

Duke of Northumberland to Col.
McClelland

Confidential 18954 5
Albion Castle 14th Dec. 1871.

As your letter, by dear Colonel, which
I received last night, was official, I have
written you an answer in the same style
which may be shown to H: R: H:

I now have acknowledged the receipt of
your former letter of the 6th. You must have
been surprised at the Regent's return to
Geneva, after the determination he had taken
to remain some time longer at Baden, as
mentioned in your letter of the 6th. I don't
at all like these spasms, of which H: R: H:
complains, & shall be quite uneasy till I hear
they are removed. I should fear, they were
somewhat connected with gout, than which
he cannot have a more cruel disorder.
Every word, in the official letter, written by his
Order, shows the goodness of his heart, & he may
rest assured, I never shall forget them.

I am sorry the Queen & Princesses & other
ladies are to come on fish row. This will

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greatly increase Mr. Parnell's embarrass-
-ments. He must apply to Parliament on
this subject, & bringing forward such an
Additional Charge upon the Public, just
at this time, when in addition to the great
National Debt for the War, he will
have to provide a proper Establishment
for the Royal, will frighten him, & probably
make him very anxious to avoid these new
& unexpected Debts, if possible. All this
I should think very likely to bring on Disgrace
Disgraces, which if possible should be avoided
just as the Sepion is opening. Any charge
at that moment cannot fail to be charged
with great Inconvenience, not only to the
Nation, but to the Royal itself.
I take it for granted, all former Restrictions,
will now be taken off from the Royal, & that
we shall see the Blue, & Red, Ribbons, & grace

the shoulders of those who will do credit
to the two Orders, & that we shall not
again see the Red Ribbons bestowed on
an illegitimate Child, contrary to the express
Statutes of that Order. Some years ago I mentioned
to H: R: H: that I should solicit him to renew
to the power, if I was alive, to call
Lord Percy up to the House of Peers, by our
old tenor in favor of Baron Percy. I shall
be much flattered to find that H: R: H: still
retains this in his memory, when he has the
power. I trust H: R: H: will be sparing, at first,
in his creation of New Peers. This will give
him great Popularity, and he will be the better
able to create them afterwards, without any
animadversions. I hear that Lord Wellesley is
gaining much of H: R: H: confidence. I know very
little of that noble Marquis, & hope if this is true
that he may be a Person of great abilities. Honor
and sense of decision Character. Our foolish half

measures will I fear draw on a War with
America, which I know would have been
avoided had proper determined measures been
pursued. I know the Character & Disposition
of the Americans as well, or perhaps better
than any body, having had much to do with
them at the very first beginning of the Rebellion
& I am certain that measures will never
succeed where they are concerned. I therefore
has given your Report, has to send them
an Admiral, with 12 Sail of the Line, was the
only proper Dependence to have sent there
in the beginning, & I will answer for it every
thing would have been settled the moment
he appeared, without the least Danger of any
War. We all write in Compliments to you, &
Mr. Mac Nelson. Tomorrow 2. O'Connell being 19, will
pep for a Lieutenant. God however only knows
when he will get a 2^d Commission, Mr. Gorke being
very much disinclined to oblige me
Yours's most faithfully
North