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to



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Lord Moira



Aug: 24th
1804

Edinburgh, August 24th
1804

(Pp. Charlotte)

My Dear General

I have just received
your letter informing me of the intended
interview between the King & Prince, &
enclosing a copy of the Chancellor's letter.
The expression in the latter, "in consequence"
"of what Lord Moira was authorized to express,"
evidently can allude to nothing but what
was contained in the Prince's letter to the

King: for those words we used to detail what
His Majesty instructed the Chancellor to say;
& to the King there was not any communication
-tion beyond what the Prince wrote. On
terms of His Royal Highness; letters were
precise as to Disclaiming any stipulation,
referring him upon His Majesty's affection
for any thing further than renewal of af-
-fectionate intercourse. It was with the

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to
General McMahon
Carlton House
W.P. London

that Chancellor that the illustrations took place
say; as to what ought to be the true sense of
union, such a reconciliation. I stated to him that
it would be a childish fancy if the King &
Prince were to be brought together merely
that they might shake hands, & then
slide for want of cultivation of that
advantage into as much distance as before.
I hinted out to him that the benefit to

be sought from this revision was the spirit
which the people of this country & the coun-
-ty which the Continental Powers would
naturally adopt from it; a consequence that
would be obnoxious if it were perceived for
it speedily would in such a case, that
the reconciliation was on the part of the
King merely ostensible to avoid a public
reproach for rejecting the Prince's dutiful
advances. I impressed on the Chancellor

that the Public would inevitably regard the
recumbent as hollow & deceitful if
they saw the Piece remaining in that
state of unworthy prostration in which
he had so unjustly been placed; explain-
ing that at a moment like the present
it could not be considered as simply an
inattention to leave the Piece of brass
in a condition in which it would have
been thought indecorous for the Dividend
& injurious to the Public that his request

brother should be suffered to remain. I expect
 -treated on the impossibility of its being re-
 -posed other than as a stipulation on the
 Prince that he shall, in case of the
 greatest danger that has ever menaced
 the realm, be prohibited from affording
 that example which the Constitution
 of England & the sense of the British
 People equally require him to hold forth:

had I argued that it would be infinitely
better that the King & Prince should
never meet than that such a system
should be resorted to. The Chancellor profess-
ed to feel as I did on these points;
giving me ground for the most lively
hope that the best exertions of his
colleagues in office would be used to
prevent the Prince's being brought forward

in a proper situation. We entered into detail
on that subject, because I thought it expedient
that he should see clearly there was
no embarrassment to the Service or to
existing engagements in any thing which
the Prince was had in view. I think the
Chancellor was sincere in his concurrence. I
persuade myself that others were so also.
At all events, the Prince has gained infinite
advantage by what is done: did should unhappily
rather not be conducted as liberally as we wish, a
little temper & forbearance on his part will give him
complete triumph. I say this not from a doubt of

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his own disposition but from apprehending that
there might be persons to whom this reconciliation
never was palatable, & that they might represent
the failure to the Prince in a way that should
bring his Honor to appear indignant. I can
not but believe that all will answer to his
just wish. Offer my most earnest & grateful
duty to him; & believe me ever

faithfully yours
A.

Colonel M^cMahon

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