

# Charlotte Powell Powell's letters - 1

Quex Park  
Oct'r. 18<sup>th</sup> 1829

My dear Sir

We arrived here safe last night, most fortunate in our weather - as it is raining today. On leaving Fulham I was so fully occupied, that I was prevented acknowledging your kindness in sending the Tea, which is excellent. I tried it the following morning with same water as the other - and the flavour far surpassed Cathwell and Butcher Tea. Powell is glad you thought about the Codicil, which he is aware requires consideration but certainly the bare chance was of the Pine Family enjoying this Property - in case of Henry Cotton's death - and so to the utter exclusion of Arthur, Augusta and Charlotte Cotton with their families also - must be prevented - in every way, and Powell is determined, unless this nefarious settlement, as he calls it, is done away with - will certainly only leave any Property he may choose to do to Henry Cotton for his Life - etc. - strictly tied up also.

We are very glad you have insured Park House, as I did not feel confident, nor at all easy about the Kitchen Chimney - breaking away and pulling down part of an old house is often worse - then re-building it - at all events, I have ordered Falkner to meet the Chimney Sweeper - and to minutely examine the flues that are connected and on that side of the House.

I have left my own Maid, Brotherton, to inspect the goings on - and after the House is warranted secure from fire - scoured etc. I shall order the furniture in forthwith - when Mr Christie shall advertise the House as completely and newly furnished and fit for the immediate Residence of a Nobleman even. We shall be in Town again in a week or ten days, when I shall inspect the completion of it. I have removed Mr Dermott and his wife into the cottage opposite - liable to be turned out if required or wanted by the Tenants of Park House. His wages must be continued and himself as Gardener, until the place is lett. His wife is a perfect Nuisance - such a temper and such a tongue, that Mr Dermott has a deplorable life - many men would strike her, she is such an aggravating woman. I have left a steady old man whom we employ here to sleep at Park House and to protect Brotherton and the other two female servants for fear of any attack<sup>1</sup>. Should [you] be driving down there some fine morning, be so good as to ask for Brotherton. She would be quite good to you - and tell you the goings on. We insured higher than we first named because of glasses (probably large mirrors which were in vogue at the time and were extremely expensive to manufacture) and various etceteras that may be added.

Powell is much better - he was so ill and nervous that I sent for a Medical Man. He is all nerve and unless he is kept quiet and composed will, I dread to think, be liable to Palyris<sup>2</sup>. He's forbid Hot Rooms, Late Hours and large Dinner Parties. He writes in kind regards of my dear Sir.

Yours very sincerely  
SIGNED: *C. Powell*

We met the Duchess of Sussex(?), so broke [in health] and altered - fast going - she begged us to come and see her for the last time. Her daughter Mademoiselle D'Este is a fine young woman and her Son Colonel D'Este is an elegant young man.

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<sup>1</sup> The unrest among the farm labourers at the low wages and introduction of mechanisation was causing rioting and burning of farmhouses, ricks and barns during the 'Swing' Riots from 1829-1831

<sup>2</sup> Perhaps 'paralysis' or a stroke