

Col. J. McMahon to H. R. H.

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Chiltenham, August 12<sup>th</sup>  
1798

With the profoundest Deference, & sense of Duty,  
I humbly presume to offer Your Royal Highness my sincere  
& ardent Congratulations on the Return of a Day, which must  
ever be held dear by All who feel, like me, the most unbounded  
Love, Inviolable Attachment, & sworn Fidelity to The Prince of  
Wales: And as its Anniversary may I hope, & trust, render  
Joy for future Years without number, so from my Heart I  
pray that each return of this Day may bring to Your  
Royal Highness an increase of every Happiness, & of every  
Blessing under Heaven. This Place is extremely  
crowded, & all Ranks manifest a right & proper Disposition,  
Every

Preparation is making for To Morrow when this Day is to be celebrated here by a Review, Venison Feast, Ball, Fireworks Illuminations &c.

I have learn'd, Sir, from Kuskison, who has been some time here, that a Ld. is still in Town owing to Indisposition? Incoignita has address'd him twice since I arriv'd here, via Post Office Oxford, but from opinions I cautiously extract from H. I judgd it prudent not to write anything at least for the present, to a Certain Lady; besides, Sir, I was ignorant of Her Ladyships operations with her Lord respecting the Villa; I was anxious to be honour'd with Yours R. W. Pleasure.

I have just had, Sir, a very satisfactory letter from D. B. with whom every thing is perfectly right, & will certainly continue uninterruptedly so. I as usual has

been

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been preping & importunate for the Act ending the 1<sup>st</sup> inst<sup>o</sup>.  
2. Altho' those sort of people are actually Blood suckers, yet being  
useful, like Leeches they must be submitted to, & therefore in  
order to prevent his presuming to tease Your Royal Highness  
with any Application on that score, I have directed him to  
subdivide his Act. & draw upon me at 31, 41, & 61 days for  
its amount, which I would accept, & make payable at my  
Bankers. Cautioning him at the same time ag<sup>t</sup> ever suffering  
any future Dr<sup>s</sup> to amount to so much. Taylor writes me, Sir,  
that in Obedience to Your Royal Highness' wishes entirely, he had  
offer'd Angellica a secure situation of £400 a season at the  
Opera, as the majority of the Subscribers had decreed her Voice  
to be too feeble for so large a Theatre, & therefore compeld him to  
send into Italy for an Additional Singer. Her reply was,  
Sir, that she would not stay in England for one Shilling  
C<sup>ps</sup>

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than she had before which he says was £650. He further mentions that he asked the D. of Queensberry who interests himself respecting Mr. Angellotti, what salary she ought to have when he answered about £400. But I know he will be govern'd by your Royal Highness's Pleasure totally on that point.

Mrs Siddons is now playing here, Sir, Mrs Crouch & Kelly are engaged for next Week. George Pitt has just left this for Malvern Wells where he lives at the ordinary at 1/2 past two with literally Seventeen Old Maids.

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God Almighty Bless your Royal Highness & Dignity, Sir, to believe me,

Your ever Affectionate & Faithful Servant

John M. Mason

His Royal Highness  
The Prince of Wales.