

Duke of Northumberland to R.P.H.

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39948-9

31. Aug. 1803.

Albion Castle 31st Aug. 1803

Dear Sir

Altho' it is long since I received your letter of the 19th. I am certain you will excuse my not acknowledging the receipt of it sooner, when I write to you the melancholy cause of my silence. My youngest Daughter, Mary, a charming girl of twelve years old, was taken ill three days after our arrival here, & being suffered for fourteen days under a most violent illness, expired on Saturday last.

I am much obliged to you for the Papers (numbered 8 & 9) & lament extremely things being taken this way. How much better would it have been, to have applied in the first Instance, where I have always advised the first application to be made. The answer would have been plain, & tho' an unpleasant one, a tedious correspondence, which only serves to irritate both Parties, would have been avoided. I confess I am much

surprized at the Id's answer. For the P. to have an opportunity
afforded him of distinguishing himself at the head of his Regiment
(perhaps under the Command of his younger Brothers) was not what
I should have expected to have come from that Quarter. I own
I expected a Refusal; but none in Character. As it is H: K: H:
can do nothing but submit in Silence to the Orders he has
received; any further Steps in the present Temper of things, would
not only be unbecoming his Dignity, but I fear unavailing.
The answer must have been given in a Manner of Imposition
& Displeasure, which if kept up, can only tend to the worst of
Consequences, but if left alone must die away of itself, & then
as Death but things will cure right of themselves, if time is
left for proper Reflection. At all events, perfect Silence,
& Moderation, is the only advisable Course to be pursued at
this hour. At best this is my Opinion; which I fear however
will not be followed. The Word Command which H: K: H:

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which asks for, is what it is very easy for Him to obtain, without
mentioning it; & I fear it is this word that causes an Alarm,
which is the foundation of the Refusal that is given H: R: H: .
It is now too late to regret what I remember saying to you, that
my Advice was, to have seen the Id, & to have said, that as H: R: H:
would perhaps herself put herself at the Head of his Regular
Forces, with the Lt. of York under her, as Commander in Chief, the
Particular Description under H: R: H: to place herself at the
Head of the Garrison, Volunteers, & other Armed Forces of the County,
& to endeavour to rally them round the Royal Standard in
support of His Majesty, without interfering with those to whom H:
thought proper to confide His Regular Forces.

As I am ignorant where you are at present, I shall direct
this to Carlton House. When you see, or write to the D- pray
do not forget to present my Duty, & assure Her of my attachment
Advice & believe me
Depend upon it the less the
particulars of the Correspondence
is made public, the better. If any thing
Dear most sincerely Yours
Northumberland,
more over

is said of it, it should be in several parts; that the P^r-officer
his services, & to take a command; but that it was thought
proper to confine these services solely to the command of his
Regiment of Light Dragoons, as a simple Colonel.

Were left here in a curious state of defence. In this
County, only the Wykesey & Westwood, Reg^t of Militia, with
two troops of the 5th Dragoon Guards. The first of these Corps
are not above 200 men, & are attached to the Wiltshire, & the Westwood [lands]
are not more than 300. Four thousand volunteers, of which 3000 are
without arms, & not a single armed vessel on our Coast. In the
County of Dorset to support these, the Northth Reg^t of Militia
about 900 effective men, with the 2^d Battalion of the 68th Reg^t was
raising for the sea crowded for the Army of Reserve. So therefore
is trusted the defence of Haverhill - the Collines - &c. I regret
indeed to see that the fortified town of Bournemouth, which would serve
as a Depot in which the Army might secure his stores &c. & keep
up a communication with his own Country, is left with a Garrison
of not more than 30 Invalids !!! This is nearly as bad as in 1778 when