

Ld. Clare to H. R. H.

Apr. 2 1798

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Sir—

I have long resisted an impulse to address myself immediately to your Royal Highness on a Subject deeply interesting to me, from an apprehension that by so doing I might be considered as taking an unwarrantable liberty. I felt an anxious Desire to express my Dutiful acknowledgements for the many marks of favour with which I have been honoured by your Royal Highness, and for the gracious reception which you were pleased to give to a Message which The Marquis of Evesham had the goodness to deliver for me. But above all I felt an earnest and anxious Desire to relieve myself from the pressure of an imputation which His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales—

lay heavy upon me, that I had been so lost to
all Sense of Duty and Decorum as to mention
The Name of your Royal Highness with levity
and Disrespect in The House of Lords of Ireland.
your Royal Highness will I hope believe me
to speak the genuine sentiments of my heart,
when I assure you, that Abstracted from every
personal feeling for your Highness, I would cut
out my tongue, if it could give assistance to
a feeling of Disrespect, for a Member of The
Family of my King - If I know myself,
ingratitude is not among the Vices of my nature,
and surely I must be a Knave of ingratitude
if I were capable of treating your Highness with
Levity or Disrespect in Publick or in Private.
I never can forget the unwearied Attention with
which I have been honoured by your Royal
Highness from the first day when I had the
honour of being presented to you, and It will

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to the Pride of my Self. to prove to the World that
I feel most Sensibly the Duty by which I am
bound to you.

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What fell from me in The House of Lords Was State
Simply by Way of Answer to an Argument advan-
ced by Lord Moira in Debate, and If he had intro-
duced The name of His Majesty to Illustrate
his Argument, I should have Attached it in
the same Way - So far from any feeling of
my mind to treat that Part of the Subject
with levity, that I did to my Conviction before
I quitted it, express myself most unequivocally
in terms of Dutiful Affection for your Royal
Highness. And in these Expressions I beg of your
Highness to Believe that I stated the genuine
Effusions of my heart.

However I may Differ with Lord Moira in his
political System for Ireland, I have a high
respect for him as a man of Peace Honour, and I
am confident His Majesty has not a more loyal
Subject. And therefore I can safely Appeal to

him for my Acquittal of an imputation, which if
It was founded, ought to sink me in the opinion
of every loyal and honourable gentleman in both
Kingdoms. There is some reason to believe that
God's Justice has already done me Justice in this
Instance, and if I have permission from your
Royal Highness, I will thank him for it
once more. Let me repeat the Sentiments of
Dutiful Attachment which I feel for your
Royal Highness, and my earnest and anxious
hope that I stand acquitted of the Imputation
at which my nature shrinks. It always has
been the Pride of my life to love my Duty
and Loyalty to my King, and my sincere
and zealous Attachment to every Member of his
August House, and to none I hope more zealous
and sincerely than to your Royal Highness.
Dublin. I have the honour to be, Sir, with the
Apr 2^d 1748. most perfect Consideration and respect,
your Royal Highness's Dutiful and most humble Son