

princess and her ladies in attendance round Richmond Park Gardens, as well as those of Kew. "Plays," says Bubb Dodington, "were acted here every evening."

The Richmond Lodge, where, as we have related in a previous chapter,* George II., then Prince of Wales, was living when news was brought to him of the death of his father, George I., was really in Kew. Domestic affection was decidedly not this prince's strong point. He was living in alienation from, and even in hostility to, the king, his father; the two courts of Kew and St. James's maintained no communication with each other, and it was with

It is stated as a fact that when the prince died, a messenger was sent to inform the king of the circumstance. He was at the time playing at cards with a large party at the palace; with true German *sang froid*, he continued the game to the end, and then communicated the intelligence to his mistress, the Duchess of Kendal, who was playing at another table, calmly telling her that Fritz was dead, but made no motion to interrupt the amusements; the duchess, however, with more feeling and delicacy, broke up the assembly. The following letter was given to me as one in the handwriting of the king, but I have reason to



OLD KEW PALACE (THE DUTCH HOUSE), SHOWING ALSO PART OF THE CASTELLATED PALACE
BEGUN BY GEORGE III.

difficulty that he could be persuaded to rise from the sofa where he was lying, and to go to London to see his ministers.

Later on, the quarrel between himself and his son Frederick was carried on by the king with a rancour, descending to personality, unknown to the modern disputes of royalty. The ill blood is supposed to have been caused by the countenance which the Prince of Wales gave to the party in opposition to the measures of Government. "The prince had a separate establishment at Norfolk House, which was," says Mr. William Hone, "the chief resort of the disaffected to the party in power; no persons visiting the prince were allowed to come to the court of the sovereign.

doubt the truth of the allegation; nevertheless, it bears the marks of being a rough draft of it, being altered and interlined, and, from its apparent age, there is no doubt of its being written at the time of its date (1737). There are some grammatical errors, which may possibly arise from its being the production of a foreigner:—

"The professions you have lately made in your letters of your particular regard to me are so contradictory to all your actions, that I cannot suffer myself to be imposed upon by them. You know very well you did not give the least intimation to me or to the Queen that the Princess was with child, till within less than a month of the birth of the young Princess; you removed the Princess twice in the week, and immediately preceding the day of her delivery, from the place of my residence, in expectation, as you voluntarily declared, of her labour; and both times, upon your return, you industriously concealed from me and

* See ante, p. 344.