

Duke of Northumberland to Col. J. McMahon
17. Feb 1804

40087

Alnwick Castle 17th Feb^{ry} 1804.

My Dear General

Your two letters of the 14th & 15th have reached me safely. I cannot say that the news contained in them was totally unexpected by me, for what I had observed previously in the Papers.

My letter of the 14th will have informed you that I purpose leaving this place on the 22^d & after spending two or three days in the neighbourhood of Newcastle in visits, I shall proceed directly to London.

I cannot suppose H: K: H: can have the least wish to have my opinion or advice on the present occasion, as H: K: H: has very persons whom he honours with his confidence in these very critical situations, whose abilities & advice are far superior to mine. But if my presence in town, sooner than I at present intend, is desired, or that I can be in any way useful, I shall with pleasure obey any commands of H: K: H: communicated thro' you. My letter wrote between Sunday the 18th & Monday

the 25th will come to my hand, if directed to me at the Post Office
Newcastle upon Tyne. I would like let the D: be cautious when
he consults, or into what Promises he is drawn by Mr. Pitt's
Let him not give himself up too much into the hands of any one
Individual, till he has a little time to look about him. Mr. Fox
& the Grenvilles will not spare to support him with Pitt. With
this to a certain degree. Because of the great Honor, & Credit join
there. At this season it is more dangerous than ever. My H: will
be prevailed upon to act with great Caution, & to wait patiently to
take a proper Advantage of Events as they arise; & I trust that
~~above~~ all things he will rather appear to hang back, than
come forward too readily just at this critical season. If the
News I told you about the Will is true, it is of the greatest
moment on this present Occasion. Before this I hope the Prince is
settled on the Subject, one way or other, by L. Charles.
Yours in great haste to serve the Post
Northumberland.