

Bishop of Salisbury to Lord Chancellor

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My Lord

Seymour St: May 3

1809

I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship the answers of D. Nott to the Charges brought against him, with Documents to which the answers refer.

But the compleat vindication of his Character does not rest on these alone.

I feel myself called upon by every consideration that can influence the conduct of an honest man to rescue from disgrace & ruin a person whose excellent conduct in a most arduous situation I have been the constant witness of for more than four years.

I do most solemnly declare that D. Nott
 has executed all the duties of his important office
 with the most disinterested zeal, the most
 indefatigable industry, the most persevering
 patience, the most religious attention:
 & I am confident that not a single instance
 can be brought against him of neglect of duty
 levity of behaviour, omission of respect,
 impatience of temper, — or improper harsh-
 ness & severity in reproof. I have heard
 the Ladies repeatedly speak with great admi-
 ration of the propriety & correctness of his
 manners. Of his extreme caution, & of the
 constant guard he had upon every word & action
 when in the presence of the Princess Charlotte.

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His pleasing, but respectful manner certainly made an early impression upon her youthful mind. I saw this with great satisfaction, & did every thing in my power to promote this influence. Lady de Clifford again & again expressed similar satisfaction, & availed herself of it to carry points with her R. H. - which the Ladies could not carry of themselves.

But this influence of D.^o Noll over the mind of the Princess was not gained by flattery - by false indulgence, - by conniving at or passing over her faults, - but by steady uniform attention to her improvement, - noticing whatever was amiss in the behaviour of

his R. H. with gentleness, but firmness.

And so far from attempting to gain the affections of his Royal Pupil by false indulgence, - I have sometimes been inclined to think that D. North was in danger of going in the other extreme - of being too strict & running the risk of irritating her temper by noticing every little wayward fancy.

This however was necessary, because her R. H. discovered an impatience of control which it was our duty to correct. - But this strictness surely would not have been the mode of conduct pursued by a man whose object was to gain the affection of his Pupil for the purpose of forwarding his own interested views!

In bearing this testimony to the uniform good conduct of my Sub-preceptor D. North I have discharged one point of duty: But another much more important point remains for me to fulfill.

And now, my Lord, that I may not be supposed to be actuated by a spirit of Recrimination or Revenge, I appeal to your Lordship to say whether I have not some months since made known to you with great concern what I am now about to state.

I have long lamented the very improper manner in which in some very material points the Education of the Princess Charlotte has been conducted.

and I do now thus formally repeat that
the Ladies at Warwick House have been guilty
of great neglect of their duty for more than two
years past in allowing the Princess Charlotte to
pass several hours every day with her Servants.
A waiting Woman has been her Companion
in her walks: a waiting woman is her play-
fellow in her own little garden, & in the house:
But what is still a greater Dereliction of Duty
on the part of the Ladies: this waiting woman
is the only person who daily attends her Royal
Highness to the Riding House.

I have felt it my duty at different
times to remonstrate with Lady de Clifford
upon this point. Her Ladyship some weeks

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since seemed to feel the propriety of my remarks. She acknowledged she was wrong, & thanked me for my friendly admonition. She attended the Princess once or twice to the Riding House, but ever since her Royal Highness has again been attended by her waiting woman only.

I have ever considered it my duty to attend to whatever respected the Education of the Princess: not confining myself to the Instruction Room only = Miss Charlotte. My opinion was founded upon a passage in the original Papers containing the Kings Commands when the present Establishment was first formed. The Passage I refer to is this. — His Majesty proposes to name a Bishop to superintend Princess Charlottes Education as it cannot ^{be} done that of a female

“but she being the presumptive heir of the Crown
“must have one of a more extended nature.”

That his Majesty was careful to guard
against the very evil of which I now com-
plain, appears from another passage in the
same paper.

“The care of the Princess's person
“ & behaviour is to be entrusted to a Governess,
“ & as her Royal Highness must be both Day &
“ night under the eyes of a responsible person,
“ a sub-governess, & an assistant sub-governess
“ must be named.”

Is a waiting woman or
a Dreper that responsible person?

It remains for me, my Lord, to notice
one instance more of the most gross inatten-
-tion on the part of the Ladies. D^r Nett

found in the Instruction Room of Her Royal High
a copy of a print of a most improper & indecent
tendency: This he mentioned to me, as it
was his duty to do: I was so struck with
the ill consequences which might arise
from this act of carelessness — to call it
by no harsher name, that I determined
to make it known to your Lordship: — & your
Lordship must recollect that I showed it to
you more than two months since. It was
then agreed between us that I should commu-
nicate with Lady de Clifford upon the subject:
I carried it to her Ladyship: She threw it
from her with horror, & said that Mr.
Adney had given it to the Princeps, but that

she had scolded her for it.

I should be sorry to judge uncandidly of the actions of others. - but I have but too much reason to believe that this attack upon Dr. Nott owes its origin to his having discovered & made known to me this circumstance, - which when coupled with other matters which at different times have come to my knowledge could not but raise alarms in my mind. Mr. Udney once ~~was~~ put into the hands of the Pounce, an English translation of Ovid's Metamorphosis, tho' it was a positive direction that no book should be given to her Royal Highness that had not received my sanction.

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I will not lengthen this Letter already too long by mentioning many other circumstances which your Lordship ought to be acquainted with, - & which when a proper opportunity occurs - I must trouble you with.

I have the honor to be

your Lord

Yours Lordship

Jacobus Jones

J. Jones

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Copy of a letter from
The Bishop of Salisbury
to the Chancellor
31 May 1109

To
The Lord Chancellor

