

Wd. Erskine to Col. Beckwith

Nov. 15

My Dear Friend

21547-8

Having this moment received the very unexpected
Card of invitation (which I enclose ^{See over the page.}) and wishing to
send the proper answer which receiving it at
this distance I must do immediately, I beg you
will be so good with my humble & affectionate
duty to the Prince to ask his Royal Highness's command
as to which of the two answers which I send maybe
the fittest to be returned, or whether there be any
third more proper which H. B. H. may suggest.
Altho Cards of compliment do by no means
pledge to Veracity, yet an excuse from being
in the country may imply that but for
that impediment the invitation would have
been accepted. On the other hand a mere excuse
without any reason might be considered
as a breach of that decorum which I
wish as much as any man may be
perpetual in this country when subjects
address any member of the King's family.
It was that feeling which induced me as
I formerly explained to the Prince not
to refuse to make my bow to the
Prince ~~at~~ when I met her O. H. by
accident at ^{Lady} Sallours when she
sent Sir W. Scott to desire I might
be presented to H. B. H. as I passed
by with many others so introduced.
Altho many persons much devoted to the
Prince have acted for themselves upon
such occasions, yet as every body must

hd. E

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be aware that I upon such an occasion
would do precisely that which the Prince
would wish (I may say his earliest and
most affectionate friend & servant to do
I think it the more fit to be sure
to be on the right -

Will you be so good therefore to send, one of
the two answers to my Honour in
Grosvenor Street enclosed to William
Southam Esq Esquire's 2 upper
gross sheet she will carry it to
Kensington immediately, or suggest
to me by return of post any
other which had better be sent -

Nov: 15th

Yours affectionately
Edmund

Directed to

Holmbush Lodge
near Crawley Sussex -

P.S.

I return to Town on Sunday.

I must send one in another
Cover as it would otherwise
be above weight.

hd. Erskine to Col. Mackenzie

Nov. 15

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Card

Lady C. Lindsay is commended by H. B. H.
The Princess of Wales to invite Lord Erskine
to dinner at Kensington Palace, Sunday
the 19th of Nov at seven o'clock.

