

Ld. Shaftesbury to Col. McMahon

Confidential 19147-8

Ohio to Iowa
Jan. 26. 1912.

My dear Sir:

Notwithstanding your long tried
Fidelity for me, I should not think
of trusting you upon this Occasion, did
I not believe that it involved rather
of far greater importance to the County
in general, than to myself as an indi-
vidual.

After nine years of successful
and honorable service at the Court of
the Queen of Spain, I find that I have
received my Lord Melbury's Diploma,
and that he has prepared my Recital,
as

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is a matter of absolute necessity. It is
quite unjustifiable for me to divine the
contents of his Lordship's Despatches;
it cannot arise from my want of sleep,
or consideration of his Count; for I am
not conscious of being failed in any one
negotiation that I have ever undertaken.

It may be that I have acted
without instructions in the affair of Spain
South America. I did act without instructions,
because Lord Melbourn was desirous to
send me away, or to take notice of an
single Dispatch of mine on the most
improper manner; and if I acted

on my own responsibility, in consequence of
his Lordship's extraordinary Silence, I have
the satisfaction of knowing, and of proving
to prove, that I, & I alone, was the means
of preventing Buonaparte from throwing off
his Allegiance to Ferdinand VIII, and from opening
a door to Independence, under the sanction
of France. This I can vouch I am to
demonstrate. The position in which I
was placed, was most cruel - & if I
have extricated my Country from the
circumstances, which must have arisen
from Lord Melbourn's Silence, I shall
never

never

now regret the loss of my employment,
fatal as it must be to all my future
prospects in life. It is a hard thing for
a man to sacrifice his property; but
that sacrifice is really great, when he is
so fully attached to it as I am to mine.

All the support of you in
the most warm manner, is, that you
will kindly endeavor to prevent the
innocence of my situation towards me, from
injuring me in the opinion of A. O. S.
I do hardly, but confidently hope that
A. O. S. will not condemn me unheard.

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I think that I may not carelessly expect
this from such a servant as the Prince of
Wales. And if occasion should serve, may I
beg you to lay me at H.A.'s feet, &
to read to him the expression of my
ever faithful gratitude & duty, together
with my ever humble but earnest prayers
that H.A. may be preserved to take any
step which may contribute to the
Peace, with praying to show to him
to my justification, against any charge
that my enemies may ever bring
against me.

But except myself. The
main object of this letter is to let you
know that an opportunity (if you should
think fit) to intimate to A. D. G. the
real state of affairs at the Court. It
is ~~not~~ to be learned that the indifference
of the Court's Ministry towards the Princes
of Spain, has begun to produce in A. D. G.'s
Majesty, sentiments the most opposite to those
which he formerly entertained towards England.
It is absolutely necessary that something should
be done to put him in good humour. The
complaint of unassured communication,
I of

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a systematic report on the part of our
Ministry, on any point not absolutely and
nearly connected with the interests of Lord Wellington's
Settlement and influence in Portugal. But the
great cause of dissatisfaction is the omission
to pay him the compliment of an Embassy at
the Court; he being an Embassador in London,
& there being only an Envoy here: while we
have lately sent W. Wellesley an Embassador
to Spain. You know that the Court cannot
brook the slightest appearance of preference
to Spain; & the circumstance of the
difference of rank in the Princes at
the two Courts, has rendered the Princes of

Beard more indignant, & more seriously
indign'd against us, than it could be proper
for me to describe. Something really ought to
be done in this business; and I have no
hesitation in saying, that if the present state
of Mr. Davis's feelings be permitted to subsist,
we shall for ever lose his friendship -
I am sure you know me too well to suspect
me of a design to exaggerate Mr. Davis's
ill-humour, merely for the sake of recommending
a measure, which, if I were to stay here,
might be personally advantageous to myself.
I do most solemnly, & upon my knees,

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~~disclaim~~ such intention, and I desire that
I have no other motive for making the
Confidential Communication to you. There is
hope that it may lead to the adoption of
a different system towards the Board of Legation,
and one more calculated to maintain our
interest at this Court.

I fear that you can hardly suppose
this without being. I have seriously
regretted my want of a better opinion; & I
can hardly hold my pen.

May I beg to know whether you
have seen my letter respecting the matter
Turgot's

Ferguson's papers? This Court takes
with the greatest liberality in that affair.

I have the honor to be, with
the kindest regards & acknowledgments,

My dear Sir,

Your faithful & obliged servant

Henry Fox

Col. H. Fox

L L L

Lord Stoughton
Jan'y 24. 1612.