

Ld. Maria to H.R.H.

The Earl of Maria
to
The Prince of Wales

41118 - 9
Sept. 13.th
1808.

Longington, Sept 12. 1808.

I was very sorry on the receipt of
your Royal Highness's letter yesterday evening
I did not advert to the time when you
were to have replied, and, fancying that a
letter might still catch you there, I hastily
wrote one which I dispatched by a special
messenger. As this by the post may reach you
earlier, I sent out a second writing. Lady Fanny

is with the Children at Brighton, the sea air &
bathing having been recommended for the little
Girl. Fortunately I staid behind till y^e latter
Sept^r when I should arrive at Boston. You
will believe, Sir, that I could not have any
so high gratification as the receiving you
here: but I might, for y^e own vanity & enjoy-
-ment, seduce you into what might have
being upon you; and I should be vexed to
death were it to suspect that I had done
so. I am therefore bound to state the deficiency

Ld. Moira to H.R. W.

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of a Lady Party for your evening. I fear Lady
-Dun could not be back in time, and Lady Grenard,
were she even to arrive punctually, has been so
worn by a melancholy confinement in attendance
on my Mother, that her health & spirits would
be totally unequal to the paying her duty to
Your Royal Highness. If you come then, let
it not be to a Bachelor's Party. For the evening
with Partridges, Hares, & Rabbits, I could make
provision for your amusement: but I know
the sort of society which you wish for the

Evening, & I need the rest being able to procure
it for you. Determine, Sir, I entreat you quite
according to your own convenience. For so
far from enjoying the Honor of your presence
here I declare solemnly I should feel a pain
if I thought you were indulging in pride at
the expense of care to yourself. Your loyal
Highness knows that I would not deceive you
on this point. With a respect which is not
equalled by gratitude & affection, I remain
ever, Sir,
Your loyal Highness's most
obliged & devoted servant
The Duke of Devonshire