

Duke of Northumberland to Col. McKean

41006 -7

Alnwick Castle 28th Nov^r 1807.

My Dear Colonel

I am very happy to find from your letter of the 22. that the Peers were acceptable to the Prince. They are generally very fine of their sort; but as they bear carriage very ill, I am always afraid of their being bruised & spoilt. Hope this is not the case on the present occasion.

I am sorry our friend S^r John should be disappointed at the appointment of Lord Pembroke to the Government of Jersey. It was however, notwithstanding all his justly acquired Popularity, not likely that so very good a Government should be given him in the first Instance. Indeed I think it should have been given to some very old General, at the Head of the List, & who had distinguished herself upon Service; Gibraltar, Jersey, Jersey, Plymouth, & Portsmouth, were always thus bestowed formerly.

I am afraid the D: of Portland is to quit, & that the following changes are to take place in consequence. Lord Clifden to succeed the D: of Portland - Lord Helgrew to succeed L. Clifden

1781. Vol. 2. No. 100
1804

Mr. Carrington to succeed Lord Helgoland & Lord Wellerby to
succeed Mr. Carrington. They do let us know whether there is
any truth in this arrangement? What a dreadful Dick this
is of the King of Spain's against his son, the Prince of Asturias
Guarantees never will give over till by Conquest or Execution,
he has destroyed all the Royal Depositories of Europe.
I hear the Russian Fleet has got into the Bosphorus; if so I
fear the Portuguese Fleet is lost to us, & surely twelve
Sails of the Line, with some of the private King's ships in Europe, would
well worth thinking about, & should not have been lost to this
Country. I am certain there was full time enough to have
prevented them from falling into the hands of Napoleon.
Perhaps however the Ministers were revolving themselves at their
Country houses, & imagined it would be time enough to think
of the Portuguese Fleet at their leisure, when they should think
proper to attend their duty again. These delays will not do
if they seem to see this Country from Guereperete's Mouth.

Duke of Northumberland to Col. McCMahon

41007

In Military Measures, prompt Decision, & still more prompt Execution
is every thing. Is it not a very unusual thing for any Officer to
get a Regiment of Dragoon Guards at once? I always thought they were raised
from some other Regiment. But we see in Military Matters to set all former
Rules & Regulations aside, & send out Colonels, with the Drums of King's
with Comands, which formerly would have been thought proper Comands
for 2^d Generals. Whether the Adoption of this new System tends to the
Honour of our Arms, or the Advantage of the Country, I leave you to judge.
I had secured it strongly to our Ministers to have their Thoughts a little
to Ireland, & have their Plan for its Defence well arranged, with their
General Officers & Troops selected, & ready to carry this Plan into Execution
at a moments warning. Myself has made great Preparations for
the Invasion of that Island, & every thing with her is ready for the
Event. His Preparations however are upon so extensive a Plan, that
I do not think he can execute it, without the failure of some
Part of it. It is hardly possible to combine an Attack upon so many Points
with Success. I had however secured it to Ministers to consult &
employ their best & most experienced Officers upon the Head of Defence

the most proper for that Country, & not to take Whitelock, & Crisp
for their Counsellors any more on such occasions they should ask
the Opinion of those General Officers, who, as the French say, "ont
blesmes sans l'honneur." That Newcastle make the attempt,
it is not a flourishing speech in Parliament, nor influence
in the House of Commons, that will defeat it. Military Experience
& Military Gallies alone, need be called upon to do the Business
Advised by your Colonel; except the Compliments & best wishes
of myself & all at the Castle, & believe me

Ever most sincerely yours

Northumberland

you will please to offer my Dutiful respects to H: H: H:
present my Respects in Silver Street,

Duke of Northumberland
20. Nov: 1707