

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Kebleton

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Albion Castle Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>  
1803.

Dear Sir

I have to thank you for your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> of last month with the copy of the correspondence between the Prince, & the Commanding in Chief. I confess I could wish that the Prince would leave this Business where it is, as far as any further correspondence on the subject. It cannot possibly do any good. His Highness, if he stops now, will indisputably have the Nation with him, & the step he talks of advancement in the Army, & the more he says in public that a Station is not assigned Him, suitable to His Birth, & the Rank He holds in the Country, in a Crisis like the present, when every thing dear to her is at stake, the more in my humble opinion He will act properly, and becoming his Dignity.

I had the pleasure of seeing Lord Howe, & Mr. W. their Lordships, as they passed in their way to Scotland. Having travelled all the preceding day the Lord Howe was too sleepy to talk much, & forgot to tell me many things

which he mentioned the next morning to Mr Grey, who  
 afterwards communicated them to me, not without some  
 surprise that Lord Howe has thought to tell me of them.  
 I cannot say I envy Lord Howe his command. He has  
 a whole Kingdom & an extended Coast to defend, & if  
 by experience of forty five years service, & three wars,  
 in which I have been pretty actively engaged, can write  
 me to form a military opinion, His Lordship's Force, consi-  
 dering of what strength it is composed is not adequate  
 to the undertaking. This I fear is the case every where  
 at a distance from the Capital; here for example Lord  
 Hood's 5<sup>th</sup> Army Detachment has fifteen thousand men for the  
 security & defence of the Northern District, but what it  
 is considered that 9,000 of these consist of Sea Breeches  
 (Distances) dispersed, along a Coast of an hundred miles, in  
 little boats of 17 or 20 in each, armed only with Pikes, &  
 of Volunteers who have not been armed above three  
 weeks, & were not completely armed & accounted even now  
 & that all the remainder ~~is~~ is composed of ~~the~~ Corps formed  
 from the men ballotted for the Army of Reserve, or Supplementary

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Infantry, half armed, half clothed, half accoutred, & who hardly know how to load their Firelocks, except 1,000 of Militia about 150 Artillery, & two troops of the 5<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> of Dragoon Guards (the only efficient Cavalry that I<sup>m</sup> have left in his District) & that not one Corps except these two last ever get saw the face of an Enemy, I think you will agree with me that such a Force of fifteen thousand Men cannot be very formidable against such troops as the French will bring over. But we are 300 odd Miles from the Capital.

I should not be in the least surprised if the Fear for carrying off the Prince had really been proved. The Execution of it would certainly be very easy for an enterprising Partisan. I trust however effectual Steps have now been taken to prevent the possibility of it.

It has been reported, in a letter I received from Town, and further confirmed to me by Mr. Grey, that Mr. Addison has had barely enough to look up to one of the two Justices which are now vacant. It was bid enough when Mr. D. chose to decorate the Son of a Country Attorney with that Order, but to give it to the Son of a Poor Doctor, whose Grandfather too was, as I have been assured, a common Day Labourer, & would be so great Compliment to those Noble Personages

5200

whose ancestors & themselves have thought it an Honour  
to belong to the Order; not to mention the Sovereigns &  
Princes both of the Royal Blood, & foreigners, who were  
proud of being Knights of the Garter. But it has been  
too much the fashion for some years to debase every thing  
in this Country, & then cry out against! Levelling Principles  
They let us know whether there is the smallest foundation  
for this Report, for I can't believe it is true  
at all events, the King will never consent to it.

Adieu My Dear Colonel; The Duke writes with  
me in compliments to you & he has had a letter from  
you now? If at Brighton present my respects  
Respects to H: K: H: I am Dear Sir

Your's most sincerely  
Northumberland.