

Duke of Northumberland to Col. McClellan

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Albion Castle, 6<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>, 1806.

My Dear Colonel

It is not possible to say what relief your kind letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> afforded to my mind, by the strong assurances it gave me of the Prince being in perfect health. I need not say to you, how attached I am to H: R: H:, not only by those ties of duty which I owe to the Prince who is to succeed to the throne of these Kingdoms, but also by those still stronger ties of affection, & gratitude, for all his kind resp<sup>s</sup>, & particular attention, with which he is pleased most graciously to anticipate every wish. I would till I received this letter of yours, that I could not help being extremely uneasy on his account, as almost every letter I received from London, mentioned his being in a very declining state of health.

I am astonished at what you tell me relative to the very little attention paid to the wishes of H: R: H: by the present Cabinet. After this I must not complain of their inattention to me. Colonel Maclellan —



Why nothing has been done for Lord Mansfield, I can do a deep  
account, for exclusive of the powerful support he has in the House,  
good rep, his own situation in the Peerage besides considerable  
debt in the case of his Possion, entitles him to some attention,  
& certainly a better salary than 2500 a year.

I hear from all Quarters that the Fox Party are fast breaking  
to pieces, & that as the Lieutenants cannot agree amongst themselves,  
who is to be the successor to Mr. Fox, & Commander in Chief, that  
they are now endeavouring to make the best terms they can for  
themselves. Nay that even L. St. himself, has closely connected  
himself with Lord Grenville, as for me, they have not done in the  
honour of favouring me with the least notice since Mr. Fox's Death,  
and as I think this is a fair & open avowal, that they want not  
my Epistola, I look upon all Connection with them as totally  
dissolved, by their total Silence, & Inattention. Support that is  
wished for, & worth being, is certainly worth being asked for; and as  
I want nothing from them, & they seem to want nothing from me, I must



Duke of Northumberland to Col. M'Kee

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concern their Conduct towards me is intended as a delicate hint  
that they are desirous the Correction should cease between us.

I suppose you are all preparing for the Opening of the Campaign  
at St. Stephens, certainly, in such times as these (for they are the  
most critical I ever remember) are more inclined to strengthen the  
tender of His Majesty's Government by giving them my general  
Support, than to take the other side; but then they such promise  
to do so, for I am resolved, with Lord Percy coming forward into the  
World, not to suffer either him or myself to be looked upon as  
mere Cyphers in the State, as to particular Questions which may  
arise I fear we may have some difference of Opinion. The unwise  
Catholic Exemption, & the domineering Visits of the Excessives  
to private Houses, I always will oppose, & as to all arbitrary  
Measures, it would be an absolute Reflection to my Understanding  
if I did not think myself capable of judging of their propriety  
or impropriety, as any Man in this Kingdom, considering I am  
about at the head of the List of General Officers, with the



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Experience of upwards of 49 years, as a Compeined Officer.  
Thro experience in military affairs is not held in such Esteem  
by the present Cebriety, but they need give no cause to doubt  
the Propriety of that Opinion. I have now served upwards of 49  
years, in three Wars, & if I am ignorant on military Subjects,  
I must be a great blockhead indeed. But I will first  
this, by desiring you to lay such the feet of H: R: H:  
accept yourself of the best Compliments of myself, the Duke of  
Dorset, & the best of my Family. We desire you will  
the same for us to be <sup>our</sup> best & best Advice & believe us

Ever most faithfully yours  
Northumberland.

As you say in your letter, that Lord Devon is to confer  
with Lord H: about Lord Strangford, I wish for words what he  
knows what L: H: says for himself on the Occasion, for I am  
I am curious to know the result of their Conference. I shall not  
have this <sup>place</sup> till towards the beginning of next year -