

Sir Home Popham to HRH.

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Buenos Ayres July 7th 1806

Sir,

When I consider that the first
time I had the Honor of being noticed by
Your Royal Highness, was when I was
employed at the Court of Petersburg &
that the protection you were graciously
pleased to bestow on me, originated from
a conviction of my Zeal for the good of
the Country, I trust the principles on
which I received such flattering Marks
of Your Royal Highnesses Favor will
lose no part of their action by my
To His Royal Highness being
The Prince of Wales.

so distant, tho on a Service not less
important either in its actual or
prospective consequences.

I think it almost unnecessary to
say that I have omitted no occasion of
testifying my Pride, or acknowledging my
gratitude for the Patronage which I have
received from Your Royal Highness, &
as I have reason to believe You are
satisfied on this point, I presume
to address You from the Capital of the
richest Province of South America
which is now in possession of

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His Majesty's Arms.

I have no doubt but Your Royal Highness learnt through the channel of a very particular Friend of mine, who has the Honor to enjoy Your Royal Highnesses confidence that I proposed to the Minister the Expedition to the Cape, & answered for its success provided it could be undertaken with promptness and Secrecy; the result has proved that I was correct both in my premises, & deductions.

When the time for expecting

an attack on the Cape by Admiral Villaurruty's Squadron was feared; I considered it a duty of the last importance to my Country, to press on Sir David Baird an immediate attempt on the Enemy's Settlements in the Rio La Plata, in consequence of the repeated Intelligence I had received of their defenceless state particularly Buenos Ayres.

The success of this City shews how perfect the Information was which I obtained, & how much can be effected even with a small Force, moved with secrecy promptness & vigour.

Every military operation will

be so fully detailed in the Army Despatch
that I have only to regret it is written
by a General, who with all the advantages
of an excellent Scholar, cannot do full
Justice to his own merits as a Soldier,
can assure You Sir, he is worthy Your
Royal Highnesses Protection, as to his able
dispositions, & the celerity with which
he moved to attack an Enemy of four times
his number, are we indebted for the
conquest of this Place.

Your Royal Highnesses general
knowledge of the geographical Situation,
the political consequences, & the internal

resources of every Country precludes the
necessity of my entering into any detail on
these Subjects; I cannot however resist
offering my humble opinion that this
Province promises to be one of the richest
acquisitions in His Majesty's Possession,
both as to its great commercial productions
& capabilities, & the channels it offers for
a very extensive consumption of every
British Manufacture.

Under these considerations I have
solicited with all the anxiety I possess, that
a Regiment of dismounted Cavalry, & two
of Infantry should be sent out on board

ships of war, & permitted to sail without waiting for the parade of composing a Squadron; for altho we have a sufficient Force to garrison & retain possession of Buenos Ayres, yet it is impossible to undertake any further offensive operations without a reinforcement.

There is no question of the fall of Montevideo, whenever we present ourselves before it, & when the Force arrives that has been proposed to His Majesty's Ministers to grant, we shall have no difficulty in obtaining ^{that} possession, if it should not previously surrender.

once obtained, we may bid defiance to
any spot from France which can possibly
escape the vigilance of our European
cruisers.

If the advantages of this
luxuriant Country should be seen
on the same prominent point of
view, that I feel it deserves, I hope
the energy of England will be exerted
to embark the reinforcement within
three days after the decision is made.
a moment ^{is} is of consequence
especially when we know how
active the French will be to harass

us

us before we can be reinforced.

I enclose this Letter which I have taken the liberty of addressing to Your Royal Highness to the care of Captain Donnelly who is charged with my official Despatches, & if I did not feel confident that Your Royal Highness would find in him every Information that an excellent Officer with an active intelligent Mind can possess, I should not presume to recommend him to Your Notice; he will lose no time in paying his Duty to Your Royal Highness that he may be ready to satisfy upon every Point relating

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to this Country, on which Your Royal
Highness may entertain the smallest
doubt.

I have the Honor to subscribe
myself with every Respect

Sir

Your Royal Highness
Most faithful, and
Most Dutiful Servant.

Anne Sophia