

Duke of Northumberland to Col. MacKintosh

41342-3

Sejanath 19th April 1810.

My Dear Colonel

I felt much obliged to you, for your letter of the 14th. I have not the least doubt but Lord Wellington is in a very disagreeable situation. But how can it be otherwise, when his whole System of Warfare appears to be little more, than asking where the enemy is; going with his whole force to attack him, without any of the necessary Arrangements or Precautions, but trusting in the well known valour of his troops, that they will positively not give way, but either conquer, or die, & this is all he cares about the Result; when having cried Victory, Victory, with the help of at least a third of his Army, for want of the necessary previous Arrangements, & Precautions, he is forced to retire precipitately from his conquested Soil, resigning to him the Country, together with his own wounded & Baggage, never more to be able to face him again than Carpiaga. This, however ludicrous it may appear, is the exact Picture of one of L. W.'s Campaigns. Such Campaigns & such Victories, will soon undo this, or any Country. And yet this is the case, also, those great Judges of Military Talent, L. Liverpool, L. Castlereagh, L. Perceval, L. Canning & many other equally good Judges, tell us is so far as

Colonel MacKintosh

to any of the generals of either ancient, or modern times, & on whom
Greece, & Persians, current: he has properly liv'd. But stay a little, &
let us hear what their Language will be, when he, & his army, are
oblig'd to give up both Spain, & Portugal, & fly ignominiously to England,
I am not at all surpris'd to hear that the French, are not pleas'd to be
sent again under such a Commander. The Old Soldier is a sensible man;
& judges very well the true Character of his general. If he looks upon
him as an experienced officer, who will not fly away his life idly &
uselessly, he places his Confidence in him, & will follow him all over the
World; but if he thinks him rash, inconsiderate, not valuing the lives
of his men, nor understanding how to take advantage of Victory, if he
gains it, he is restless, unsteady, & miserable, under such a general;
obeys his Orders with reluctance; loses above half his Courage; &
probably, after a short time, deserts. This I believe you will find to be
pretty constantly the case in a British Army; & I confess I am more inclin'd
to take the Character of a general, from the opinion his troops entertain
of him, than from any other Quarter, as I have generally found it correct.

Duke of Northumberland to Col. McCracken

41343

Adieu my dear Colonel; present my Duty to H: R: H: & express
to him of my most faithful attachment; & accept yourself the Compliments
of myself, the Duchess, & my family. & present the same for us all to
the Hon: Secretary.

Ever most sincerely yours
Northumberland

P. S. By the bye I had almost forgot to tell you, the answer the
Prince of Brazil gave to the Swedish Minister, when he arrived to H: R: H:
the Revolution that had taken place in that Country, & offered Credentials
from the new Sovereign; & which I think the D: of Wales stood here.
He said that he would acknowledge no new King, nor accept of any
such Credentials, until he learnt the Conduct which his good Friend
& ally the King of Great Britain followed on this occasion, being
determined to be implicitly guided by His Wishes, & Advice. This
H: R: H: may depend upon being correctly true, & does the Subject well Honour.

Duke of Northumberland

19. March 1810