

**Transcript of a proposal by the Prince of Wales regarding Minnie Seymour's guardianship**

**CR713/8**

The Prince of Wales being fully convinced, that the welfare and happiness of the Child, are essentially dependant on her continuance under the care of Mrs Fitzherbert; and is appearing by the evidence before the Master, that she cannot be removed without injury to her health and peril of her life; he feels it an indispensable part of the parental duty, he so solemnly engaged to her dying mother to fulfil, to protect her to the utmost of his power, in her present happy situation; and therefore nothing short of a stipulation, that she shall remain there unmolested, until she shall be of an age to choose for herself, will satisfy his mind.

If this shall be assented to on the part of the family; the Prince in furtherance of his designs in her favor, and to obviate the exceptions that have been taken to the Instrument he has already executed; intends speedily to invest the sum of £10,000 in the funds, as well to answer the provision intended to be secured by that Instrument, as to add to it by the accumulation of the Interest during her minority.

The Prince scruples not to declare his ultimate view to be, to raise her up hereafter as a companion, and as he hopes, a bosom friend of his own daughter; to warrant these views, it is absolutely necessary, that she should be bred and educated under his own eye; her family must

therefore perceive, that he has a deeper interest than they have, in her becoming a member of the Church of England, as well as in the purity of her morals; and they cannot he comprehends desire a surer pledge, for the security of either of those most important objects.

But his Royal Highness far from condemning the anxiety her friends have shewn on the score of her religion; thinks himself bound to give them every satisfaction on that point they can desire. He wishes (as does Mrs Fitzherbert most earnestly) that the finest intercourse

should be kept up, between the child and her family and relations; and that they also should, if they please, be eye witnesses of the course of her education, as well as the formation of her mind and manners.

This intercourse has never been prevented by Mrs Fitzherbert, and could never have been interrupted had not the present contest taken place.

For the mutual satisfaction of the minds of her relations and his own, The Prince proposes that himself, Lord Thurlow, and the Bishop of Winchester, should be appointed, jointly with the Marquis of Hertford and Lord Robert Seymour, Guardians of this infant under a previous understanding and

declarations in writing, that she shall remain with Mrs Fitzherbert, unless anything shall arise, with reference to her religion, which in the judgement of the guardians shall render it proper to remove her.

If this arrangement shall be approved, the contest will be put an end to, and the infant will be bred up in harmony with her family, and with every protection to her spiritual and temporal welfare they can reasonably desire; but if notwithstanding the irresistible body of evidence now disclosed to them, of the dreadful consequences which could inevitably ensue, they still determine to persevere in demanding the removal of the Child from under Mrs Fitzherbert's care, he shall feel himself bound no less by the obligation of common humanity, than that of the parental duty he has undertaken, to resist their efforts to the utmost of his power.

Note- it will be necessary to provide for the filling up such vacancies as may occur in the number of the Guardians.