

Route of Northumberland to Col. Keekahou -

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Albion Castle 5th August 1802.

My Dear Colonel

I was very sorry to find from your letter of the 4th, that H: K: H: had not received any further intimation on the subject of the intended meeting, especially as I perceived some paragraphs lately in the Sun, which gave me hopes that some official communication had been made to the Prince on this subject.

I cannot say that I feel much hurt at the little difference which has arisen between the H: & the other Person you mention. I take it for granted however that every thing will soon be forgot, & forgiven. That Person is such a favourite that a very little will set every thing right again. This difference may make the H: more inclined to a reconciliation with the Prince.

I had the pleasure of seeing Lord Howe & Lady Seaton for about an hour, in their way to Edinburgh. He was in such a hurry to get to his journey's end, that he would not stop here, but went on to Belford that night. In the little conversation I had with him, he

was full of Inconveniences on the Conduct of his new friend Lord
Belville & Mr. Pitt, who he said had behaved in the fairest, &
hardest manner possible towards him, & who he was sure were
very much inclined towards the Prince. Great Judicious Opinions
are gone. I must however the P. is too much upon his guard against
these Persons, to be easily cajoled by fair words. He cannot I.O.
think easily forget the Insults he has formerly received from them,
& it is by their Actions he must learn to judge of their kind, or
a Person in his elevated Situation, would soon become the Dupe
of Wicked, & Designing Men, to his own Unhappiness, & the Ruin
of his Country. The Difficulties these Persons meet in their Nego-
-tations with foreign Powers, on account of the precarious State of
the King's Health, & the Disapprobation which it is supposed the
Prince entertains of them, & their Measures, are the only causes of
their present Desire to appear tolerably well at Court with H.H.H.
and upon this Appearance entirely depends the possibility of their being
in any way successfull in the Measures they have adopted with respect

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to the Continent. This I know to be the case, from Letters I have lately received from Petersburg, Vienna, Madrid, & Lisbon. It had indeed their Estates as well likewise from their employing a Person as Minister, who, himself wholly absorbed in Books, trusts the Management of Affairs in the hands of a Woman, the most designing & crafty that ever existed, & who is much attached to the French Interest. I have known her a considerable time, & she was banished from her own Country as a most dangerous Person. In such hands has our Minister at Madrid chosen to place himself, & the Affairs of this Country, which being that to my knowledge the Prince of Peace continued her respecting equitableness, & forewarned her, that if he allowed her to meddle in Affairs, she would soon cause a Breach between the two Courts, besides giving Intelligence to France of every transaction. But indeed the Persons our Ministers have for some time been employed as Ministers at foreign Courts, are most of them unfit for the Employment, & few, if any, have any weight, or Influence, at the Courts to which they are sent. Of this indeed I am able to form a pretty good Judgment; for having in the course of my Military Life (now upwards of 45 years) served with the Troops of most of the Powers in Europe, I have kept up a Correspondence

with some Irish, or French, with whom such service has made me acquainted; & tho' a Drapach is no Drapach in his own Country, I have not infrequently the honour of being consulted on military Emergencies & Plans by several foreign Princes, thro' those of Correspondents. This has in some Degree indemnified me for the incident however in which Mr Pitt unhappily deprived me from the British Service in the year 1786, when he recommended to H: M: to reduce the Horse Guards & Horse Grenadiers, & immediately assigned all the Colonels of these Corps (except myself) at the head of other Regiments.

Adieu my Dear Colonel; lay me at the feet of H: M: assure him of my most inviolable Attachment, & believe me

Dear most faithfully yours
Northumberland

5. May. 1784
of Northumberland