

The Earl of Moira
to
The Prince of Wales

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Longton, March 9th
1795

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Sir

When your Royal Highness does
me the Honor to require my opinion upon any
subject, the delivery of it with respectful
freedom is only obedience to your Commands:
and, with whatsoever earnestness I could say in
that instance be pleas'd, it must stand clear
from any charge of presumption. Spontaneously
to make advice, would be at best a licensed
liberty; but in most cases absolute imperti-
-nence. Now, Sir, I state this to convince your
Royal Highness that no ordinary consideration

induces me to venture troubling you with this letter. For, tho' I know your goodness would regard my solicitude in the most favorable light that it could bear, I could not risk the appearance of indiscretion without most forcible motives. Indeed, Sir, the conversations which I had the honor of lately holding with your Royal Highness, have very seriously exercised my thoughts during the whole of my journey hither. I know that oral discourses are fugitive: but I cannot resist the desire of representing to your Royal Highness my own the counsel in a manner which must impress you with the idea of my strong conviction of its importance to your welfare. As all your kindness towards me has never for any single moment betrayed

me into Miscon of the reverence I owe to you, I can
be confident, Sir, that you will do justice to the
sentiment which animates me. I then, Sir, will
again implore your Royal Highness to cultivate
the King, & to be well with him. The double right
of a Sovereign & a Father makes His Majesty's claim
upon your attachment so powerful, that no or-
-dinary reasons would satisfy the world as to the
justice of a dissatisfaction proclaimed on your
part; because the common measures of equity
between Man & Man will never be applied to any
controversy that may unhappily take place be-
-tween you & His Majesty. Every Man of Property
in this Country is interested that you should be well
with the King; therefore there would be a bias in the

general opinion which it would require a most unimpeachable plea on the side of Your Royal Highness to correct, if ever any difference were to be avowed between you & His Majesty. Since Your Royal Highness has so much set your heart upon Military Rank I ardently hope it may be granted: for the only objection to it is done away by Your Royal Highness's subscribing to the position that the Duke of York ought to be at the Head of the Army; the reasons for which I need not recapitulate here. Should His Majesty however persist in rejecting the application, I conjure Your Royal Highness not to let any petty resentment seduce you into deviation from the strict spirit of the resolution which you conscientiously agreed as you would profess. Whatever you may

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feel, do not allow your mind to rest upon it: But
above all conceal it from the Public, & from the
Royal Family also. Little columns on the one part
speak against, on the other; till at last the matter
comes, without either party having adverted to the
growth of the estrangement, to a breach visible
to all the world: And, then, Persons who hope to reap
-and themselves by being Partisans will imitate &
improve the dis-satisfaction of a thousand invidi-
-ous remarks & constructions. I know your Royal
Highness's feelings so well that I am sure the
being upon terms of confidence & affection with
the King & Queen is of material consequence to
your internal comfort. It is no less important
with regard to that decorous appearance which it

is indispensable to maintain in the eyes of the People
at this strange juncture. If you do not feel in
with their Majesties, you will never sufficiently pre-
-serve the show of it to the public eye. Differences
in the Royal Family would detract from the credit
of both parties in general estimation: and should
those differences go to any extent, designing People
would affect to band themselves on one side or the
other, not for the purpose of supporting either
but of undermining both. You could not select
your adherents, Sir; you could not prescribe a bound-
-ary to the intrigues of men attached to you merely
in profession; and such attachment to your Royal
Highness would be used as a cloak for activity dan-
-gerous to your most solid interests. Notwithstanding

all the clamor that has been made about disaffection,
 I have never been able to discover any where a symptom
 of it, or any idea in any body of their leaning towards
 a change in the form of Government. But then on
 the other hand we must not disguise from ourselves that
 the public mind is much sored. The higher ranks are
 dissatisfied at the unprofitable application of the Power
 of the Country; by which an unprecedented expenditure
 has produced no fruit but proving a formidable
 entanglement. Accidental circumstances have
 entailed peculiar difficulties on the Poor, at a
 moment when the interruption of Manufactures
 & the pressure of increased taxes would alone have
 made them feel considerable distress. In such a state
 of things there is no foreseeing what a flame may
 be occasioned by circumstances that would at other

times a perfectly indifferent. In this conjuncture, it
is the most pointed interest of your Royal Highness
to make duty & obedience the fashion by your example.
And I repeat that in doing so you consult your own
happiness to the full as much as your public
situation. There is but one point that I will
add to this detail; already too long. But the particu-
lar position of the Duke of York requires me to say
it, lest your Royal Highness should think him
languid in supporting your wishes. Allow me, Sir,
to repeat that, after what the Duke expressed to
you, it never can be wished that he should intro-
duce the subject of the Bank to the King. But may
I be further to declare upon my Honor that I can
certainly be certain of the affection of the Duke of York towards her

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Royal Highness is wise & faithful in the highest degree, and I am certain there is no effort, which his situation would allow, that he would not make for your welfare & gratification. I do not say this, Sir, for light observation, but from the fullest conviction of my heart.

Now, Sir, that you have read this, I will not offer any apology for having presumed to address you in such a manner. If your feelings have not vindicated me, there is not any thing which I could advance that would be sufficient for my excuse. I only entreat your Royal Highness to judge for what you

know of me whether my forwarding could have dictated
this liberty. Indeed the worst course I apprehend
is that Your Royal Highness may say "what a cursed
"treason sermon this fellow has been preaching".

You may make that exclamation, Sir; but your
reflection will return to what I have been saying
and you will approve the zeal of him who
has the Honor to be with profound respect

Your Royal Highness's most obliged
& most faithful servant

With

H. R. H.

The Prince of Wales.