

R.B. Sheridan to Col. McKeown

41050-1

Private & confidential March 9<sup>th</sup> 1808.

My Dear Mac -

I enclose you  
 the letter so long delay'd to the  
 Prince, I frankly leave it open  
 that you may read it, & then  
 I will trouble you to seal and  
 deliver it - I have lost some days  
 in waiting for P. Moores answer  
 to yours, which I thought necessary  
 to complete the appearance to the  
 Prince that it is absolutely impossible  
 for me to misapply the income of the  
 Duchy contrary to the Princes intention  
 you will see I have not touch'd  
 in my letter to the Prince on the

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March 7<sup>th</sup> 1800

Sir

If I have delay'd to express my thankful acknowledgements to your Royal Highness for the prompt & flattering manner with which you authorized Col: M<sup>r</sup> Makon upon the lamented death of Lord Lake, to announce your gracious re-appointment of me to the office I had so lately resign'd, from I trust the most proper motives it is my humble hope that you will attribute that

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of Cornwall as a security for  
 Debts of my own. On this subject  
 Mr. Gray has acknowledged his error  
 & fairly & handsomely apologized to  
 me for any mistake which  
 God alone might have been led  
 into by his, Sir Gray's, misapprehension  
 of the fact.

With regard to the future I give  
 your Royal Highness the Pledge  
 of my most solemn Promise  
 that I never will allow the  
 slightest incumbrance or anticipation  
 to attach upon that income, which  
 derived from your R. H. favour  
 will, in addition to the settlement now

made of my affairs, enable me  
to live with my family with  
comfort & without debt or  
difficulty.

In, in addressing these  
few lines to you, with the  
sincerity of a grateful heart, I  
have yet something more upon  
a much greater scale to thank  
you for. — I mean the high and  
generous feeling which has prevented  
your influencing my political  
conduct in Parliament in this  
most unprecedented state of public  
affairs. I hold my seat in the

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House of Commons from You, Sir,  
I you alone . but your gracious  
allowance to me to follow the course  
which the Habits Principles & Connections  
of my past political life export me  
not to abandon would be unsatisfactory  
and unqualifying to my mind if I  
did not blend with my grateful  
acceptance of that allowance a sanguine  
hope that whatever influence or  
weight in public estimation I  
may derive from persevering in that  
course can only ultimately tend  
to my becoming a more useful

and efficient Servant to your  
Royal Highness, affording me I  
trust, should such a crisis arrive,  
as I cannot but apprehend, better  
means & opportunities of proving  
the unalterable attachment and  
Devotion with which to the  
end of my life I shall remain  
your Royal Highness;  
most Dutiful  
& faithful Servant  
R. Sheridan