Duke of Northumberland to Col. Mc Mahon

41686-7

Alnwick Castle 27th Feb.y 1811.

My dear Colonel

I was extremely sorry to find from your letter that His Royal Highness, & you, had Both been ill. I flatter myself however that you are Both recovered. I congratulate you upon your new appointment, which altho' a laborious & troublesome one, cannot fail to be pleasing to you, as an additional proof of the Esteem, & good Opinion of the Regent. That such business is in lower I can readily conceive, as I know that no Instructions whatever have been sent to Lord Strangford, as to the Conduct he is to hold towards the two contending Parties in Spanish South America, which has distressed him beyond measure, as he is almost daily applied to by both Parties, & does not know what are the Wishes of this Government. I have reason to believe that there are now many French Emissaries in S: America, & that if some measure, with respect to that Country, is not soon decided upon, it will most undoubtedly fall into the hands of France

Colonel Mac-Mahon —

Perhaps it might not be unadvisable for H: R: H: to direct that all the Correspondence which has passed, between the Secretary of State for foreign Affairs, & the King's Minister in the Brazils, on that Subject, should be laid before Him. S: America is a very large, rich, & populous Country, & the Advantage we might derive from it, should not be lost, through neglect, & inattention. I rejoice much to learn that His Majesty is recovering so fast, & that He sees His Royal Highness's Conduct in its true light. Long, very long, may this mutual affection continue; which I am certain will most powerfully contribute to the happiness of Both. I trust H: R: H: is now convinced, that the Advice I took the Liberty of giving Him, to trust to the Dictates of his own most excellent understanding, rather than to the Opinions of those about Him, was neither incorrect, nor improper. I should be sorry that one of the first steps taken by His Majesty on the resumption of the Royal Power, should be what you mention, as I fear it would occasion much dissatisfaction in the House of Commons, if not some very unpleasant resolutions.

I feel much obliged to Mr. Walthier for the trouble he has taken, in endeavouring to provide me with a Cook.

Duke of Northumberland to Col. McMahon

41687

as the French say "il faut avoir patience". I am at present without any, but my Woman Cook contrives to give us a very tolerable Dinner.

You must excuse any Inaccuracies, or Mistakes, in this letter, as We were all put into a great bustle, just as I began to write, by my daughter, Lady Emily Murray, having very unexpectedly presented me with a Grandson. She is herself as well as possible, but the Child being come into the World, at the end of seven months, is very small, & weakly, & I can hardly flatter myself that it will live.

The Duchess, & the rest of my Family unite with me in Compliments to you, & Mrs. Macmahon; & I must desire you to present my humble Duty to the Regent.

Believe me, my dear Colonel, & believe me

Your ever faithfull Friend

Northumberland.

Duke of Northumberland
27. Feb. 1811.