

Duke of Northumberland & C. P. H.

A.A. No. 215.

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Alnwick Castle 8th January 1813.

Sir

I had the honour of receiving your Royal Highness's letter on Wednesday night, but as the Post does not leave this place upon a Thursday, it was not in my power, to have the honour of sending your Royal Highness an answer sooner.

Nothing, be assured, Sir, can flatter me so much, as there is nothing I value so highly, as the Continuance of your Royal Highness's good Opinion, and Esteem; and there are few things in this world, to which I would not rather submit, than endanger the loss of them.

But I must intreat your Royal Highness to consider there does not appear to be any Instance of an Officer being appointed from either the half pay, or from another Regiment, to any vacant Commission, in the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, of a Rank superior to that of a Cornet, during the whole time the Duke of Argyll - the Duke of Somerset - the Duke of Richmond (Grandfather to the present Duke) - Lord Lyoner - Lord Granby - Field

Marshal Conway - and the late Duke of Richmond, were Colonels of the Regiment. For the instance of Major Johnston, which has been quoted, took place between the Death of the Duke of Richmond, and the Appointment of Lord Seymour; and Captain Dashwood, was not appointed to the Regiment upon any Vacancy, but came into it, by an Exchange with Captain Asheton; which, tho' extremely unusual, took place, in consequence of the recommendation, of the Colonel of the Regiment.

The Appointment of the Honourable Captain Murray therefore, Sir, was such a marked Deviation from the usual Mode of Appointment to the Vacancies in the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, which had continued for the space of 78 years, during the time the above mentioned Officers were the Colonels of the Regiment, as could not fail appearing to the Army, and the Publick in general, a strong proof of your Royal Highness's Displeasure towards either the Regiment, or their Colonel. This, Sir, has naturally made a very deep Impression in the Minds of the Officers of the Corps, and has compelled me to be desirous of resigning my Commission as Colonel, and of quitting the Army. Especially, after finding that all my Efforts, and Representations, upon the Occasion, have proved wholly ineffectual. As the Cause therefore still exists, which originally induced

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Duke of Northumberland to H. R. H.

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me, Sir, to form this Resolution, your Royal Highness cannot be surprised at my renewing my Request, that you will be graciously pleased, in consequence of these Circumstances, to permit me to retire from the Command of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, and from the Service.

So whatever final Decision your Royal Highness may please to come upon this Subject, permit me, Sir, to assure you, that as my Attachment to your Royal Highness originally proceeded from the most pure, honourable, and disinterested, Motives, it will ever continue the same; and that I have the honour to be, with the most profound Respect

Sir

Your Royal Highness's

Most dutifully and devoted Servant

Northumberland.

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8 Jan 1815