

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Boscawen

41335-6

Exmouth 26th February 1810.

My Dear Colonel

I did not trouble you with a answer to your letter of the 19th; for as I do not think it very probable that a Cook who has lived any time in Mr. S^r George Caulfield's Society is likely to suit me, I thought it unnecessary. Besides, as I shall not want the services of a new Cook before my return to Town, which will not probably be sooner than in a month or six weeks, it was not likely that a good Cook should not be able to procure himself a Place long before that time. Indeed these famous French Cooks are so very agreeable, & give so much trouble in a Society, that I almost doubt whether the exquisite Flavour of their Dishes in any way compensate for it.

I am infinitely obliged to you for the Acc^t. of the Letter, & proceedings relative to Lord Stretton. Surely all the World are gone mad! What a strange kind of Cabinet the late one must have been. Mr. Carrington endeavouring privately, & in a clandestine way, to remove Lord Castlereagh from his Situation, acting apparently in Confidence with him, & opposing of, & allowing him to conduct a Measure of the greatest Consequence to Great Britain, than quarrelling with Mr. Perceval for the Management of the House of Commons, & rather quitting than serving under him - than the Duke - & after all, this last, not least amongst the wonderful Conversations of Cabinet Ministers, these private & secret Communications between the H. & a member of that Cabinet, without the Colonel's Inter-ference -

participation of his Colleagues; by means of which their Characters, like
Mr. R. Anderson's, may be mired in the Opinion of their Sovereign, without
the smallest Suspicion on their side, & without any sensible Opportunity of
vindicting it. I confess, of all Men alive, I should not have suspected
Lord C. of such a treacherous Conduct. I always look'd upon his Lordship
as a Man of Honour, & a very polite well bred Gentleman; & if the Discoveries
bestow'd on Mr. R. & the King, in his Publick Dispatches, & his Reflections
upon their Conduct, in his private Paper deliver'd to the King, did
not appear in black & white against him, I should still have been
inclined to hope that some great mistake must have arisen in this
Business. Unfortunately the "littera scripta manet", & there is no crying against
two such written Documents. I can only say, for such a Celebrated good Lord
deliver'd us. I sincerely hope this Business may be sifted to the bottom, &
that whatever reprehension, or punishment, can be inflict'd, may take place.
Whatever little Confidence might in publick have might still remain with
the Nation, will by this Transaction be entirely done away, & the Country
will look upon all Publick Characters indiscriminately as Treasons, in whom
no Confidence whatever can be plac'd. Cobham will with triumph, & all his
Close upon Kings, Nobles, & Ministers, will now be readily believ'd by all
beats half the Inhabitants of the United Kingdom. What does our Master the
Prince think of all this? Is it to be a matter of great serious
Reflection. How does he expect to be treated by such kind of men? or

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that kind of Confidence can be had to place in almost any man as his
 distrust, after studying, & well considering these Instructions, & reflecting
 that a Cabinet shall endeavor to undermine one another, & cannot
 be faithful to their own Duty, will probably, if they find their Advantage
 in it, betray him likewise. These are truly sad reflections for any Prince
 who would be become a Sovereign. I fear it will always tend him to distrust
 even those who are incapable of deceiving him; & tend to destroy all private Friendship
 & confidence between man & man. After all this, the Duke's Droppers would almost
 appear as Isabella; I say however verily to desire you to lay me at H. K. H.'s
 feet, & present to him my Duty, & say to him that H. K. H. will judge of me as he finds me.
 The Duke writes with me in Compliments to you & L^{dy} Anne's health, & to be assured
 I am ever
 your most faithful Friend, ^{but} ~~with~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} Duke de la Roche de la Roche

Northumberland,

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Duke of Northumberland

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