

Ed. Moura to H. R. H.

The Earl of Moura

to

The Prince of Wales

July 26th 1797

39390 - 1

July 26th 1797

I cannot set out for Ireland
without begging permission to return once again
to the acknowledged power to which I have so often
had occasion to repeat, for Your Royal High-
ness's unresisting goodness to me. My sister,
with a just sense of your condescension, has
informed me of the gratifying terms in which
Your Royal Highness had the kindness to
speak of me to her. I will venture to say that
I reserve those flattering testimonies of your

3
favourable opinion, as far as adequate feelings for
can entitle me to assume merit; tho' in other
respects Your Royal Highness exposes yourself
to such to the suspicion of partiality. (Chas
M^r Mahon tells me Your Royal Highness ex-
-posed an idea that it would be expedient
for us to make some conditional arrange-
-ment with M^r Fox; but the negotiation at
Lisbon should prove fruitless & the ministers
be thereby obliged to return. I think it did
not occur to you, Sir, that in such a case
the state of affairs would be widely different

Id. Moura to H. R. A.

39391

... for what it was at the moment when I liter-
... ed to the project of undertaking administra-
... tion. Had the treaty break off, it will be for
... this cause, that the French out of spleen to
... our ministers will have advanced, & insisted
... upon, inadmissible terms. From whatsoever mo-
... tion, however, those terms may be brought for-
... ward, the French will have asserted them to be
... grounded in justice: and, having once refused
... to depart from them, they must maintain them
... altho' the English Ministry should be changed.
... We should then have this option to make: a
... scandalous Peace, or a War both hopeless & ruinous.

Your Royal Highness will surely not charge
me with departing from any implied engagement,
should I in such a case humbly decline taking
any Ministerial Station. It would, indeed, be un-
necessary: for such an exigency must overcome
all the objections which an unjust prejudice
has established against Mr Fox; and, when he
came forward with such full powers as must
then be lodged in him, my cooperation as a Col-
league would be of no importance. I would, inde-
pendently give him a support which would have
more effect in public opinion.

With an attachment equally humble & affectu-
ous / your goodness has allowed the expression / I remain
Sir, Your Royal Highness's most obliged

H. R. H. The Prince of Wales

& most

[?respectful]

servant

Moira