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"N"
NORTON, HON. CAROLINE (SHERIDAN), 1808-1877

ALS to Miss LeFann, Hampton Court. / [ca. 1836] Oct 13

OSBORNE GIFT
73.12.15
By Hazel Osborn
Dec. 1975
Dear Sir, Lefaur,

I have received all my letters safe. The delay was caused by the absence of the principal secretaries of the Office. Mr. Flatley was in Scotland, and the packet travelled to Aberfeldie and back, before it reached me. I thank you for your long and kind letter, and am very sure that now you have been in judgement of those letters, not a shadow of doubt will remain in your mind of the theft of your respected mother, as to the deep and bitter injustice of the proceedings against me. My allusion to my "miseries beg over last year" referred to a quarrel between me and Mr. Norton, of which I thought I had already told you. It was on the 22 June 1835 (curiously enough exactly the day year before the trial) that Mr. N. confided to me that he had, during our tour in Germany, received anonymous letters accusing me, and advising him to watch me, and that he had accordingly watched me since our return to England. Some of the methods taken to detect me as guilty were so revoltingly coarse and the whole confession grieved me so, especially as at the time he received these anonymous letters, I was nursing him most anxiously at A la Chapelle, thinking of him & exerting myself beyond my strength to attend on him, as we had no servant with us, and he could not understand foreigners, and could not
bear any one to come into the room but me, that I fell ill with vexation; it was just after my brother married, which you know was a subject of annoyance at the time; every thing comprised in my mind, the consequence was a toy though which I have since profusely recovered. After this attempt, how shall I describe the greatest hardzdess of all to your sister? I desired her to separate from him. In accounting of my dear little children I was unwilling to do this, and she threatened not to be persuaded to be separated with him against the opinion of many members of my family; I think this was the reason she took it trouble to write her these letters before continuing their efforts and then she found my brother and sister coming on like a mackerel with him, and finally that my brother was more a braggart than honest without him, he was persuaded to revenge himself in the wild and deceitful manner he did by bringing an action against me and a kind of false ground both to him and me.

The was not a jealous man. He was exceeding vain of my beauty, the attention and regard of persons that I should please and gazes as from that postion were able to derive use. A jealous man I never have permitted a man whose intimacy with his wife he has objected it to call after six years, before he thought of acting; but I will speak as more of this.

I am indeed, as you say, fortunate in the support of my family, have afforded me in under similar circumstances. My dear brother has all the life, pride, accident and necessity of those who love, and the thought was joy pretentious. I love all my supports; if one is grievous, all are grievous, if one is glad, all are glad.
of their love, in the dark and bitter hours which are now gone by. I have friends too, supporters, who have stood very steady by me, and I believe and hope that what has occurred will make no difference to my position amongst them, however much it may sadden my memory. I will close this long letter, thanking you once more for yours. I received a kind line from the Dean of St. George's, he mentioned having heard from you. I am at present with my mother and from hence I go into Dorsetshire, but the address 16 Green R. Grosvenor Square will always find me, as I have taken the house adjoining with Mr. Charles, Reidman, my uncle.

Remember me to Mrs. Le Fanu. Believe me.
Ever yours truly,

Caroline Horton.

Nothing is yet arranged between my husband and myself, my little boys are in Scotland with him, but I expect that the shooting season is over, that all will be definitively settled.

God grant it may be for the best as regards my children, if then I think right and day.

Pray do not think of paying your letter, send them under cover to "Col. Fox"
"Ordnance Office"
"Pall Mall"
or send by post, as I will not receive any of your letters, though I be glad to pay postage to them.