

G. von Kōn

Hannover January
19th 1790.

My dear General

If I delayed writing to You, & giving You sooner the compliments in Season so lately, it was, not to trouble You with an other letter, before Your return in Town, which by this time I hope happily executed, & taken possession of Your new habitation, in which, I wish with all my heart, You may enjoy all the happiness, & Satisfaction possible

Speaking of Your House, I naturally recollect Your asking for me questions about the ordered Rhine wine. An Ohm Rhine wine, contains 80. Maafs. Each Maafs being a little more then two Hannoverian Bottels, the Ohm must give here 160. Bottels. The Maafs however being a little more then two Bottels, one in General gets some Bottels more, when the Ohm Cask is drawn of, although it is never quite full, especially after a long journey. According to Your desire I shall send You the wine in a Cask, double barrell'd, &c. as it ought to be, leaving it to Your choice if Your wish to have an Ohm, or only half an Ohm, for both may

sent to You with the same propriety. However as a heavy frost may
set in yet, I shall not send the wine of, till I can think of do-
ing it without exposing ~~it~~ to any danger from that side, the
more so as I intend sending it by a much shorter way viz. from
Frankfurt down the Mein & Rhine to Rotterdam, from whence
it will cross the Sea. I hope the more that You will be satisfied
with the wine I propose sending You, as I shall employ for it a
Marchand, who sends a great deal of Rhine wine to England, &
who knows the kind of wine, which is most relished there.

You must however not forget to send me with Your first letter, Your
new direction, that my letters & the wine may safely arrive.

I can not resist to express to You my dear General the anxiety I la-
bour under on account of H. R. H. He writes to me in his last letter
that he is not well, & that he must submit to a grand & thorough
cure. He even expresses the nature of it. But as the report has of-
ten gone here, of his being in the same situation, I really am afraid
that at last his constitution will be entirely ruined by these re-
peated attacks. You really will confer a great favour upon me, by
letting me truly know, how he is, & in what degree he has got this
terrible illness. I at the same time can not help expressing my
surprise

that he at least is no more nice, or prudent in chusing his connections of this kind. I shall be excessively happy if your answer enables me to contradict a good deal at least of those reports which are spread about him.

The Duke orders me in the same letter to send the two Grooms Mark & Butcher over to England as they are expensive, to him without the least service. This sending over will be a very easy matter in respect of Mark, for he behaves so very well, that he is indebted to nobody, & that he really can serve as a model to all the Duke's other servants in point of behaviour, wherefore I recommend him to your protection & care.

But I really do not know how to get Butcher away from hence. I own, the only way of procuring his amendment, or of getting rid of him, is to send him over; but what will become of his wife & children? I am convinced that the moment he has lost the sight of them, he will lose all ideas of them, & renounce to show them the least remembrance. You have no idea how much he is indebted here, how scandalous his whole behaviour is, & how perfect a rogue ^{& a cheat} he is turned, taking this expression in the largest sense. Under these circumstances you may easily guess how happy I am to get rid of him, but I must return to my old exclamation: If only H. R. H. had ^{not} given him, & others of his servants, permission to marry. The moment I have determined

Only think Lieberow names a daughter of the great fat Knicker at Osnabruck,
a girl of 15 years old. They speak to General Knicker about your business,
I write to him about them, with the last messenger, who also had books for you.

upon some scheme to smuggle him away, I shall apprise you of it, only begging at present the favour of you to let me know as soon as possible, if it is indifferent to the Duke if the coming over of these Lads with their families or without them. Although I have told to nobody what you wrote to me about the Duke coming over for a short time in the course of the next summer, I find that many people here, have got the same intelligence by what authority I know not. Should you hear any more about it you will oblige me very much, in letting me know what you can learn. As I have ever since H. R. H.'s departure from hence, thought more of paying of part of his debts, than of finishing his house, it is by no means in a State to receive him, & indeed it would require for one month before it could be got ready merely that he might lodge in it. I have just been obliged to send him all the Port-wine he had left here, which I take to be a sign against his coming. Should he pay us a visit I hope to God he will leave his Quarry at home, & bring you my dear General over with him. All your friends here, & they are in great number, & I at their head, we should be very happy indeed in seeing you once more amongst ourselves, & certainly your coming will be of service to H. R. H. I just only have room left to assure you that I am very sincerely
wholly yours
G. des L'Isle