

Ld. Maura to H.R.H.

38927 - 8

June 11th 5 o'clock

Sir

As I had not the good fortune
to find your Royal Highness at home today,
I beg leave in this manner to explain a
liberty which I took in the House last night
of alluding to a circumstance in which
your name was concerned. Lord Curzon very
properly expressed his wish that no proceed-
ing should be adopted which might leave
a painful impression on the mind of Lord
Kronze. And this was so truly the case of every

body present that the matter would have fallen to the ground without further observation, had it not been for a kind of defence rather unacceptably advanced & opened by not well considered. It was argued, that a Printer could not be prosecuted by the House for a publication of the nature in question. A position which appeared to me highly dangerous in its consequences, as its effect would be to invite all kind misrepresentations to lower Parliament in the eyes of the Public under the screen of that matter. I there-

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...fore resisted that opinion. In detailing
the mischiefs which might arise from af-
firming the supposition of such an impenitence
to be entertained abroad, I stated the com-
ments which I had myself heard from a
number of my neighbours in Leicester where
an animadversion on the supposed patronage of
your Royal Highness towards Martin Dale was
put into the mouth of Lord Kenyon of the bench.
papers. There are few people in London who
are not perfectly aware of the gross incorrectness
with which speeches are reported in the newspapers.
But all of us further feel that, even if particular

phrases be not distorted, it would be the height
of injustice to decide upon the design & prob
of an expression when stripped of the explanation
which the context of the language, or the tone &
manner of the speaker, gave to it when it
was uttered. But in parts at a distance
from the metropolis, all that appears in
a newspaper is supposed to be strictly ac-
-curate, and the impression practicable
on the public mind would be dangerous in
the extreme were we to establish an ex-
-cess under which any Democratic Editor might
feel himself secure in throwing out depreciating

imputations against the Royal Family or
against Parliament. Now, it seemed to me
that the true distinction was this. Could it be
imagined that a Judge on the bench had
showered in to any exceptional expression,
policy as well as conduct should ascribe it
to the incorrectness of an honest zeal in
the course of business too pressing to allow
time for weighing all he was about to say.
And the consequence would be that such
slips should never be noticed. But a record
& a circulation of loose extrajudicial con-

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-ness ought not to be sanctioned by any De-
-clarations in our House that such reports
of Speeches from the bench cannot be a
subject for our deliberation. The Editors of
Papers ought to be instructed that they must
use discretion in what they publish, & that
they are not to give to the world the incidental
& unweighed remarks which a Judge may
make collaterally, & which have no use as
to informing the Public on what grounds a Case
was determined. The justly respectable character
of Lord Kenyon gives important weight to any

thing which is stated to have fallen from his
 lips; and it is requisite in justice to him that
 language should not be sent forth as his with-
 -out his having had any opportunity of deciding
 whether it be what he would wish to say to
 the Public. Pardon me, Sir, for this inter-
 -view: but I thought you might hear that
 I had adverted to the particular which I
 have mentioned; and I thought it in con-
 -- but to explain in what point of view
 I had applied the circumstance.

It is with profound

respect that I am in, Sir,

Your loyal Highness
Last night & with
Admiral Lord

Prince

H. R. H.

The Prince of Wales.

The Earl of Arundel
to

The Prince of Wales

June 11th