

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Macbride

A.A. No. 254

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Alnwick Castle 19th March 1813.

Private

Let me assure you, once for all, my dear
Colonel, that the sense I feel of all your acts of kindness,
and friendship, must make every letter from you acceptable
wherever you have time, and inclination to write to me.
If it conveys to me only an account that you, & Mrs Macbride,
are enjoying good health, it cannot fail to be interesting
to me, because that will be intelligence, which I shall
rejoice to receive. Sincerely, & gratefully, are certainly
Plants which do not flourish much in a Court; but my
Education, & habits of life, were formed in a Camp, & not in
a Palace, and altho' I have been compelled to quit the
Profession, I never will quit the hard, and open Character
of a Soldier. I lament much, altho' I am by no means surpris'd
at, the account you give me in your letter. It was so easy
to foresee what has now happened, that at the very com-
mencement of this ill advised Business, I predicted to my
Obedient Son
Colonel Macbride

Friends I'm sorry that it would be attended by consequences
 of a much more serious Nature than I imagined were generally
 apprehended. All this might easily have been avoided thro'
 the Advice of sincere, honourable, and wise Friends, on
 either Part! On Her Royal Highness's Part nothing could be
 expected from such confidential Friends, as are said to
 be consulted by her. Who His Royal Highness's confidential
 Friends now are, I know not; probably the same whom
 H: R: H: has given his Confidence, and to whose Advice
 He has thought proper to accept his Measures, since the
 beginning of October last. How far their Advice has been
 in general Wise, or has tended to increase H: R: H: s
 private Happiness, or publick Dignity, & Popularity, it would
 very ill become me to be a Judge. Most devoutly do I wish
 they may be able to bring ^{H: R: H: s} thro' this Business, with Honour,
 Credit, & Dignity. Ministers are most sincerely to be pitied;
 who are obliged to bear quietly, & almost tacitly, the whole

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attack of the Prince's Party, as well as the Duke, & his op-
-lity, which the violence of Party has contrived to attach to
the Business, without doing to clear their own Characters
from the appearance of duplicity; one of the nearest Vices
of a truly low, and dishonourable mind. I feel myself most truly
happy, that the Difference between their Royal Highnesses,
was a Subject in which, as you well know, by Deer Colonel,
I never would enter, and which I ever avoided to have
any concern in, always perceiving that it would some day
or other come to a most serious Crisis; & that I could not
approve entirely of the Conduct on either side.

Not sincerely do I feel for the State of Imitation which
I am convinced this Business will occasion to the Regent, & for
the fatal Consequences which may ensue from it to the State.
It is my own feelings were very little considered on a late
occasion, yet I interest myself most zealously for whatever
affects those of His R: H: and most devoutly do I hope His R: H:
will call for, & attend to wise, cool, & well experienced Counsel
on this Business, before He finally decides on the measures he

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will pursue. I confess the Crisis is very critical, & delicate
which might in my opinion have been easily avoided.
I write the more freely to you, by dear liberty, for as
I have lost H. R. H.'s Favour, & Confidence, my Opinion
and Advice will not be required, nor indeed can they
be expected.

We all wish in Compliments & the best
Wishes to you & h^m hac de hoc. H. R. H.'s present
confidential Friends have brought an Old House
your ears; may you all get clear of it, before it
& crushes you. Adieu, & believe me

Your ever faithful Friend
Northumberland.

Order of the Northumberland
to the Hon^{ble} the
House of Commons
1713