

Duke of Northumberland to Col. MacMahon
1. Feb 1810

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Gejraath Devon 1st Feb^r 1810.

My Dear Colonel

A young man having offered himself to me
as a footman, whose Brother says he is servant to the Dukes at
Carlton House, & finding that James Porter has not been in place
for the last twelve months, but alleges he has been helping his
Brother in waiting at Carlton House or the Dukes, or rather I should
suppose been a lawyer or there; I should feel myself particularly
obliged to you, if you would make some enquiries about him of any
of the Dukes as to his appearance, conduct, & character, & likewise
it may be necessary to enquire a little the character of the Brother.

I am quite ashamed to give you, My Dear Colonel, this trouble
for as I have not had the pleasure of seeing you for upwards
of three months, during which time so many strange events have passed,
I have every reason to imagine that either you are extremely ill,
or that you are so constantly engaged in His Royal Highness's Affairs,
that you have not had an instant to write to an old friend.

May I beg of you to present my humble Duty to H. R. H. & assure
him of my inviolable, & most dutiful attachment, & accept yourself
Colonel MacMahon.

of the Compliments, & best Wishes, of my self, the Duke, & all the Duke
which we beg you will present to M^{rs} Mac Nolon likewise.

I have so extremely ill ever since we were here, that I have not
been able to leave my room for above six or seven days. This climate
which agrees with the people, has a very contrary effect upon me, for
I have had a most violent Complaint in my Bowels, which borders
me to death.

I have had a great Curiosity to know whether the report that
was made, that Lord Grey went & visited the Prince of Wales, as now
as he came to Town, but I was unwilling to disturb you with the news
I suppose it must be false, or at least done with the Prince's ^{great} prior
Approbation & Consent; else how can his Lordship ever give the Prince
again, to whom he has done so many Professions. I find it is ever said
that the Prince has publicly taken the Lord Grey & Grenville under
his Royal Protection & that their followers are directed to look up
to her, as the Head of the Opposition. This, tho' from a pretty good source, I
can hardly believe. Adieu
Yours ever most faithfully
Northumberland