

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Nicholson.

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Alnwick Castle 7th Feb^{ry} 1808.

My Dear Colonel

Allow me to apply to you in a case
of Distress; My friend Cook, who came down into the County with me,
has left me, saying that his health was bad, & that he could not under-
-go the fatigues of my Publick Duty, but I rather believe the arrival
of Lewis & VIIIth & the hopes of getting into his Service thro' the recom-
-mendation of the Duke de Croy, who recommended him to me. In
this Circumstance I am now without a Cook, which as you will
easily conceive, is a very awkward Circumstance just at the time
I am setting out for London, as a Job Cook I have at present will
of course leave me as soon as I arrive there. Under this dilemma
would you be kind enough to see if you can prevail upon
the Duke's Lac John to recommend me a second or good Cook,
I trust Mr. Boyd is a better Judge of the Abilities of such a Person, & I
I should hope thro' your Mediation / far better than that of either Dupin
Colonel Mac Donnell —

or Austria) that this Negotiation may be brought to an happy
& private termination; & I am certain that both for her
own Credit, as well as out of due respect for you, that Dr. Becht
or the Dr. Clerk of the Diet, whichever you apply to, will get
put into my Hands a set properly qualified every way for the
situation. I really am ordered to give you this trouble, which
I hope your goodness & friendship for me will excuse. Will you be
kind enough to take your inquiries as soon as you can, & let me
know the result of them?

I perceive from the papers, that the Opposition did not
rather very strong upon the Question about the Czar's Expedition
surely every impartial Man must have approved of that
Measure as an Act of absolute Necessity. I know for certain
that nothing damaged Buonaparte's Plans so totally as that
did. It prevented an immediate Invasion, which, altho I think
it would not have succeeded, would have created such a confusion

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in both this County & Ireland, as might have led to the
most alarming consequences.

Do you know do such persons as Mr. Coker, & other independent
county gentlemen, resist the self appointment of Mr. Dawson
to be the general Director of the Party in the H: of Commons? I had
inquire to many of them, as well as to myself, he was totally unknown
& I can hardly suppose such persons would submit to be led by
anybody that Lord Grey chose to set up to govern them. This would
be doing to the golden Image that Hebert & Grey had set up, with
a vengeance.

I hope the Prince is enjoying a good state of Health, &
continues still firm in his wise Resolutions. - I say present
my humble Duty to H: R: H:

The D: & rest of the Family, as well as myself, desires
to offer our best Compliments to you & Mr. Mac Robert, & believe

Dear best faithfully yours

Northumberland.

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Duke of Northumberland

7. July 1808.

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