

Ld. Maora to A.R.A. -

The Earl of Cornwall

to

Mr. Prince of Wales

Nov. 15. 1796

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Diary, Nov 15. 1796

Your Royal Highness knows that I remem-  
bered you on the important concerns of Masonry, ex-  
-cept upon the article of Blue Aprons. In the conferring  
such a favor, I hold it necessary always to have your  
Royal Highness's special authorisation. Mr Smith of  
Cant. Hay & Mr Downing were twice ago petitioned to  
be raised to the dignity of Provincial Grand-Masters,  
the first for Somersetshire, the other for Essex. Mr  
Downing was supported by the unanimous prayer  
of the Lodges. In Somersetshire, after Mr Smith had  
been recommended, some of the brethren expressed a wish  
in favor of Lord Coke; I fancy without knowing of

the other application. I believe, however, that Mr. Smith  
had some favourable intimation from your Royal Highness,  
 thro' Mr. Hesketh: In which case, tho' what you said might  
not amount to any thing like engagement, your Royal  
Highness would probably prefer giving some other  
Province to Lord Coke. your command, if you will  
signify them thro' Mr. Hesketh, will find me at Dorset  
-ton. I have come hither in my road, thinking it increas-  
-ed but to show that attention to business. The poor  
Duke of Beaufort accompanies me to Leicestershire for  
a fortnight's hunting: but we are to set out on Saturday.

Your Royal Highness will believe that it must  
have been in my wishes to have offered myself to your  
service, by writing, during this absence. But I real-  
-ly felt the liberty too great, unless something of business

Ld. Maura to H.R.H.

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occurred to excuse it. Your infinite goodness towards  
me makes me only more upon my guard not to trespass  
on your condescension. In truth, also, I feared that  
my letters from Ireland might be opened, for a con-  
-sistency to see what account I should give of the  
-will procedure of Administration there. I can now  
-aspire assure Your Royal Highness, that I admitted no  
-incon- opportunity in that Country to state in its true  
-con- point of view the affair which you imagined might  
-for be as much misrepresented there as here. So  
-today D<sup>r</sup> Charlemont & others were particularly  
-not attached to Your Royal Highness I gave exact  
-your details. I am happy, however, to say that if ac-  
-tual -reproach had been used to give any evil impression

in Ireland, it had failed of its effect. Long since  
I found that sentiment towards Your Royal Highness  
-ness that I could not wish, and I confidently say  
Sir, that the affection of the Country is warm towards  
you. That there are disloyal individuals there, is  
I fear too true: But the ~~comprehensive~~ imputations  
which Government has held it wise to throw out,  
especially against the North of Ireland, is not just-  
ified by any thing that came within my observation.  
Indeed I enter my protest decidedly against the  
measures which I saw pursued by Government  
during my stay, thinking that dangerous imitation  
is not necessarily provoked by them.

With the truest duty I remain Your  
Royal Highness's ever obliged &

most respectful servant

R. B. H.

The Prince of Wales

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