

Bishop of Limerick to Col. Kebleton

A.A. No. 297

20738-9

Dublin 20th July 1813

Private

My Dear Colonel

I have made a delay here of a week, for the purpose of talking with our Heads of the Law, upon the Subject of the late violent & indecent proceedings of these R. Catholic meetings, and their abominable personal abuse of our illustrious & beloved Prince -

I had an Idea that some public Step should be taken against those vile Libelers, but after discussing the

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Subject with the Chancellor, the Chief Justice,
the Chief Baron, and Mr. Sergeant
McMahon, I am inclined to think with
them, that any notice taken of it
(on the side of the Prince) would be a
Triumph to these Blackguards, who
are looking for such an Event to
increase their consequence with
the Mob.

The object of Howell & his
associates, is Revolution -
The Crown is the chief object of their
vulgar & abusive attack; and
I have no doubt their treasonable
conduct will very soon call for

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The interference of the Attorney General.
indeed I am of opinion that Fobresence
has been carried too far, and it is
sincerely to be lamented, that Measures
have not yet been taken to prevent
these unconstitutional & dangerous
Meetings; where not only the powers
of a Parliament are exercised, but
the very Terms of it are assumed
by its Members.

A departing Viceroy naturally
declines the adoption of any new
Measures, but his Successor will find
it absolutely necessary; and with
an Attorney General (such as Lord
Clare was) these treasonable Meetings

would / and ought to be, very soon
annihilated.

Hemmett is now about going
our Munster Circuit, and in the
provincial papers, he has already
issued his proclamation for
holding his little mischievous
parliaments at the episcopal Seats of
Limerick, Treles, &c.

All this may appear of little con-
sequence to people at a distance,
or unacquainted with the real state
of things in this Country, but to any
thinking man, who resides in this
Country, and watches the progress
of things, it must be evident

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That these meetings, if permitted to continue, will very soon produce events of the most serious & alarming nature. -

at a Fete given by the Duke of Leinster a few days ago, I met a number of R. Catholic gentlemen, amongst them, Dr. Tray, the R. C. Archbishop of Dublin: in our walk thro' the grounds, the conversation turned upon the fate of the C. question in Parliament; in which they complained of the Prince's non-performance of his pledges to them &c. &c. -

fortunately, I had in my Pocket
the two Letters, which H. R. Hs honor'd
me with, - I beg'd to assure them
that the public Mind had been totally
mistaken upon that point, and that
I held in my Hand the Disavowal
of the noble person whom they
had just mention'd (Lord Kenmore).

I then read to them your
Letter, and Lord Kenmore's
answer. - They express'd much
Surprise, but acknowledged that
the Thing had been differently
understood before -

I ventured to assure them also

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That the King never did or could be understood to make any pledge or promise further than an expression of his wish to remove Restrictions, as far as the principles of our protestant Constitution would permit - that there could be no doubt the same benevolent disposition still existed in His Royal Mind, but they themselves must know, that the British Constitution is founded upon protestant principles, which the Report, nor the King can ever violate.

My Friend Dr. Tray did not quite assent to the full extent of my argument, tho' he could

not deny the obligation imposed
upon the Monarch, or reigning
Prince by his oath of office -

we at length set down to our
Repast in very tolerable good
Humour, and they all join
me in drinking the Prince Regent's
Health. -

I am just now sitting out upon
a Tour of visitation through my
Diocese, and I shall feel it my
duty to use every means of counteracting
Mr. Hannell's mischievous impressions,
and with truest feelings of affectionate
Devotion to our Royal Master,
believe me, My Dear Colonel,
most faithfully yours -

Chas. Lewis.

Chas. Lewis
20. July 1793