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Draft of an answer
to the letter of the
Earl of Clare.
April 26. 1798.

My Lord,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your
some time back
Lordship's letter ~~the receipt of which~~ which absence from
~~complexity of business~~
business prevented my sooner replying to, & I have
much pleasure
much satisfaction in saying that it has afforded
me extreme satisfaction, for notwithstanding Your
Lordship's communication thro' the M^r. of Abercorn,
& the unsolicited opinion given by Lord Maira, I was
concerned to find there seem'd to remain somewhat
obscure respecting your Lordship's speech in the
public mind, altho' no such impression could rest
on mine.

The solicitude with which Your
Lordship has explain'd the line you took upon that
occasion is not only handsome on the part of Your
Lordship, but most perfectly satisfactory to me,

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I do assure you, My Lord, that my mind does not
harbour the most distant notion that you could
mean to offer anything improper towards me upon
that, or any other occasion. With respect to
Lord Moira, I have acquainted him with the very
Gentlemanly testimony you have borne to his
Liberality, & as nothing can heal Political Differences
so much as perfect forgetfulness of past argument
I think this communication will serve as sufficient
complimentary to his Lordship.

I am

Yr
D^y

April 26th
1798