

Ld. Mavor to Col. McKeane

39917-8

Wilmington July 20<sup>th</sup>  
1885

My Dear General

The letter to Mr

Edgington is very well written, & puts  
the question upon true & fair ground.

Some indulgence is due to Mr Edgington  
on the score of the parade which he makes  
of entering into the Princess's feelings on the  
subject; because he could not but make

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that profession in consistency with his former  
declarations, & in truth I am persuaded, by  
with his real sentiment. At the same  
time it would have been more nearly in  
the first instance to have said that  
the suit could not be carried. There is this  
disadvantage in the Prince's having received  
the application in such strong terms before  
any actual attempt of the Enemy furnished

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for new ground, that His Royal Highness might  
be thought engaged to some step on the  
refusal, and what that step should be  
is very difficult to decide. The unpopularity  
of the Prince is against the main part of  
functions of a Colonel in such a contest  
as is apprehended: but indeed there does seem  
nothing fitted to his rank between an appointment

-al command & a station which may mark  
 devotion to the country by a temporary reject-  
 -ion of the distinctions due to his birth. I  
 not offered to hold that pre-eminence in the  
 field which naturally appertains to the  
 Prince of Wales, I should rejoice to see  
 him in the ranks as a volunteer with  
 that Corps of Gentry which might be first  
 offered to the broader. Perhaps an intima-  
 -tion given <sup>[temperately]</sup> <sup>given</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>His</sup>

Royal Highness has such a procedure in  
contemplation may make others reflect  
upon their conduct towards him. For  
they will be little inclined to risk the  
consequences which would follow his  
being forced to take the step, still less  
would they relish the popularity likely  
to attach to him upon it. As for me,  
I should be at his side, & so many others would

be attracted by the same ardor of accompanying  
-ing him that the onset of that Specter  
would not be the least formidable which  
the Enemy would have to encounter. There  
would, in this hazardous stake of his Person be  
set example to the valor of his Countrymen,  
be a proud contrast with the cold policy  
which has so ruinously prevailed in other  
instances: had the general character of

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The Country would avenge him of the  
slight attempted to be put upon him.  
The notion is worth considering. Therefore  
submit it to the Prince with the assurance  
of my most affectionate & successful  
devotion.

Ever faithfully yours  
Mina

Charles de Mevius

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Lord Mowat

July 20. 1903.