

Seignacourt 5<sup>th</sup> March 1876.

My Dear Colonel

I thank you for your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, & feel much flattered at the Prince's good opinion. I trust I now shall deserve it as long as I live. Double dealing certainly, I trust, forms no part of my character, & altho' I may be apt now & then to speak out my mind too boldly, & perhaps sometimes rather impudently, yet I think I can venture to assert, that my heart & tongue were never at variance. I much fear, admitting the very favorable account that Mr. Williams & Lord Gwendolen give of the state of affairs in Portugal, that it will on a more enquiring be found to be by no means correct. I have great reason to believe that the very contrary is the fact, & that if, as it is said, the French, who have provided large magazines for the purpose, have really advanced in force towards the frontiers of Portugal, on the side of Alentejo, our great Hero will dash at their eyes with his whole force, & after a march of 150 miles, which part of his army will be forced to take, (he has dispersed them so unaccountably) through a country without a single magazine, he will fight the enemy; probably gain another Salamis Victory, & then being forced to retire precipitately

before his overpriced Joe, for want of provisions, leaving neither magazines  
to feed his boys, nor any fortresses, properly garrisoned, or in any way in a proper  
state of repair, for defence, to stop the enemy; he will at least be very probable  
indeed, if he can quit the Kingdom, under as favourable a Convention, as he  
consented to grant. I find D. W. has totally disregarded the Plan that  
the Court de Lisbon gave in, & left, for the defence of Portugal, & has stuck  
out an entire new plan of his own. Those Posts which the Lisbon looked  
upon as the best and best of the Kingdom, & to be more particularly  
attended to, his Lordship has left totally open, without so much as a single  
British Soldier. Those fortresses de Lisbon thought should be kept constantly  
in a state of perfect defence, well provisioned, & well garrisoned, are now  
left in a state of perfect dejection, with a single gun mounted, a pair  
of ammunition, or any provision whatever. No magazines of any kind formed,  
that could supply the army with bread, or provisions, for miles from the Rivers  
Tagus, Douro, & Mondego; & the very Cavalry, tho' quartered on the Ranges, are  
fed only from bread brought to them; the Provisions, & Ammunition, being brought almost  
daily from Lisbon in Boats. ~~With~~ Whether the Court, or the noble Baron,  
is the ablest Officer, & best Judge, we shall see; the old Roman Edge of "Iris  
corruptus" is a very true one. Court de Lisbon saved Portugal, & frustrated  
all the joint attempts of the French, & Spanish Armies that attacked her,

who were never able to enter into Dordrecht, during the whole War. The French even then attempted to penetrate thro' the Bores los Hartes, & along the Dromms, to seize upon Operto, but at that time, the Presence of the Country alone, without any troops, forced, & directed, by the Officers which could be supplied sent to them, totally defeated the French Army in the Defeat of the Mountains, drove them back with very considerable Loss, & almost totally annihilated them. And yet the French in that Expedition were commanded by one of their best Generals. I wish with all my heart Lord W. may show himself as good a General, & see Dordrecht this second time; altho' he certainly did not see Operto, nor destroy the French Army amongst the Defeat of the Mountains, even in their Retreat, & with the assistance of both the English, & Dutch, Regular Troops.

I think the House have rather let themselves down, in the Opinion of the Publick, by their Liberty to Mr. Fuller. His Expulsion was absolutely necessary to preserve the Dignity of the House.

Surely they will not place the new Gallies of the Exchange at the Head of the Admiralty, as has been reported. I should have thought the Gallies might have schisped him, & I should fear his Nidleness & Impetuosity, are too great, not to be attended with the utmost Danger to the State, in such a very critical, & important Situation.

I am particularly desir'd by the Duchess & my Daughters to offer you & Mr. Beauchamp their Compliments, & best Wishes, to which

I have likewise to add by way. I say by way thing proper for  
to H. H. H. & upon him of my constant, & not irrevocable attachment.  
Altho' standing the account of the<sup>m</sup> William & Lord Bunsdale, H. H. H.  
say depend upon the truth of the account I have given you in this letter  
of the present state of Portugal; than which, in my opinion, nothing can  
be more closing. Given by your Colonel, & be signed I am ever

your most faithful friend

Northumberland.

The Prince of Brazil has distressed me beyond measure. He H. H. H. writes  
upon it, that I shall write to him & give him such freely my opinion  
in detail, of the time he ought to pursue, & the way, & the  
He ought to take, now that he has transferred the seat of government  
to S. Brance; & he says, He insists upon this, because every circumstance  
which I pointed him to, or fifteen years ago, <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ correctly verified, & the  
different advice I gave H. H. H. at that time, & since, he has found  
perfectly just; & altho' he has carried a part into execution, he now wishes  
He had done so, <sup>in toto</sup> when I advised him to it, & in the manner I recommended.  
Was there ever such a Gosh imposed on a Person, who has neither the Honours  
nor Situation of a Prince his brother, nor even any way connected, but by a private  
attachment to the Regent, with the Country? It will be long, I believe, before I can see  
could have met her how they say, "a Prophet is no Prophet in his own Country";

of the  
H. H. H.  
H. H. H.