

Euc. The Queen

Apr. 2 1812

To the Princesses Elizabeth Mary and Sophia

When I say my Dear Princesses I mean this as an answer to all the  
 four Princesses letters delivered to me by Mad<sup>m</sup> Beckhoff, to say that the  
 perusal of them gave me pleasure, would be the greatest falsehood I was promiss-  
 ed, and to say that it surprised me, as quite a one, for I was fully aware that the  
 Happiness of an independent and Established mind, would carry the idea of Liberty  
 with it; and as this may perhaps be the last Time that any one of you may  
 be advised to take a Mother's advice let me beseech you well to consider  
 that your Situation is very different to that of your Brothers who by their  
 Situation in Life must appear in Public and have their Duties to perform  
 in which they could engage themselves if they were not to appear. But in  
 your case and under the present Melancholy Situation of your Father  
 the going to Public Amusements excepting where Duty calls upon you would be  
 the highest mark of indiscreet folly. The Advice to your Brothers I will no  
 further touch upon than to say that you never can be in the House with  
 them that an unmarried without a Lady, and that was that Pleasure in  
 court as it is should be well considered before it is done, and in short every  
 Step any one of you mean to take, always to keep in remembrance that no  
 Lady whatever is exempted from being criticized, and that the higher the Cha-  
 racter the more will it be traduced; much more should I like to say but that would  
 be needless as it is very plain by the Letters your Father has written, and what

and I could say would be of no avail.

And now I will only add that the reception of those letters here is totally  
overdone that I try to see some of you to day; if I can bring myself to see your  
Nominations I shall appear at Breakfast, for I do not think I ever felt as happy  
in my life as I did by reading your letters, but enough of that, what is done is done  
and may none of you ever go through such a cutting and piercing as I have as  
I have in my most sincere wish

(signed) Charlotte.

London 2<sup>d</sup> of April  
1812

You will be obliging to receive Charlotte, I shall have my room ready for her  
to play in to night, and I try not even to see Adolphus, the stroke is given, and  
nothing can mend it, therefore I try that some of your Brothers may ever  
talk to me upon the Subject even any of your friends whatever