

Ed. Maura to H.R.H.

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Edinburgh, Dec 16<sup>th</sup>  
1813

Sir

It has been with the greatest  
satisfaction of gratitude that I have received  
Your Royal Highness's letter. If the knowing  
how to appreciate your condescending kindness  
can afford any pretension towards that par-  
tiality which you dignify to profess, I will  
venture to say that I am not unworthy

of the gracious friendship with which you dis-  
tinguish me. Your anxiety that I should  
be persuaded of your having no previous know-  
ledge of the Publication of the Correspondence  
was very superfluous, but is at the same time  
not justly estimated by me. In the long  
course of time thro' which your Royal High-  
ness has indulged me with the freedom of  
expressing my sentiments to undisguisedly to  
you, there has been no instance in which I

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Dis- have felt so much confidence reposit in  
and the manliness of your character as when  
have I urged objections to the prosecution of  
and that Correspondence. I was sensible that the  
the object in question did interest you, & rightly  
in the tenderest point. In reason & equity, so  
High- that could be advanced against it, it raised  
of all your magnanimity; and the rejection of  
to your claim to a prominent Station in that  
of a contest which was to decide the fate of Britain

was injustice if not insult. Your plea could  
not be thought stronger than what I held it  
I had only the apprehension that in pursuing  
it after the first refusal, as it could not be  
done without energetic expostulation, that  
publicity might follow which has occurred  
but from any action that your demand  
would not be sanctioned by the opinion of  
almost every individual in the Country; but  
from the dread of a consequence which I

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know would be more painful to you than  
to any other man breathing. I was aware how  
inimitable the King's mind was upon the  
subject, & I trembled lest the agitation  
should affect his health. Once you were  
embarked in the controversy, the notoriety  
of such an application's having been made  
& resisted made it unavoidable that the  
arguments on both sides should have a cir-  
-culation supposed to be confidential: but

the ultimate appearance of the Correspondence of  
in Part seemed to me equally inevitable I  
that the indiscretion of individuals, whatsoever  
can Your Royal Highness right take to pre-  
vent it. If the King shall not feel it  
in the manner I feared, the publication can  
not but benefit you in universal estima-  
tion. Indeed, the sentiment, both here &  
in every quarter from which I have heard,  
is uniform. Warm applause is given to the

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me generous real which you have manifested,  
I can assure you Sir, no less tribute is paid  
to the forbearance which you have shown  
in the discussion of a refusal that wounded  
you so deeply. I am truly happy that your  
Royal Highness has enabled me to destroy  
the only insinuation that could have been  
attempted by malicious artifice against  
you; namely, that this was an appeal  
to the Public on a matter of disunion in

The Earl of Chester  
to  
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the Royal Family. It would have been a  
Description of the procedure had your  
Highness sanctioned the publication. For this is  
a national concern, & not a question of security  
arrangement. I can not dissuade you from  
a view of gratifying you unhesitatingly when  
I say you have cause to be highly satisfied  
with the Impression made here. Had I said  
it stronger than by saying it much as news  
all the wishes of him who is with devoted  
affection Your Royal Highness most faithfully  
H. R. H. & most obliged servant

The Prince of Wales

Moir