

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Keble

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Albion Castle 24th Dec^r 1811.

My Dear Colonel

I have had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 19th Inst, with its accompanying Papers. It is very plain that Mr. Perceval's great Object is to apply to Parliament, as little, & as late, as possible; & indeed it must be confessed that this Wish of his is a very natural one, for any Person placed in his Situation. I was extremely happy to find that H: R: H: has persisted in not giving up his Claim to the Annuit due to him for the Revenue of Cornwall during H: R: H: 's minority. This has always appeared to me an Object of such Importance, that it ought never to be lost sight of; and it is by no means disadvantageous to the Prince's Interest, that some Circumstance should bring it on the tapis, from time to time. If I may be allowed to judge, I confess it appears to me to be better, that the King, & Queen's, Establishments should both be included in one Sum, than that they should be separately apporportioned in the first Instance. Being made a Donative Amendment, it will be settled with less Discussion, & without any of Disagreement, & animosity, which it might possibly otherwise occasion. Indeed upon a Consideration of the whole Matter, I hope it is now so arranged, in the third Paper, Colonel Innes's letter —

Duke of Northumberland to Col. MacMahon

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that, with the Explanations which attend it, it will afford as general
satisfaction to all the Parties, as it is possible for a Transaction
of this Nature to do. It is certainly one of the most delicate Subjects
that could be offered to Mr. Perceval's Consideration, & I am glad
to perceive that He has been inclined, in such instances, to arrange
it agreeably to the Prince's Wishes. With respect to the exact time
when these Establishments should take place, it appears to me that
they ought rather to follow, than precede the Expiration of the
present Restrictions; because, should they precede, & Mr. P. should
think proper to continue the present Administration, those who
are desirous to find fault with every thing, may insinuate that
this Establishment so arranged, was the price which Ministers
paid for their Continuance in Office. Whereas, if these Arrangements
follow, it will be more the act of the Regent Himself, & can
never be liable to the Disconstruction above mentioned. I have no
doubt but Mr. Perceval will be of the contrary Opinion, for reasons
which must be obvious.

I have had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 21st & am happy
to have so good an account of the Regent's health, about which, you

The Paragraphs I saw in the Paper, I was very anxious till your letter
relieved me.

I beg, with the Compliments of the Season, you will present
my Duty to H. R. H.

The Duke, with the rest of my Family, desire their
Compliments to you, & Mr. MacMahon, to which I beg to add my
own being with the most sincere regard & esteem

By your Obedient

Your ever faithful Friend

Northumberland

Duke of Northumberland
24. Dec. 1811