

Duke of Northumberland to Col. McKahon

18974-5

Alnwick Castle 21<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1811

My dear Colonel

I should <sup>not</sup> have troubled <sup>you</sup> with this letter, merely to have thanked you for your's of the 16<sup>th</sup>, concerning the good News, of the Capture of Betancourt, in which no man can rejoice more than myself. But being seen in the News-paper that the Regent had not removed from York House into Carlton House at the time He intended, in consequence of H. K. H. being led a prisoner of the Spaniards in his arms, I shall not be easy till I hear from you, that either there was no foundation for the Paragraph, or that His Royal Highness's Spaniards have entirely left Him. I am sure, my dear Colonel, you will excuse the trouble I give you on this occasion, & attribute it to its true Cause, the Anxiety which my Attachment to the Regent must necessarily occasion me, whenever I hear that He is any way indisposed.

I am truly happy to learn that our Aldborough Friend is at least willing to fulfill that Agreement, by which, as I have always acted up to it, he indisputably ought to look upon himself as bound.

Colonel Mac-Kahon



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18975

add to all this, that the Breach of the Agreement just at this time, could not but be looked upon as a marked piece of disrespect to the Regent; who, when the card conveyed a seat from the Treasurer for his Secretary, was willing to permit her to accept of it, as a favour done her by M<sup>r</sup>. Crespien. Some people however are not only inclined to be unkind, but are ever blind to their own Interest.

I had yesterday a letter from the Prince of Brazil, filled with expressions of Kindness, similar to those with which I am honoured from our Regent. I find He still feels sore, at the same Compliment not being paid Him, which He paid to His Cousin, when He appointed Souza Erbeador; & which He understood had been promised M<sup>r</sup>. Carrington, who was then Secretary of State for the Foreign Department. He fully acquits H: R: H: the Regent, in consequence of his conviction of the great Difficulty in which H: R: H: was placed, after Don Wellesley had imposed Him of His Majesty's Detraction; but He by no means thinks He has been properly treated by the Administration, who he seems to imagine have deceived Him. Princes, of the second Order, take these kind of things more to heart than those, of the first Order; as they always suppose they are

intended, purposely to mark their Inferiority. H: R: H: however does not desire me to mention this to the Regent, & therefore I shall say nothing about it; only I can perceive He is a good deal hurt at it; & probably the more so, from what has happened with respect to M<sup>r</sup>. Wellesley's new Signify to the Regent in Spain.

I am sorry to hear that L<sup>d</sup>. W. & S<sup>r</sup>. W. C. B. do not all agree, & that they complain mutually of each other.

I will trouble you no longer, by being by Colonel, but to desire you to offer to H: R: H: the Compliments of the Season, together with my best wishes &c. & to add the same Compliments to yourself, and M<sup>r</sup>. Macpherson, from the Duke, Lord Percy, my Daughter, & myself. Adieu -

Your ever faithful Friend

Northumberland



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21<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1811