

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Hekeham

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Alnwick Castle 18th Dec^r 1807.

My Dear Colonel

I should not have expected to have acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 2. 13 so long, but not an attack of my rheumatic joint seized my right hand, & compelled me to desist from writing for some days. It is however now going off, & I think that I shall be well enough to begin my journey to London about the time I always proposed, the first or second week in January.

It is an old saying, "when things are at the worst, they mend themselves". If this is true I think the aspect of our affairs must now mend of itself, for I really believe they are in a better situation, as it is almost probable they should be.

I wish I had had to hear from Lord Sturgeson. Lord Sturgeson has not been able to write me a single line these two months.
Colonel Hekeham —

March 18. 1801

1801

Such will depend upon our seeing possession of the Portuguese
 sheet. It is a very fine one, and too fine to be allowed to
 fall into Bueraparte's hands, & yet I fear the want of exertion
 on our part will present her with it. Where are all these
 Expeditions going to? Why are we always engaging our forces
 in little foolish Expeditions, which can tend to no possible good
 instead of uniting all these Bodies together, & attempting
 something great & effectual. Experience - Energy - Wisdom &
 Perseverance, are now alone what can save us, & it does
 not appear to me, that these Qualifications are eminently possessed
 either by the late, or present Administration.

All have write in our offers of the Compliments of the
 ensuing Season to you & the ^{Ms} household, & be assured however

Yours most faithfully

Northumberland

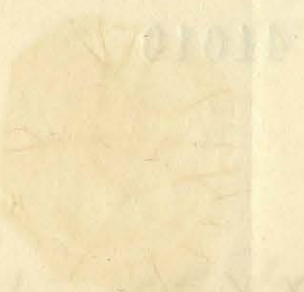
I wish for any note out this
 labor but writing is still very
 difficult & painful. I have heard
 nothing from Col. Gordon for this fortnight. I fancy he is a little hurried.
 I suppose the Prince is at Brighton - If not, say every thing proper for me to H: his H:

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Hekeham

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Aug¹⁶ 1650
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Hi

P.S. I have opened my Letter againe to thank you for yours
of the 16th which is this instant arrived.



[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Duke of Northumberland
Dec: 10. 1087.