

Ld. Moura to H.R.H.

The Earl of Moura

to

The Prince of Wales

July 16. 1796

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Wilmington July 16th
1796

My surprise at the performance which your Royal Highness has done in the Honour to enclose to me, is indeed as great as you expected it would be: yet I am still more increased at the presumption than astonished at the indiscretion. I am sure it must be superfluous to say that the use which is made of my name is not only unauthorised but such as I could not

little from any circumstances or construction of
conversation to suppose. Had I been urged by any
thing that I saw in the public temper to sub-
mit a counsel to your Royal Highness, I should
certainly have felt it a point of indispensi-
-ble respect to have laid it before yourself
alone. The indirect manner & the nature of
the channel in which the present suggest-
-ion has been offered could never have been
recalled to my mind if what I owe to
Your Royal Highness. By tomorrow's Post
I will write strongly to Croft on the impro-

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of - plicity of the step, urging him at the same
any time to expiate it by employing redoubled
activity in his endeavours to expose the un-
favourable practice which has been carried on
against you. With regard to the point of
your being seen frequently in the company
of the Princess, it is a measure on which
no judgment but your own can decide. Be-
cause the policy of it must depend entirely
upon her conduct. Were there was ground
to flatter myself that the Princess was really
determined to cultivate the friendship of your

Royal Highness, every consideration made it
desirable for you to seek her society. The habit
- we would have made your home comfortable,
& the appearance would have operated ad-
-vantageously with the Public. Had the Prin-
-cess, however, been so unfortunately advised as
to seek to stand on a separate interest
from your Royal Highness, & to endeavour
to maintain it by exhibiting her character
in an affected opposition to yours, every pub-
-lic attention that you paid to her would con-
-firm to loose observation the superiority which

she claimed. When I left your Royal High-
ness, the tone of the Princess was unhappily
as to her death of her disposition. I therefore
certainly agreed with your Royal Highness
in opinion that any parade of attachment
to the Princess's company might have an
injurious effect; and that you were conse-
quently on principles of self defence obliged
to abstain from it. At the same time, Sir,
I think I left you persuaded that if the
Princess would honestly adopt the inclination

of living upon comfortable terms of confidence
with you, the footing would be so expedient
as to merit the being paid for by you with
every attention. Now Sir, I really persuade
myself that in what has lately happened
the Princess has not seen at all the mis-
chief of the path into which she has
been betrayed. Interested people have been
practising on her passions, and in that
fermentation of spirit she would naturally
feel mortified at not having carried all
her points as triumphantly as her advisers

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had made her believe would be the case. To
this disappointment, & not to any plan which
she was determined to pursue, I was inclined
to ascribe the unsatisfactory manner in which
she set your Royal Highness. What were
the cause, her conduct was necessary
to regulate your behavior. Should, however,
the Princess have the good sense & frankness
to throw herself into a state of fair &
just dependence upon you, I trust your
Royal Highness will see all the advantage
of cultivating that disposition in her by kind-

-wif or your part. Your own magnanimity would
be gratified in it. Your sense of duty to the
King, your affection towards the Queen, & your
attachment to your Brothers, would all repay
you in the reflection of your having terminated
a difference which had so much agitated
the family. The distinction which I have
taken is I hope clear. It must depend on
the conduct of the Princess. To your own ex-
cellent understanding & your own generous
heart the application of the principle must
be left. That the result may lead to every com-
fort is the truest wish of your Royal High-
ness's most obliged & respectfully affectionate brother

H. R. H. The Prince of Wales

Moira