

me for the copy of this letter, before five o'clock in the morning, on the day he left London for the last time, when he went to the west of England: the other papers he allowed to remain.

"By the way, to this untimely sending of the groom, 'thereby hangs a tale,' when should be told as an anecdote of that singular good nature, which is peculiar to the members of the royal family.

"His Royal Highness was in the practice of commanding me to come to him, often at times very inconvenient; frequently, between five and six o'clock, which was my dinner hour. This had occurred more than once; and one day, when I was engaged to a particular party, it so vexed me that without once, in my fit of self-absorption, thinking of his rank, I resolved to have an end put to the custom. Accordingly, frying with anger, and growing fiercer as I walked faster through Hyde Park to the palace, by thinking of the inconvenience, I was shown into the room where the duke was sitting, and began immediately to deliver myself of my cogitations. He listened for a short time, and, before I had done, gave an exceedingly good-natured laugh at my remonstrance. It dissolved the spell; I saw at once my absurd violation of etiquette, and knew not where to look. But, with a kind of boyish playfulness, he good-humouredly admitted the justice of my complaint. After that time, he generally requested me to come at hours which he thought would be convenient.—With the exception of this final message, he was always very considerate. An early riser, the hour was of no importance to him.

"I have also had occasion to be sensible of the affability of the Duke of York, on several particular occasions; quite often enough to justify a man in my station to be more than pleased. It will be recollected, that a public dinner was arranged in commemoration of George the Third, ostensibly, but really to get up a subscription to defray the expense of a monumental group of sculpture. Nothing could be more flattering than the prospect; the Duke of York agreed to take the chair, and the whole clanjamphry of the court promised to attend. But after all 'this beauteous dawn,' some of the back-stair gentry went to his royal highness, and remonstrated with him against countenancing such a subscription; the duke, in consequence, determined not to go, which was, of course,

'A sign for all the courtiers to be sick.'