

Duke of Northumberland to Col. the Marquis

18232 - 3

Alnwick Castle 13th July 1811.

My dear Colonel

I was extremely sorry to find that your very long silence had been occasioned by Illness. It affords me however some satisfaction to hear that you are now tolerably well again, & I hope your excursion to Cheltenham will quite restore your health.

I am obliged to you for the Copy of ^{my} Quarterly Paper of the Queen's Council, which I perceive has been laid before the House of Lords. His Majesty has now been ill for so long a time, that I fear his Recovery must not be soon expected.

I find a Suspicion of a Disposition of Pericardium during the Progression is pretty general. I dare say there is not the smallest foundation for it. Certainly whenever such an event is probable, it would be most material to me, and I have any hint of it.

Lord Grey's disease has had I find a very different Effect in the minds of most people, from what according to you it ought. Colonel Macdonald —

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to have. It has undoubtedly been taken in general for one of the strongest marks possible of H: R: H: 's Disaffection for his Lordship; & indeed I was myself taken in by it; altho' after the proceedings which I saw during the Interval, before the Prince was declared Regent, I was not a little astonished.

If poor General Fox should die, there is no man, whose appointment to his Place, would give an greater Pleasure than your own; & I beg, by Anticipation, to congratulate you with sincerity upon the Prospect of getting it.

M^{rs} Gair's Silk gown; & which I am extremely anxious about Captain Haswell's Promotion to the Rank of Post Captain, will both come in good time. I am truly conceiv'd M^{rs} Gair would be so inattentive to H: R: H: 's wishes, as express'd to her, as not to promote Captain Haswell soon; at least after all his own Orders, when he is now promoting, are provided for.

As for the State of Affairs in the Peninsula, I am only sorry we had the Bell at our Foot, & have chosen by Providence his Majesty's Government to kick it away. Had things been well conducted, not an Army ought now to be in Spain, or Portugal, nor ought the Letters

to have been desolated, & totally ruin'd, as it at present is. I gave my Opinion upon the Subject freely to our friend Colonel Gordon from the very Commencement of the Business, & pointed out all that was better, if things were conducted as I perceiv'd they were, but what I said was never attended to, & ~~scarcely~~ ^{merely} that the best Advantages of "proffer'd Service stands" I have had my Eyes; but what I pointed out was never the less ~~perfectly~~ ^{precisely} done to purpose, exactly as I said it was better.

I can say much upon this Subject, & America, knowing the Principles, & the Country, so well as I do, & being perfectly acquainted with the Characters, & Disposition of their Politicians, but I am quite tired of War, & Politics, & I should never be forc'd to speak of Sermons of any kind.

Adieu, my Dear Colonel - excuse my blots, & erasures; & accept the Compliments of the Duke, myself, & Family, & present the same for us to M^{rs} Gair & M^{rs} Gair.

I am

Your's sincerely
Northumberland

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Duke of Northumberland
13. July 1011

[Faint handwritten signature or name, possibly 'Northumberland']