

Id. Moira to H. R. A.

The Earl of Moira

to

The Prince of Wales

24th June 1798

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Longington, June 24th

1798

(Lord Moira's Letter

Dated 24th June 1798)

The commands with which
Your Royal Highness honored me thro' Colonel
McMahon, to be at Norfolk House by two o'clock
yesterday, would have been obeyed had the matter
been within possibility. Having been absent
from home, I did not get the letter till yester-
-day, so that no speed could have brought me
to town in time for the meeting. I regret it
the less, because I apprehend that the difficulty

of bringing forward any useful motion would be
universally felt when the proposition came
to be discussed. When the Duke of Leinster agitated
the question, Lord Cornwallis had not yet set out.
Therefore the opinion of the House might have had
an influence on his instructions. At present,
the case ostensibly stands thus. Lord Camden has
been suddenly recalled: a measure which implies
a dissatisfaction at his management. The extent
of change proposed in the system could not wisely
be published by Ministers until they should have
received from Lord Cornwallis the result of his
observations on the spot; the crisis demanding attention

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to that which is immediately practicable as well as
to that which is in some general policy desir-
able. This plea on the part of Ministers would
overpower the merits of any question that might
be raised. And, if the motion directed itself towards
investigation of the misconduct of which the
troubles in Ireland have been induced, the known
proximity of the Prerogative would exhibit such
an enquiry as unpropitious. (I should be happy to
mention that, in case a motion should be
determined upon, Your Royal Highness intended
be the honor of consulting me if it would be

advisable for you, Sir, to come forward with an
avowal of your sentiments. The terms of the Instru-
-on could little affect the consideration. Therefore
I may now venture to submit what strikes me
upon the subject. Your Royal Highness must
be sensible that the temptation is great to
me to have weight & authority given by your con-
-currence to the opinion which I have sup-
-ported. I dare trust myself, however, that my
personal advantage of mine shall ever tempt
a counsel which you understand to demand of
me, for I am so aware of the possibility of such

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a bias that in any case where I can have an
interest I enjoy myself redoubled attention with
regard to what I am to say to your Royal
Highness. Repeated & repeated cool reflection
satisfies me that my whole view of his High-
ness's fair has been accurately just; but that all
the danger we have incurred has been un-
necessarily entailed by the impudent conceits
& tyrannic insolence of Administration in
that Country. With such a conviction, I must
think reprobation of their measures an honest
sentiment & one which it will become your

Royal Highness's heart to acknowledge. At the
 some time there is an imperious policy attached
 to your high station that must render you cautious
 in giving expression to even the most general
 notions. Feeling as I did, it was by duty to call
 upon Parliament to prevent a mischief that
 appeared of no ordinary magnitude, and if I could
 do no good by the representation, personal ob-
 -serving was all that I hazarded. Your Royal
 Highness's rank connects you so inseparably with
 the general interest that a misconstruction
 of any step of yours operates infinitely beyond.

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At the
led - nation may apply importantly to the subject be-
- for you. It has been the policy of those who con-
- ducted affairs in Ireland to involve the higher
all ranks & the Army in contact with the bulk of the
that nation. They have been successful in the attempt.
and have indeed inflamed the passions of those bo-
- dies to a degree of violence almost unexampled
in modern times. In that fever of animosity, the
with publication of Your Royal Highness's sentiments
could not be weighed by the Irish Parliament or the
Irish Army with any reference to those principles of hu-

humanity, equity, or even policy, which would be your
guides; because those folks have for the moment di-
-vested themselves of all reflection. They would perceive
nothing but your opposition to them, and they would
regard it with the extreme of intolerance. Were
you then concerned in a declaration of your opi-
-nions, you will believe Sir I would not suggest any
attention to consequences. But nothing peculiarly
calls upon your Royal Highness at his instance.
Therefore you can satisfactorily pursue the prudence
of suspending any public step till the turn of people
in this Country shall be more clearly seen.

With the most & most affectionate duty, I re-
-main ever, Sir, Your Royal Highness's most faithful
& most devoted servant
The Prince of Wales
Moira