

W. H. to Sir J. Yorke

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Richmond Lodge June 27th 1766.

Sir Joseph Yorke, Lieutenant General Conway has communicated to Me the private letter he received in cypher from You by this days post; I have order'd him by the first Messenger to signify to You my wish that the Prince of Orange should be encourag'd to turn his eyes towards nearer allying himself with my family; but if that is not agreeable to him; that the propriety of his espousing the Princess Augusta of Brunswick or some other Princess not of a Regal House should be set before him; as this affair is of a very delicate nature I think it highly necessary to write to You, that You may exactly know my ideas.

My

W.

My directions are that you should by the
most secret & at the same ^{time} secure channel
you can devise insinuate to the Prince of
Orange directly, but not through the auspices
of Prince Lewis, how much his own personal
weight in the Republic would be strengthened
by his marrying my sister Louisa, as all
the real friends to his family have ever been
bred up in ~~the~~ system of close Union with
my Crown, that is the real interest of
both ~~countries~~ ^{countries} that there is therefore
no doubt that this measure would meet
with approbation, I desire you will
add to this all those arguments that
your long experience of the Republic
must furnish you with, & that you will

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so cautiously use my sister's name that if the
idea meets not with the Prince's concurrence
~~the whole affair~~ ^{as part of this} may ever come to light & in
that case you will insinuate the great risk
he runs if he espouses the Princess of Prussia
for that in the first place I shall with reason
take umbrage at his preferring her to a sister
of mine, which I should not do if he chose a
Princess not of a Royal House, & in the second
place that the King of Prussia would look on it
as having done him a great honour & would
ever treat him as a Gopul; besides the
Great Britain & the Republic ~~are~~ natural
allies, Prussia & Holland ~~would~~ ^{may} probably
in future wars be of different sides that ~~therefore~~
~~would~~ then find himself in the most unpleasant
~~situation~~ nay perhaps highly dangerous situation

that therefore the marrying the Prince
Augusta of Brunswick would be a means
of extricating himself out of all these difficulties
I could give Umbrage to no party, ~~that~~ I
hope the first idea will do, if not I think
the second cannot fail in such able hands
as yours, who I am sure see equally with
me the ruin of the Prince of Orange
if he once ^{should be directed} comes into such designing
hands as those of the King of Prussia, being
perhaps a total overturn of any solid system
in Europe, whether Prussia be ally or
not with ~~Prussia~~ ^{Great Britain} I wish to see all
Powers that ~~are in~~ ^{are in} ~~alliance~~ ^{alliance} with my Crown
look up to that alone, & not from
being connected with its Allies

I send this by your usual private conveyance as the whole
of this correspondence is unknown to any one; I desire you will
write me your thoughts as soon as you receive this as also what
measures you think proper to take in consequence thereof