

Duke of Northumberland to H.R.H.

Enclosure

40528-9

Alnwick Castle 6th February 1806.

Sir

As I understand from a private friend that the Project, delivered in by Lord Grenville, has been accepted by His Majesty, and that the Administration of the Affairs of this Country is to be conducted by his Lordship & the^m Lord, I think it a Duty incumbent on me, in consequence of that Partiality with which your Royal Highness has been pleased to honour me, clearly to explain the very disagreeable Situation in which I am placed, by their total Silence, ever since the Commencement of these Transactions.

Your Royal Highness very well knows, that I have constantly, for seventeen Years, opposed Lord Grenville, and his friends, from a Conviction that the Measures they pursued, were founded on Principles inimical to the Constitution; as indeed they proved to be, by the introduction of two Acts, relating against the Habeas Corpus, & the Bill of Rights, as well as by the annual Suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act.

Thus situated, Sir, without the least Explanation, or

Assurance given me, that such Measures, and such Principles are
totally abandoned by the noble Lord, and his friends, can they, or
can any man expect, that I shall blindly give my Support to
an Administration, of which this noble Lord & his friends form so
considerable a part, merely because they chuse to form such
a Coalition. Such blind Confidence, and implicit Obedience, may,
for aught I know, be usual with those, who from Dislike, or
inordinate Ambition, are eager to obtain Place, and Emolument,
on any terms; but to a Person of my elevated Situation, & prospects,
your Royal Highness will allow, such an Idea is nearly bordering
upon an Insult.

That Duty therefore, Sir, which I owe to myself, and to my
Country, compels me, however reluctantly, to withhold my Confidence,
and Support, from an Administration so formed, until some Means
are afforded me to form a Judgement of the general Principles
upon which they intend to conduct the Affairs of this Country.

Truly happy shall I be, if they should appear to me to be so
proper, and Constitutional, as to enable me to give them

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my firm support, having reason to believe that the formation
of this new Administration is not wholly displeasing to your
Royal Highness

I have the honour to be, with the most sincere attachment

Sir

Your Royal Highness's

Most Devoted Servant

Northumberland.

D. of Northumberland

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Mr Duke of

Northumberland

6th July 1806