

Col. J. McMahon to R.A.

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London March 23^d 1798

Sir

The Debate in the Lords last night was unusually attended, & continued until past three o'clock. The Duke of Bedford's motion was conveyed in a language & style that is highly spoken of, but, its fate such as Your Royal Highness would have naturally conjectured. Lord Grenville, as usual, Sir, was acrimonious & vindictive, but was well dress'd by Lord Lansdowne. The Dukes of York, Gloucester & Clarence were in their places, & divided against the motion. As the object of the motion was the Dismissal of Ministers, & Lord Moira had so recently been held forth as a Candidate for Office, he judg'd it indelicate to vote upon the question, & therefore did not attend the Debate, in which he acted by the Advice of Lord Thurlow. This, however, Sir, proved so far unfortunate, that Lord Downshire taking the

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advantage of his absence, gave a Contradiction to his
statement of the Affairs of Ireland, & which his Attendance
would have afforded the finest opportunity for retorting.
This has been unhappily lost, & the Opposition are displeas'd
with him for the extreme refinement which prevented his
giving them their support. I humbly conceive, Sir, it would
have been better he had attended; for, the consequence now
is, Sir, that He is just this instant gone down to the
House (having previously written to require Lord Downshire's
attendance) in order to adjust this difference; or to take
occasion for grounding a specific Motion. Lord Moira
did not mean to be in London after last Monday, having
left his Sister (Charlotte) at Donnington; but, upon my
acquainting him with Your Royal Highness's intention
of being in Town in a few days, he purposely remains
to

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pay this Duty to Your Royal Highness.

I enclose you, Sir, a letter received from B. D. this morning in which every thing is right & something (I trust will done) will appear in the H. to Morrow on the idea of Ireland. A Mail from the Continent at one to day brings advice that the French have defeated the Swiss in four actions. Bony is committed to Newgate for three Months.

I remain, Sir

With the profoundest Respect,

Your Royal Highness,

Dutiful Devoted Servant.

J. McMahon.

Col. Wm. Mahon
March 23^d 1790.