answer, together with the whole proceedings, was referred by your Majesty to the same four Noble Lords, and others of your Majesty’s confidential servants. They advised your Majesty, amongst much other matter (which must be the subject of further observations), that there was no longer any reason why you should decline receiving me.

Your Majesty will necessarily conceive that I have always looked upon my banishment from your Royal presence, as, in fact, a punishment, and a severe one too. I thought it sufficiently hard, that I should have been suffering that punishment, during the time that this Enquiry has been pending, while I was yet only under accusation, and upon the principles of the just laws of your Majesty’s kingdom, entitled to be presumed to be innocent, till I was proved to be guilty. But I find this does not appear to be enough, in the opinion of the Prince of Wales.

For now, when after this long Enquiry into matters which required immediate investigation, I have been acquitted of every thing which could call for my banishment from your Royal presence. After your Majesty's confidential servants have thus expressly advised your Majesty, that they see no reason why you should any longer decline to receive me into your presence:—after your Majesty had graciously notified to me, your determination to receive me at an early day, his Royal Highness interposes the demand of a new delay,—desires your Majesty not to take any step,—desires you not to act upon the advice which your own confidential servants have given you, that you need no longer decline seeing me—not to execute your intention, and assurance, that you will receive me at an early day;—because he has laid his documents before his Lawyers, and intends to prepare a further statement. And the judgment of your Majesty's confidential servants, is, as it were, appealed from by the Prince of Wales (whom, from this time, at least, I must be permitted to consider as assuming the character of my accuser);—the justice due to me is to be suspended, while the judgment of your Majesty's sworn servants is to be submitted to the revision of my accuser's Counsel; and I, though acquitted in the opinion of your Majesty's confidential servants of all that should induce your Majesty to decline seeing me, am to have that punishment, which had been inflicted upon me, during the enquiry, continued after that acquittal, till a fresh statement is prepared, to be again submitted, for aught I know, to another Enquiry, of as extended a continuance as that which has just terminated.

Can it be said that the proceedings of the four Noble Lords, or of your Majesty's confidential servants, have been so lenient, and considerate towards me and my feelings, as to induce a suspicion that I have been too favourably dealt with by them? and that the advice which has been given to your Majesty, that your Majesty need no longer decline to receive me, was hastily and partially delivered? I am confident your Majesty must see the very reverse of this to be the case—that I have every reason to complain of the inexplicable delay which so long withheld that advice: and the whole character of the observations with which they accompanied it, marks the reluctance with which they yielded to the necessity of giving it.

For your Majesty's confidential servants advise your Majesty, “that it is no longer necessary for you to decline receiving me into your Royal presence.” If this is their opinion and their advice now, why was it not their opinion and their advice four months ago, from the date of my answer? Nay, why was it not their opinion and advice from the date even of the original Report itself? For not only had they been in possession of my answer for above *sixteen weeks*, which at least furnished them with all the materials on which this advice was at length given; but further, your Majesty's confidential servants are forward to state, that after having read my observations, and the affidavits which were annexed to them, they agree in *the opinions* (not in any single opinion upon any particular branch of the case, but in *the opinions generally*) which were submitted to your Majesty, in the original Report of the four Lords. If, therefore

(notwithstanding their concurrence in *all* the opinions contained in the Report) they have nevertheless given to your Majesty their advice, "that it is no longer necessary for you to decline receiving me," what could have prevented their offering that advice, even from the 14th of July, the date of the original Report itself? Or what could have warranted the withholding of it, even for a single moment? Instead, therefore, of any trace being observable, of hasty, precipitate, and partial determination in my favour, it is impossible to interpret their conduct and their reasons together in any other sense, than as amounting to an admission of your Majesty's confidential servants themselves, that I have, in consequence of their withholding that advice, been unnecessarily and cruelly banished from your Royal presence, from that 14th of July, to the 28th of January, including a space of above six months; and the effect of the interposition of the Prince, is to prolong my sufferings, and my disgrace, under the same banishment, to a period perfectly indefinite.

The principle which will admit the effect of such interposition now, may be acted upon again; and the Prince may require a further prolongation upon fresh statements, and fresh charges, kept back possibly for the purpose of being, from time to time, conveniently interposed, to prevent for ever the arrival of that hour, which, displaying to the world the acknowledgment of my unmerited sufferings and disgrace, may, at the same time, expose the true malicious and unjust quality of the proceedings which have been so long carried on against me.

This unreasonable, unjust, and cruel interposition of his Royal Highness, as I must ever deem it, has prevailed upon your Majesty to recal, to my prejudice, your gracious purpose of receiving me, in pursuance of the advice of your servants.—Do I, then, flatter myself too much, when I feel assured, that my *just* entreaty, founded upon the reasons which I urge, and directed to counteract only the effect of that *unjust* interposition, will induce your Majesty to return to your original determination?

Restored, however, as I should feel myself, to a state of comparative security, as well as credit, by being at length permitted, upon your Majesty's gracious reconsideration of your last determination, to have access to your Majesty; yet, under all the circumstances under which I should now receive that mark and confirmation of your Majesty's opinion of my innocence, my character would not, I fear, stand cleared in the public opinion, by the mere fact of your Majesty's reception of me.—This revocation of your Majesty's gracious purpose has flung an additional cloud about the whole proceeding; and the inferences drawn in the public mind, from this circumstance, so mysterious and so perfectly inexplicable, upon any grounds which are open to their knowledge, has made, and will leave so deep an impression to my prejudice, as scarce any thing, short of a public exposure of all that has passed, can possibly efface.

The publication of all these proceedings to the world, then, seems to me, under the present circumstances (whatever reluctance I feel against such a measure, and however I regret the hard necessity which drives me to it), to be almost the only re-

maining resource, for the vindication of my honour and character. The falsehood of the accusation is, by no means, all that will, by such publication, appear to the credit and clearance of my character; but the course in which the whole proceedings have been carried on, or rather delayed, by those to whom your Majesty referred the consideration of them, will show, that, whatever measure of justice I may have ultimately received at their hands, it is not to be suspected as arising from any merciful and indulgent consideration of me, of my feelings, or of my case.

It will be seen how my feelings had been harassed, and my character and honour exposed, by the delays which have taken place in these proceedings; it will be seen, that the existence of the charge against me had avowedly been known to the public, from the 7th of June in the last year. I say known to the public, because it was on that day that the Commissioners, acting, as I am to suppose (for so they state in their Report), under the anxious wish, that their trust should be executed with as little publicity as possible, authorised that unnecessary insult and outrage upon me, as I must always consider it, which, however intended, gave the utmost publicity and exposure to the existence of these charges—I mean the sending two Attornies, armed with their Lordships' warrant, to my house, to bring before them, at once, about one half of my Household for examination. The idea of privacy, after an act so much calculated, from the extraordinary nature of it, to excite the greatest attention and surprise your Majesty must feel to have been impossible and absurd; for an attempt at secrecy, mystery, and concealment, on my part, could, under such circumstances, only have been construed into the fearfulness of guilt.

It will appear, also, that, from that time, I heard nothing authentically upon the subject till the 11th of August, when I was furnished, by your Majesty's commands, with the Report. The several papers necessary to my understanding the whole of these charges, in the authentic state in which your Majesty thought it proper, graciously to direct, that I should have them, were not delivered to me till the beginning of September. My answer to these various charges, though the whole subject of them was new to those whose advice I had recourse to, long as that answer was necessarily obliged to be, was delivered to the Lord Chancellor, to be forwarded to your Majesty, by the 6th of October; and from the 6th of October to the 28th of January, I was kept in total ignorance of the effect of that answer. Not only will all this delay be apparent, but it will be generally shown to the world, how your Majesty's Servants had, in this important business, treated your daughter-in-law, the Princess of Wales; and what measure of justice she, a female, and a stranger in your land, has experienced at their hands.

Undoubtedly against such a proceeding I have ever felt, and still feel, an almost invincible repugnance. Every sentiment of delicacy, with which a female mind must shrink from the act of bringing before the public such charges, however conscious of their scandal and falsity, and however clearly that scandal and falsity may be manifested by the answer to those charges; the respect still due from me to persons employed in authority under

your Majesty, however little respect I may have received from them;—my duty to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales,—my regard for all the members of your august Family,—my esteem, my duty; my gratitude to your Majesty,—my affectionate gratitude for all the paternal kindness which I have ever experienced from you,—my anxiety, not only to avoid the risk of giving any offence or displeasure to your Majesty, but also to fly from every occasion of creating the slightest sentiment of uneasiness in the mind of your Majesty, whose happiness it would be the pride and pleasure of my life to consult, and to promote;—all these various sentiments have compelled me to submit, as long as human forbearance could endure, to all the unfavourable inferences which were through this delay daily increasing in the public mind. What the strength and efficacy of these motives have been, your Majesty will do me the justice to feel, when you are pleased, graciously to consider how long I have been contented to suffer those suspicions to exist against my innocence, which the bringing before the public of my accusation, and my defence to it, would so indisputably and immediately have dispelled.

The measure, however, of making these proceedings public, whatever mode I can adopt (considering especially the absolute impossibility of suffering any partial production of them, and the necessity that, if for any purpose any part of them should be produced, the whole must be brought before the public), remains surrounded with all the objections which I have enumerated; and nothing could ever have prevailed upon me, or can now even prevail upon me, to have recourse to it, but an imperious sense of indispensable duty to my future safety, to my present character and honour, and to the feelings, the character, and the interests of my child. I had flattered myself, when once this long proceeding should have terminated in my reception into your Majesty's presence, that that circumstance alone would have so strongly implied my innocence of all that had been brought against me, as to have been perfectly sufficient for my honour and my security; but accompanied as it now must be with the knowledge of the fact, that your Majesty has been brought to hesitate upon its propriety, and accompanied also with the very unjustifiable observations, as they appear to me, on which I shall presently proceed to remark; and which were made by your Majesty's servants, at the time when they gave you their advice to receive me; I feel myself in a situation, in which I deeply regret that I cannot rest, in silence, without an immediate reception into your Majesty's presence; nor, indeed, with that reception, unless it be attended by other circumstances, which may mark my satisfactory acquittal of the charges which have been brought against me.

It shall at no time be said, with truth, that I shrunk back from these infamous charges; that I crouched before my enemies; and courted them, by my submission, into moderation! No, I have ever boldly defied them. I have ever felt, and still feel, that, if they should think, either of pursuing these accusations, or of bringing forward any other which the wickedness of individuals may devise, to affect my honour (since my conscience tells me, that they must be as base and groundless as those brought by Lady

Douglas), while the witnesses to the innocence of my conduct are all living, I should be able to disprove them all, and, whoever may be my accusers, to triumph over their wickedness and malice. But should these accusations be renewed; or any other be brought forward, at any future time, death may, I know not how soon, remove from my innocence its best security, and deprive me of the means of my justification, and my defence.

There are therefore other measures, which I trust your Majesty will think indispensable to be taken, for my honour, and for my security. Amongst these, I most humbly submit to your Majesty my most earnest entreaties that the proceedings, including not only my first answer, and my letter of the 8th of December, but this letter also, may be directed by your Majesty to be so preserved and deposited, as that they may, all of them, securely remain permanent authentic documents and memorials of this accusation, and the manner in which I met it; of my defence, as well as of the charge. That they may remain capable at any time of being resorted to, if the malice which produced the charge originally, shall ever venture to renew it.

Beyond this, I am sure your Majesty will think it but proper, and just, that I should be restored, in every respect, to the same situation, from whence the proceedings, under these false charges, have removed me. That, besides being graciously received again into the bosom of your Majesty's Royal Family, restored to my former respect and station amongst them, your Majesty will be graciously pleased, either to exert your influence with his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, that I may be restored to the use of my apartment in Carlton-house, which was reserved for me, except while the apartments were undergoing repair, till the date of these proceedings; or to assign to me some apartment in one of your Royal Palaces. Some apartment in or near to London is indispensably necessary for my convenient attendance at the Drawing-room. And if I am not restored to that at Carlton-house, I trust your Majesty will graciously perceive, how reasonable it is, that I should request, that some apartment should be assigned to me, suited to my dignity and situation, which may mark my reception and acknowledgment, as one of your Majesty's family, and from which my attendance at the Drawing-room may be easy and convenient.

If these measures are taken, I should hope that they would prove satisfactory to the public mind, and that I may feel myself fully restored in public estimation to my former character. And should they prove so satisfactory, I shall indeed be delighted to think, that no farther step may, even now, appear to be necessary, to my peace of mind, my security, and my honour.

But your Majesty will permit me to say, that if the next week, which will make more than a month from the time of your Majesty's informing me that you would receive me, should pass without my being received into your presence, and without having the assurance that these other requests of mine shall be complied with, I shall be under the painful necessity of considering them as refused. In which case, I shall feel myself compelled, however reluctantly, to give the whole of these pro-

ceedings to the world; unless your Majesty can suggest other adequate means of securing my honour and my life, from the effect of the continuance or renewal of these proceedings, for the future, as well as the present. For I entreat your Majesty to believe, that it is only in the absence of all other adequate means, that I can have resort to that measure: that I consider it with deep regret; that I regard it with serious apprehension, by no means so much on account of the effect it may have upon myself, as on account of the pain which it may give to your Majesty, your august Family, and your loyal subjects.

As far as myself am concerned, I am aware of the observations to which this publication will expose me; but I am placed in a situation in which I have the choice of only two most unpleasant alternatives; and I am perfectly confident that the imputations and the loss of character which must, under these circumstances follow from my silence, are most injurious and unavoidable,—that my silence under such circumstances, must lead inevitably to my utter infamy and ruin. The publication, on the other hand, will expose to the world nothing, which is spoken to by any witness (whose infamy and discredit is not unanswerably exposed and established) which can, in the slightest degree, affect my character, for honour, virtue, and delicacy.

There may be circumstances disclosed, manifesting a degree of condescension and familiarity in my behaviour and conduct, which, in the opinions of many, may be considered as not sufficiently guarded, dignified, and reserved; circumstances, however, which my foreign education, and foreign habits, misled me to think, in the humble and retired situation in which it was my fate to live, and where I had no relation, no equal, no friend to advise me, were wholly free from offence. But when they have been dragged forward, from the scenes of private life, in a grave proceeding on a charge of high treason and adultery, they seem to derive a colour and character, from the nature of the charge which they are brought forward to support; and I cannot but believe, that they have been used for no other purpose, than to afford a cover, to screen from view the injustice of that charge; that they have been taken advantage of, to let down my accusers more gently; and to deprive me of that full acquittal on the Report of the four Lords, which my innocence of all offence most justly entitled me to receive.

Whatever opinion, however, may be formed upon any part of my conduct, it must in justice be formed, with reference to the situation in which I was placed. If I am judged of as Princess of Wales, with reference to the high rank of that station, I must be judged as Princess of Wales banished from the Prince, unprotected by the support and countenance which belong to that station; and if I am judged of in my private character, as a married woman, I must be judged of as a wife banished from her husband, and living in a widowed seclusion from him, and retirement from the world. This last consideration leads me to recur to an expression in Mrs. Lisle's examination, which describes my conduct, in the frequency and the manner of my receiving the visits of Captain Manby, though

always in the presence of my ladies, as unbecoming a married woman. Upon the extreme injustice of setting up the *opinion* of one woman, as it were, in judgment upon the conduct of another; as well as of estimating the conduct of a person in my unfortunate situation, by reference to that, which might in general be expected from a married woman, living happily with her husband, I have before generally remarked. But beyond these general remarks in forming any estimate of my conduct, your Majesty will never forget the very peculiar circumstances and misfortunes of my situation. Your Majesty will remember, that I had not been much above a year in this country, when I received the following letter from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.*

The date of his Royal Highness's letter is the 30th of April, 1796. The date of our marriage, your Majesty will recollect, is the 8th day of April, in the year 1795, and that of the birth of our only child the 7th of Jan. 1796.

* LETTER FROM THE PRINCE OF WALES TO THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

“MADAM,—As Lord CHOLMONDELEY informs me that you wish I would define in writing* the terms upon which we are to live, I shall endeavour to explain myself upon that head with as much clearness and as much propriety as the nature of the subject will admit. Our inclinations are not in our power, nor should either of us be held answerable to the other, because nature has not made us suitable to each other. Tranquil and comfortable society, however is in our power. Let our intercourse, therefore, be restricted to that; and I will distinctly subscribe to the condition† which you required through Lady CHOLMONDELEY, that even in the event of any accident happening to my daughter, which I trust Providence in its mercy will avert, I shall not infringe the terms of the restriction, by proposing at any period a connection of a more particular nature. I shall now finally close this disagreeable correspondence, trusting that as we have completely

* The substance of this letter had been previously conveyed in a message through Lady CHOLMONDELEY to her Royal Highness; but it was thought by her Royal Highness to be infinitely too important to rest merely upon a verbal communication, and therefore she desired that his Royal Highness's pleasure upon it should be communicated to her in writing.

† Upon the receipt of the message alluded to in the foregoing note, her Royal Highness, though she had nothing to do but to submit to the arrangement which his Royal Highness should determine upon, desired it might be understood, that she should insist that any such arrangement, if once made, should be considered as final; and that his Royal Highness should not retain the right, from time to time, at his pleasure, or under any circumstances, to alter it.

On the letter of his Royal Highness I offer no comment. I only entreat your Majesty not to understand me to introduce it, as affording any supposed justification or excuse, for the least departure from the strictest line of virtue, or the slightest deviation from the most refined delicacy. The crime, which has been insinuated against me, would be equally criminal and detestable; the indelicacy imputed to me would equally odious and abominable, whatever renunciation of conjugal authority and affection the above letter of his Royal Highness might, in any construction of it, be supposed to have conveyed. Such crimes, and faults, derive not their guilt from the consideration of the conjugal virtues of the individual, who may be the most injured by them, however much such virtues may aggravate their enormity. No such letter, therefore, in any construction of it, no renunciation of conjugal affection or duties, could ever palliate them. But whether conduct free from all crime, free from all

“ explained ourselves to each other, the rest of our lives will
 “ be past in uninterrupted tranquillity.

“ With great truth and sincerity, your’s,
 “ Windsor Castle, April 30, 1796. “ GEORGE P.”

ANSWER.

“ The avowal of your conversation with Lord CHOLMONDE-
 “ LEY neither surprises nor offends me. It merely confirmed
 “ what you have tacitly insinuated for this twelvemonth. But
 “ after this, it would be a want of delicacy, or rather, an un-
 “ worthy meanness in me, were I to complain of those condi-
 “ tions which you impose upon yourself.

“ I should have returned no answer to your letter, if it had
 “ not been conceived in terms to make it doubtful whether this
 “ arrangement proceeds from you or from me; and you are
 “ aware that the credit of it belongs to you alone.

“ The letter which you announce to me as the last, obliges me
 “ to communicate to the KING, as to my Sovereign, and my
 “ Father, both your avowal and my answer. You will find
 “ enclosed the copy of my letter to the KING. I apprise you of
 “ it, that I may not incur the slightest reproach of duplicity
 “ from you. As I have at this moment no protector but his
 “ MAJESTY, I refer myself solely to him upon this subject;
 “ and if my conduct meets his approbation, I shall be in some
 “ degree, at least, consoled. I retain every sentiment of grati-
 “ tude for the situation in which I find myself, as Princess of
 “ WALIS, enabled by your means to indulge in the free exer-
 “ cise of a virtue dear to my heart,—I mean charity.

“ It will be my duty likewise to act upon another motive—
 “ that of giving an example of patience and resignation under
 “ every trial.

“ Do me the justice to believe that I shall never cease to pray
 “ for your happiness, and to be

“ Your much devoted
 “ 6th of May, 1796. “ CAROLINE.”

indelicacy (which I maintain to be the character of the conduct to which Mrs. Lisle's observations apply), yet possibly not so measured, as a cautious wife, careful to avoid the slightest appearance of not preferring her husband to all the world, might be studious to observe. Whether conduct of such description, and possibly, in such sense, not becoming a married woman, could be justly deemed, in my situation, an offence in me, I must leave to your Majesty to determine.

In making that determination, however, it will not escape your Majesty to consider, that the conduct which does or does not become a married woman, materially depends upon what is or is not known by her to be agreeable to her husband. His pleasure and happiness ought, unquestionably, to be her law; and his approbation the most favourite object of her pursuit. Different characters of men, require different modes of conduct in their wives; but when a wife can no longer be capable of perceiving from time to time what is agreeable or offensive to her husband—when her conduct can no longer contribute to his happiness, no longer hope to be rewarded by his approbation—surely to examine that conduct by the standard of what ought in general to be the conduct of a married woman, is altogether unreasonable and unjust.

What, then, is my case? Your Majesty will do me the justice to remark, that, in the above letter of the Prince of Wales, there is not the most distant surmise, that crime, that vice, that indelicacy of any description, gave occasion to his determination; and all the tales of infamy and discredit, which the inventive malice of my enemies has brought forward on these charges, have their date, years and years after the period to which I am now alluding. What, then, let me repeat the question, is my case? After the receipt of the above letter, and in about two years from my arrival in this country, I had the misfortune entirely to lose the support, the countenance, the protection of my husband—I was banished, as it were, into a sort of humble retirement, at a distance from him, and almost estranged from the whole of the Royal Family. I had no means of having recourse, either for society or advice, to those, from whom my inexperience could have best received the advantages of the one, and with whom I could, most becomingly, have enjoyed the comforts of the other; and if in this retired, unassisted, unprotected state, without the check of a husband's authority, without the benefit of his advice, without the comfort and support of the society of his family, a stranger to the habits and fashions of this country, I should in any instance, under the influence of foreign habits, and foreign education, have observed a conduct, in any degree deviating from the reserve and severity of British manners, and partaking of a condescension and familiarity which that reserve and severity would perhaps deem beneath the dignity of my exalted rank, I feel confident (since such deviation will be seen to have been ever consistent with perfect innocence), that not only your Majesty's candour and indulgence, but the candour and indulgence which, notwithstanding the reserve and severity of British manners, always belong to the British public, will never visit it with severity or censure,

It remains for me now to make some remarks upon the further contents of the paper, which was transmitted to me by the Lord Chancellor on the 28th ult. ; and I cannot in passing, omit to remark, that that paper has neither title, date, signature, nor attestation : and unless the Lord Chancellor had accompanied it with a note, stating that it was copied in his own hand from the original, which his Lordship had received from your Majesty, I should have been at a loss to have perceived any single mark of authenticity belonging to it ; and as it is, I am wholly unable to discover what is the true character which does belong to it. It contains, indeed, the advice which your Majesty's Servants have offered to your Majesty, and the Message which, according to that advice, your Majesty directed to be delivered to me.

Considering it, therefore, wholly as their act, your Majesty will excuse and pardon me, if deeply injured as I feel myself to have been by them, I express myself with freedom upon their conduct. I may speak perhaps with warmth, because I am provoked by a sense of gross injustice—I shall speak certainly with firmness and with courage, because I am emboldened by a sense of conscious innocence.

Your Majesty's confidential servants say, "they agree in the opinions of the four Lords;" and they say this, "after the fullest consideration of my observations, and of the affidavits which were annexed to them." Some of these opinions, your Majesty will recollect, are, that "William Cole, Fanny Lloyd, Robert Bidgood, and Mrs. Lisle, are witnesses who cannot," in the judgment of the four Lords, "be suspected of any unfavourable bias;" and "whose veracity in this respect they had seen no ground to question;" and that the circumstance to which they speak, particularly as relating to Captain Manby, must be credited until they are decisively contradicted." Am I, then, to understand your Majesty's confidential servants to mean, that they agree with the four Noble Lords in these opinions? Am I to understand, that, after having read with the fullest consideration, the observations which I have offered to your Majesty; after having seen William Cole there proved to have submitted himself five times, at least, to private, unauthorised, voluntary examination, by Sir John Douglas's Solicitor, for the express purpose of confirming the statement of Lady Douglas, (of that Lady Douglas, whose statement and deposition they are convinced to be so malicious and false; that they propose to institute such prosecution against her, as your Majesty's Law Officers may advise, upon a reference, now at length, after six months from the detection of that malice and falsehood, intended to be made)—after having seen this William Cole submitting to such repeated voluntary examinations for such a purpose, and although he was all that time a servant on my establishment, and eating my bread, yet never once communicating to me that such examinations were going on—am I to understand, that your Majesty's confidential servants agree with the four Lords in thinking, that he cannot, under such circumstances, *be suspected of unfavourable bias*? That after having had pointed out to them the direct, flat contradiction between the same William

Cole and Fanny Lloyd, they nevertheless agree to think them both (though in contradiction to each other, *yet both*) witnesses whose veracity they see no ground to question? After having seen Fanny Lloyd directly and positively contradicted in an assertion most injurious to my honour, by Mr. Mills and Mr. Edmeades, do they agree in opinion with the four Noble Lords, that they see no ground to question their veracity? After having read the observations on Mr. Bidgood's evidence—after having seen, that he had the hardihood to swear, that he believed Captain Manby slept in my house, at Southend; and to insinuate that he slept in my bed-room—after having seen that he founded himself on this most false fact, and most foul and wicked insinuation, upon the circumstance of observing a' bason and some towels where he thought they ought not to be placed—after having seen that this fact, and this insinuation, were disproved before the four Noble Lords themselves, by two maid-servants, who, at that time, lived with me at Southend, and whose duties about my person and my apartments must have made them acquainted with this fact, as asserted, or as insinuated, if it had happened—after having observed, too, in confirmation of their testimony, that one of them mentioned the name of another female servant (who was not examined), who had, from her situation, equal means of knowledge with themselves,—I ask whether, after all this decisive weight of contradiction to Robert Bidgood's testimony, I am to understand your Majesty's confidential servants to agree with the four Noble Lords in thinking, that Mr. Bidgood is a witness who *cannot be suspected* of unfavourable bias, and that there is no ground to question his veracity?—If, Sire, I were to go through all the remarks of this description which occur to me to make, I should be obliged to repeat nearly all my former observations, and to make this letter as long as my original answer: but to that answer I confidently appeal, and I will venture to challenge your Majesty's confidential servants to find a single impartial and honourable man, unconnected in feeling and interest with the parties, and unconnected in Council with those who have already pledged themselves to an opinion upon this subject, who will lay his hand upon his heart, and say, that these three witnesses, on whom that Report so mainly relies, are not to be suspected of the grossest partiality, and that their veracity is not most fundamentally impeached.

Was it, then, noble, was it generous, was it manly, was it just, in your Majesty's confidential servants, instead of fairly admitting the injustice which had been, inadvertently, and unintentionally, no doubt, done to me by the four Noble Lords, in their Report, upon the evidence of these witnesses, to state to your Majesty, that they agree with these Noble Lords in their opinion, though they cannot, it seems, go the length of agreeing any longer to withhold the advice, which restores me to your Majesty's presence? And with respect to the particulars to my prejudice, remarked upon in the Report as those "which justly deserve the most serious consideration, and which must be credited till decisively contradicted," instead of fairly avowing, either that there was originally no pretence for such a remark, or that, if there had been originally, yet that my an-

swer had given that decisive contradiction which was sufficient to discredit them;—instead, I say, of acting this just, honest, and open part, to take no notice whatsoever of those contradictions, and content themselves with saying, that “none of the facts or allegations stated in preliminary examinations, carried on in the absence of the parties interested, could be considered as *legally or conclusively established?*”

They agree in the opinion that the facts or allegations, though stated in preliminary examination, carried on in the absence of the parties interested, *must be credited till decisively contradicted, and deserve the most serious consideration.* They read with the fullest consideration, the contradiction which I have tendered to them; they must have known, that no other sort of contradiction could, by possibility, from the nature of things, have been offered upon such subjects: they do not question the truth, they do not point out the insufficiency of the contradiction, but in loose, general, indefinite terms, referring to my answer, consisting, as it does, of above two hundred written pages, and coupling it with those examinations (which they admit establish nothing against an absent party), they advise your Majesty, that, “there appear many circumstances of conduct, which could not be regarded by your Majesty without serious concern:” and that, as to all the other facts and allegations, except those relative to my pregnancy and delivery, they are not to be considered as “*legally and conclusively established,*” because spoken to in preliminary examinations, not carried on in the presence of the parties concerned. They do not, indeed, expressly assert, that my contradiction was not decisive or satisfactory; they do not expressly state, that they think the facts and allegations want nothing towards their legal and conclusive establishment, but a re-examination in the presence of the parties interested; but they go far to imply such opinions. That those opinions are utterly untenable, against the observations I have made, upon the credit and character of those witnesses, I shall ever most confidently maintain; but that those observations leave their credit wholly unaffected, and did not deserve the least notice from your Majesty’s servants, it is impossible that any honourable man can assert, or any fair and unprejudiced mind believe.

I now proceed, Sire, to observe, very shortly, upon the advice farther given to your Majesty as contained in the remaining part of the paper; which has represented, that, both in the examinations, and even in my answer, there have appeared many circumstances of conduct which could not be regarded but with serious concern, and which have suggested the expression of a desire and expectation, that such a conduct may in future be observed by me, as may fully justify those marks of paternal regard and affection, which your Majesty wishes to show to all your Royal Family.

And here, Sire, your Majesty will graciously permit me to notice the hardship of the advice, which has suggested to your Majesty, to convey to me this reproof. I complain not so much for what it does, as for what it does not contain; I mean the absence of all particular mention of what it is that is the object of their blame. The circumstances of conduct which ap-

pear in these examinations, and in my answer to which they allude as those which may be supposed to justify the advice which has led to this reproof, since your Majesty's servants have not particularly mentioned them, I cannot be certain that I know. But I will venture confidently to repeat the assertion, which I have already made, that there are no circumstances of conduct spoken to by any witness (whose infamy and discredit are not unanswerably exposed, and established), nor any where apparent in my answer which have the remotest approach, either to crime or to indelicacy.

For my future conduct, Sire, impressed with every sense of gratitude for all former kindness, I shall be bound unquestionably, by sentiment as well as duty, to study your Majesty's pleasure. Any advice which your Majesty may wish to give to me in respect of any particulars in my conduct, I shall be bound, and be anxious to obey as my law. But I must trust that your Majesty will point out to me the particulars which may happen to displease you, and which you may wish to have altered. I shall be as happy, in thus feeling myself safe from blame under the benefit of your Majesty's advice, as I am now in finding myself secured from danger, under the protection of your justice.

Your Majesty will permit me to add one word more.

Your Majesty has seen what detriment my character has, for a time sustained, by the false and malicious statement of Lady Douglas, and by the depositions of the witnesses who were examined in support of her statement. Your Majesty has seen how many enemies I have, and how little their malice has been restrained by any regard to truth in the pursuit of my ruin.— Few, as it may be hoped, may be the instances of such determined and unprovoked malignity: yet, I cannot flatter myself, that the world does not produce other persons, who may be swayed by similar motives to similar wickedness. Whether the statement to be prepared by the Prince of Wales, is to be confined to the old charges, or is intended to bring forward new circumstances, I cannot tell; but if any fresh attempts of the same nature shall be made by my accusers, instructed as they will have been, by their miscarriage in this instance, I can hardly hope that they will not renew their charge, with an improved artifice, more skilfully directed, and with a malice inflamed rather than abated, by their previous disappointment. I therefore can only appeal to your Majesty's justice, in which I confidently trust, that whether these charges are to be renewed against me, either on the old or on fresh evidence; or whether new accusations, as well as new witnesses, are to be brought forward, your Majesty, after the experience of these proceedings, will not suffer your Royal mind to be prejudiced by *ex-parte* secret examinations, nor my character to be whispered away by insinuations, or suggestions which I have no opportunity of meeting. If any charge, which the law will recognise, should be brought against me in an open and legal manner, I should have no right to complain, nor any apprehension to meet it. But till I may have a full opportunity of so meeting it, I trust your Majesty will not suffer it to excite even a suspicion

to my prejudice. I must claim the benefit of the presumption of innocence, till I am proved to be guilty; for, without that presumption, against the effects of secret insinuation, and *ex-parte* examinations, the purest innocence can make no defence, and can have no security.

Surrounded, as it is now proved that I have been, for years by domestic spies, your Majesty must, I trust, feel convinced, that if I had been guilty, there could not have been wanting evidence to have proved my guilt; and that these spies have been obliged to have resort to their own invention, for the support of the charge, is the strongest demonstration, that the truth, undisguised, and correctly represented, could furnish them with no handle against me. And when I consider the nature and malignity of that conspiracy, which, I feel confident, I have completely detected and exposed, I cannot but think of that detection with the liveliest gratitude, as the special blessing of Providence, who, by confounding the machinations of my enemies, has enabled me to find, in the very excess and extravagance of their malice, in the very weapons which they fabricated and sharpened for my destruction, the sufficient guard to my innocence, and the effectual means of my justification and defence.

I trust, therefore, Sire, that I may now close this long letter, in confidence that many days will not elapse before I shall receive from your Majesty, that assurance that my just requests may be so completely granted, as may render it possible for me (which nothing else can) to avoid the painful disclosure to the world of all the circumstances of that injustice, and of those unmerited sufferings which these proceedings, in the manner in which they have been conducted, have brought upon me.

I remain, Sire, with every sentiment of gratitude,
Your Majesty's most dutiful, most submissive Daughter-in-law,
Subject, and Servant,

(Signed)

C. P.

Montague-house, Feb. 16, 1807.

As these observations apply not only to the official communication through the Lord Chancellor of the 28th ult. but also to the private letter of your Majesty, of the 12th instant, I have thought it most respectful to your Majesty, and your Majesty's Servants, to send this letter in duplicate, one part through Co. Taylor, and the other through the Lord Chancellor, to your Majesty.

To the King.

(Signed)

C. P.

*Letters addressed by her Royal Highness the
Princess of Wales to the King.*

FURTHER DOCUMENTS—NOT IN THE BOOK.

LETTER ADDRESSED BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE
PRINCESS OF WALES TO THE KING.

“SIRE,—In discharge of the duty I owe to myself, and the great duty I owe to your Majesty and your Illustrious Family,

I have herewith transmitted a statement * which I confidently trust will appear to prove me not unworthy of the protection and favour with which your Majesty has pleased to honour me.

“ To be restored to that favour and protection, in consequence of a conviction in your Majesty’s mind of my innocence, produced by the papers I now humbly lay before your Majesty, is the first wish of my heart.

“ Grieved, Sire, deeply grieved as I cannot but be, that your Majesty should be exposed to so much trouble on so painful an occasion, and on my account, it is yet my humble trust that your Majesty will graciously forgive me, if extreme anxiety about my honour, and your Majesty’s favourable opinion, leads me humbly to solicit, *as an act of justice*, that scrupulous attention on your Majesty’s part to these papers, which cannot fail, I think, to produce in your Majesty’s mind, a full conviction of my innocence, and a due sense of the injuries I have suffered.

“ One other prayer I with all possible humility and anxiety address to your Majesty, that, as I can hope for no happiness, nor expect to enjoy the benefit of that fair reputation to which I know I am entitled, till I am re-admitted into your Majesty’s presence, and as I am in truth without guilt, suffering what to me is heavy punishment, whilst I am denied access to your Majesty, your Majesty will be graciously pleased to form an early determination whether my conduct and my sufferings do not authorise me to hope that the blessing of being restored to your Majesty’s presence may be conferred upon, Sire, your Majesty’s dutifully attached, affectionate, and afflicted daughter-in-law and subject,

(Signed)

“ CAROLINE.

“ Blackheath, Oct. 2, 1806.”

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES
TO THE KING.

“ SIRE,—I received yesterday, and with inexpressible pain, your Majesty’s last verbal communication. The duty of stating, in a representation to your Majesty, the various grounds upon which I feel the hardships of my case, and upon which, I confidently think, that upon a review of it, your Majesty will be disposed to recal your last determination, is one I owe to myself; and I cannot forbear, at the moment when I acknowledge the receipt of your Majesty’s letter, to announce to your Majesty, that I propose to execute that duty without delay.

“ After having suffered the punishment of banishment from your Majesty’s presence for seven months, pending an enquiry which your Majesty had directed to be made into my conduct, affecting *both MY LIFE and my honour*. After that enquiry had at length terminated in the advice of your Majesty’s Confidential and Sworn Servants, that there was *no longer any reason* for your Majesty’s declining to receive me. After your Majesty’s

* The statement here referred to is that drawn up by Mr Perceval, Lord Eldon, and Sir T. Plomer, as her Royal Highness’s Defence.—We gave an abstract of it yesterday.

gracious communication, which led me to rest assured that your Majesty would appoint an early day to receive me. *If, after all this, by a renewed application on the part of the Prince of Wales (upon whose communications the first enquiry had been directed), I now find, that that punishment to which I had been condemned during that same seven months' enquiry previous to the determination in my favour, should, contrary to the opinion of your Majesty's Servants, be continued after that determination, to await the result of some new proceeding, to be suggested by the Lawyers of the Prince of Wales, it is impossible that I can fail to assert to your Majesty, with the effort due to truth, that I am, in the consciousness of my own innocence, and with a strong sense of my unmerited sufferings,*

“ Sire,

“ Your Majesty's most dutiful and affectionate,

“ But much injured, Subject and Daughter-in-Law,

(Signed)

“ CAROLINE.

“ Montague-house, Blackheath, Feb. 22, 1807.”

COPY OF A LETTER ADDRESSED BY THE PRINCESS OF WALES TO THE KING.

SIRE,—When I last troubled your Majesty upon my unfortunate business, I had raised my mind to hope that I should have the happiness of hearing from your Majesty, and receiving your gracious commands to pay my duty in your Royal presence before the expiration of the last week; and, when that hope was disappointed, eagerly clinging to any idea which offered me a prospect of being saved from the necessity of having recourse (for the vindication of my character) to the publication of the proceedings upon the enquiry into my conduct, I thought it just to suppose, that the reason for my not having received your Majesty's commands to that effect might have been occasioned by the circumstance of your Majesty's staying at Windsor through the whole of the week. I, therefore, determined to wait a few days longer before I took a step which, when once taken, could not be recalled. Having, however, now assured myself that your Majesty was in town yesterday,—as I have received no commands to wait upon your Majesty, and no intimation of your Majesty's pleasure,—I am reduced to the necessity of abandoning all hope that your Majesty will comply with my humble, my earnest, and anxious request.

Your Majesty, therefore, will not be surprised to find that the publication of the proceedings alluded to will not be withheld beyond Monday next.

As to any consequences which may arise from such publication, unpleasant and hurtful to my own feelings and interests,—I may perhaps be properly responsible,—and in any event have no one to complain of, but myself, and those with whose advice I have acted; and whatever those consequences may be, I am fully and unalterably convinced that they must be incalculably less than those which I should be exposed to from my silence.—But as to any other consequences, unpleasant or hurtful to the

feelings and interests of *others*, or of the public, my conscience will certainly acquit me of those.

I am confident that I have not acted impatiently or precipitately. To avoid coming to this painful extremity, I have taken every step in my power, except that which would abandon my character to utter infamy, and my station and life to no uncertain danger, and possibly to no very distant destruction.

With every prayer for the lengthened continuance of your Majesty's health and happiness, for every possible blessing which a gracious God can bestow upon the beloved Monarch of a loyal people, and for the continued prosperity of your dominions, under your Majesty's propitious reign,

I remain,

Your Majesty's most dutiful, loyal and affectionate,

But most unhappy and most injured,

Daughter-in-law, servant, and subject,

(Signed)

CAROLINE.

Montague-house, Blackheath, March 4, 1807.

THE KING'S LETTERS TO THE PRINCESS OF WALES

After the Report, the Princess wishing as early as possible to avail herself of her right to present herself personally to his Majesty, wrote to say that she would wait on his Majesty at Windsor. This note produced the following communications from his Majesty:—

“ Windsor Castle, Jan. 29, 1807.

“ The King has this moment received the Princess of Wales's letter, in which she intimates her intention of coming to Windsor on Monday next; and his Majesty not wishing to put the Princess to the inconvenience of coming to this place, so immediately after her illness, hastens to acquaint her, that he shall prefer to receive her in London upon a day subsequent to the ensuing week; which will also better suit his Majesty, and of which he will not fail to apprise the Princess.

(Signed)

“ GEORGE R.”

“ To the Princess of Wales.”

“ Windsor Castle, Feb. 10, 1807.

“ As the Princess of Wales may have been led to expect, from the King's letter to her, that he would fix an early day for seeing her, his Majesty thinks it right to acquaint her, that the Prince of Wales, upon receiving the several documents which the

King directed his Cabinet to transmit to him, made a formal communication to him, of his intention to put them into the hands of his Lawyers; accompanied by a request, that his Majesty would suspend any further steps in the business, until the Prince of Wales should be enabled to submit to him the statement which he proposed to make. The King, therefore, considers it incumbent on him to defer naming a day to the Princess of Wales, until the farther result of the Prince's intention shall have been made known to him.

(Signed)
 " To the Princess of Wales."

" GEORGE R.

The circumstance relating to Captain MANBY, as stated in BIDGOOD'S testimony, received the following decisive contradiction by the affidavit of Captain MANBY himself:—

" I do solemnly, and upon my oath, declare, that the said passage (in Bidgood's evidence) is a vile and wicked invention;—that it is wholly and absolutely false;—that it is impossible he ever could have seen (what he swore he saw) any such thing; as I never, upon any occasion, or in any situation, had the presumption to take that liberty, or to offer any such liberty to her Royal Highness's person."

This affidavit was sworn by Captain MANBY, about three months after the Report of the Commissioners.

NARRATIVE OF FACTS.—The indisposition of the Princess CHARLOTTE commenced previous to the fete at Carlton-house, and afterwards increasing, her Royal Highness was necessarily obliged to defer her return to Windsor. In consequence of this, the Princess of WALES, on the 8th February, addressed herself to Lord LIVERPOOL, desiring that he would communicate to the PRINCE REGENT her Royal Highness's intention to visit the Princess CHARLOTTE, at Warwick-house, not anticipating the possibility of a prevention on the part of the PRINCE REGENT, under the circumstance of the Princess CHARLOTTE'S confinement from illness. Lord LIVERPOOL replied, that he was happy to announce the Princess CHARLOTTE so much better, that her Royal Highness would be able to visit the Princess of WALES at Kensington Palace on the following Thursday, 11th February. On that morning she received information that the Princess CHARLOTTE was not permitted to go to Kensington.

Upon this, the Princess of WALES again addressed Lord LIVERPOOL to know the reason, none having been assigned, for

the Princess CHARLOTTE's being thus suddenly prohibited from giving the meeting to her Royal Mother; and when and how soon her Royal Highness might expect to see the Princess CHARLOTTE. To this enquiry the Princess of WALES received the following reply from Lord LIVERPOOL:—

FURTHER DOCUMENTS.

(COPY.)

“ Fife House, Feb. 14, 1813.

“ Lord LIVERPOOL has the honour to inform your Royal Highness, that in consequence of the publication in the *Morning Chronicle*, of the 10th inst. of a letter addressed by your Royal Highness to the PRINCE REGENT, his Royal Highness thought fit, *by the advice of his confidential servants*, to signify his commands, that the intended visit of the Princess CHARLOTTE to your Royal Highness on the following day should not take place.

“ Lord LIVERPOOL is not enabled to make any further communication to your Royal Highness on the subject of your Royal Highness's note.”

To this letter the Princess of WALES commanded Lady ANNE HAMILTON, her Lady in Waiting, to reply as follows to Lord LIVERPOOL:—

“ Montague-house, Blackheath, Feb. 15, 1813

“ Lady ANNE HAMILTON is commanded by her Royal Highness the Princess of WALES to represent to Lord LIVERPOOL, that the insidious insinuation, respecting the publication of the Letter addressed by the Princess of WALES, on the 14th of January, to the PRINCE REGENT, conveyed in his Lordship's reply to her Royal Highness, is as void of foundation, and as false, as all the former accusations of the traducers of her Royal Highness's honour in the year 1806.

“ Lady A. HAMILTON is further commanded to say, that dignified silence would have been the line of conduct the Princess would have preserved upon such insinuation (more than unbecoming in Lord LIVERPOOL), did not the effect arising from it, operate to deprive her Royal Highness of the sole real happiness she can possess in this world—that of seeing her only Child. And the Confidential Servants of the PRINCE REGENT ought to feel ashamed of their conduct towards the Princess in avowing to her Royal Highness their advice to the PRINCE REGENT, that upon *unauthorized* and unfounded suppositions a Mother and Daughter should be prevented from meeting—a prohibition positively against the law of nature. Lady ANNE HAMILTON is commanded further to desire Lord LIVERPOOL to lay this paper before the PRINCE REGENT, that his Royal Highness may be aware into what error his Confidential Servants are

reading him, and will involve him, by counselling and signifying such commands."

Here ended the correspondence.

COPY OF A LETTER ADDRESSED BY THE PRINCESS OF WALES TO
THE EARL OF HARROWBY.

" Feb. 27, 1813.

" The Princess of WALES has received reports from various quarters of certain proceedings lately held by his MAJESTY'S Privy Council respecting her Royal Highness; and the Princess has felt persuaded that these reports must be unfounded, because she could not believe it possible that any Resolution should be taken by that Most Honourable Body in any respect affecting her Royal Highness, upon statements which she has had no opportunity of *answering, explaining, or even seeing.*

" The Princess still trusts that there is no truth in these rumours; but she feels it due to herself to lose no time in *protesting* against any Resolution affecting her Royal Highness, which may be so adopted.

" The Noble and Right Honourable Persons who are said to have been selected for these proceedings, are too just to decide any thing touching her Royal Highness, without affording her an opportunity of laying her case before them. The PRINCESS has not had any power to choose the Judges before whom any enquiry may be carried on; but she is perfectly willing to have her *whole* conduct enquired into by any persons who may be selected by her accusers. The PRINCESS only demands that she may be heard in defence or in explanation of her conduct, if it is attacked; and that she should either be treated as innocent, or proved to be guilty."

Lord HARROWBY replied to the effect, " That a Copy of the Ministers Report, laid before the PRINCE REGENT, had been transmitted that same evening to the Princess of WALES, by the Viscount SIDMOUTH."







