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Col. J. McMahon to H.P.A.

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Colonel J. McMahon
Feb 18. 1797

London, February 18th 1797.

I endeavour'd before I should have the Honor
of addressing Your Royal Highness, to see Lord Keith this
forenoon for the purpose of learning whether the Minister had
made as yet, any reply to Your Royal Highness's most
gracious & patriotic Declaration regarding Ireland, but I
was not able to find either His Lordship, nor Mr. Ogilvie.

I have reason for believing, & humbly stating to
you, Sir, that the Determination of the Cabinet is formed, & that
a Policy perfectly opposite to Your Royal Highness's salutary Ad-
vice & Benevolent wishes towards that Country, is finally rested
upon, & that in consequence of the Representations of

Lord Clare,

Mr. Pittam; Coercion & not Conciliation, is to be "The Order
of the Day." I will not presume to make any Comment upon
this seemingly ill-fated determination, to Your Royal Highness,
but by it of course, your Generous Proposition, Sir, must fail of
its operation. Yet in spite of Ministers, must live for ever deeply
engraved with Love & Gratitude in the Heart of every Being in
that Kingdom.

Your Royal Highness will scarcely
conceive what an Effect the idea of your Presence, Sir, in
Ireland has occasioned; for the late Letters to all ranks &
individuals, teem with joy & enthusiasm at the very notion
of it: I have one, Sir, that came Yesterday from Mr. Atkinson
(who is,

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The Judge Advocate of Ireland, (a strong Government Man there) saying that Dublin is actually in an uproar & flame of Delight in the Expectation of it. How the Disappointment will be appeased is difficult to comprehend, Sir. & Mr. Pitt will I trust be made to answer for it.

This instant, & while in the Act of writing to Your Royal Highness, Mr. Ogilvie has called upon me & desires that I should have the Honor of informing you, Sir, that Lord Keith is appointed to meet Mr. Pitt & Mr. Dundas at Wimbledon to Morrow, on the subject of Your Royal Highness's Manifesto.

I most humbly, Sir, beg permission to observe that the Ministers have been completely staggered by the delivery of this Document, & it has most Confidentially been

imparted to me (by a quarter your Royal Highness can
design readily to guess) that they would have given any con-
sideration it had been kept back, or rather never received

Mr. Ogilvie the day after he was honoured
with your Royal Highness's Commands, put into Lord Hill's
hands the Precedents, Sir, you were pleased to order.

A Report of Ministerial Aspect prevailed
Sir, two days ago, that the D. of Y. & P. E. were in contem-
pt for Ireland; but, yesterday & this day, Sir, it has
subsided, & I believe it to be groundless.

Everything is perfectly quiet & most highly
satisfactory. Lord Moira will be in Town on Tuesday
to meet your Royal Highness's Pleasure.

I have the Honor to be, with the most
exalted Respect & Duty, Sir, your Royal Highness's
Most Affectionate & Devoted Servant to Eternity
John M. Norton

His R. H.
The Prince of Wales