

Ld. Moira to R.A.

The Earl of Moira

to

Mr. Prince of Wales

Nov. 11. 1805

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Edinburgh, Nov 11, 1805.

The letter with which your
Royal Highness has deigned to honor me
arrived safely this morning. Repetitions of
my own gratitude must be wearisome to you,
& I would rather that my conduct should
speak of sense of your precious kindness
than indulge myself in professions which
at best would fall far short of my feelings.

It is a new & a singular obligation, however, -
when Your Royal Highness can mention me -
in the same breath with our poor friend
Melson. In zeal & efforts I will ever justify
your opinion; in all else I cannot disguise
to myself my own insignificance. Melson
is indeed, a help incalculable in a crisis
which Your Royal Highness truly describes
as a most awful one. I am astonished to
find that people do not cast their eyes for-

Ld. Moira 6th R. H.

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ward sufficiently to measure what our situa-
-tion would be were the result of the present
war to leave us simply in the state in
which we began it. Balanced success will
not save us. If we fail in our surprise
expectations of reducing the preponderance
of France / & the destruction of a Fleet
does not effect it / we are ruined. War can-
-not be waged eternally; and we have experie-
-ced that we could not support a Peace in

which the weight of France was never Kingly
 mothering every one of our interests. The sentiment
 is, therefore, my seniors. Tho' all the pleasure
 there is the consolation that so here is too
 rough for those who have had to face
 it. If we are to fall, I will fall by the
 side of your Royal Highness; & at least
 "we'll die with Wormes on our back".

In a time so big with mischief, your serene
 forbearance & sagacious patience
 upon a subject to which we have referred
 which you have referred de

— give a praise which it is not flattery to
offer. I know well the difficulty of restrain-
— ing the mind on such an occasion: but
there are infinite interests involved in your
conduct, and be assured it is true dignity
(a dignity also ~~the~~ source of alternate reward)
to act as you are doing. I long anxiously
to see you. I would ask leave of absence
immediately were it not that I am desirous
just at this instant not to be in the way
of loose propositions. I know that besides

has been with you, so that you will readily
comprehend to what I allude;

As it appears to be arising from an important
& a trivial matter, nothing is indifferent which
marks the attachment of any part of the
Country to your Royal Highness. The Free
Masonry in Scotland has always been looked
upon as a more serious & a more public insti-
-tution than it is in England. I have managed
that is the solicitors request of the Craft.

for your Royal Highness to allow yourself
to be nominated Grand Master of the Scotch
Masons. I will entreat you to cause your
assent to be signified to me so as that
I may receive it before the 30th of this
Month. Let me by your Royal Highness
also to appoint the Earl of Dalhousie
your Grand Master / your being Grand Master.
It is not worth while to enter into details
of the reasons or nature of the arrangement.

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You can confide in all being settled by me
in such a manner as you would wish.

With a devotion commensurate to the
kindness with which you have been, I remain

Sir, ever

Your Royal Highness's
most affectionate

most dutiful servant

Horace

H. H. H.

The Prince of Wales