

Duke of Northumberland  
11. Oct. 1811

18689

Alnwick Castle 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1811.

My Dear Colonel

I have to thank you, for your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup>. I do not think the last Quarterly Report of His Majesty's health holds out any flattering hopes of his speedy Recovery. Why not therefore call Parliament together; state fairly the King's Situation, & repeal, not at least, of the restraining clauses in the Regency Act? But this is too strict a line. There are in the Cabinet some, I fear, who adhere the crooked path, & half measures; by which, they have, & by which, if persisted in, they will continue to involve this Country daily into greater, & greater Difficulties.

I confess I was a good deal astonished, to learn that Lord W<sup>m</sup> Berkeley was returned to England. To his Lordship was entrusted all Power, both Diplomatic, & Military; together probably with such Instructions as it was thought necessary to give him for his Conduct, in this double Capacity. How then can his Lordship justify his leaving himself his Army, his Empire, & the Island, at such a Crisis; & trusting, to whoever happened to be the second in Command, the Decision of such Steps <sup>as may be</sup> necessary to be pursued, till his Return to Sicily, together with all the awfull Colonel Mac-Intosh —



responsibility attendant upon such a situation? Viewing  
it merely in a military light, one might almost be  
inclined to term it Desertion, allow me to own, that I was  
not a little surprised also, by your Colonel, at the first  
of the first of this month.

I think I can now venture to say, that I am  
recovering from my late violent attack, altho' as yet, I  
improve by very slow degrees. I feel, as I ought, the Interest  
the Report takes on this Subject, & trust my Conduct toward  
H: R: H: will ever be such, as will ~~yet~~ prove, I am not  
unworthy of the Particularity His Royal Highness is graciously  
pleas'd to honour me with.

The Duchess, & all my family, write with me in Compliments  
to you & Mr. Macnair, & believe me

Your ever faithfull Friend  
Northumberland