

Duke of Northumberland to Col. MacMahon.

18287 - 8

Albion Castle 28th July 1871.

My Dear Colonel

I should not have troubled you so soon with another letter, but for the message H: R: H: directed you to communicate to me, relative to the Information I should receive in case of any material change. Such marked Partiality, & Kindness, fills me with the deepest Gratitude, & had I wanted any thing to attach me, & act as entirely devoted myself to H: R: H: such Condescension could not fail to do so. But you know, my dear Colonel, I have long, long ago, been totally devoted to H: R: H: and that his Interest, his Comfort, & his Honour, & glory, are as dear to me, as my own. It is his Person, & not his Power, to which I am so strongly attached. I am thank God, placed by Nature in a Station of life, to work little, or nothing, It is therefore a dutiful Personal Attachment, & not any selfish, or interested views that guide my tongue, & heart, in any thing I ever presume to offer to H: R: H: Consideration. Would to God every Body else, who has the honour of his Confidence, may be always guided by the same pure motives.

I hope, my dear Colonel, your Apprehensions are groundless, & that you will not at last be disappointed of getting that most comfortable Colonel MacMahon -

Duke of Northumberland to Col. MacMahon.

18288

Situation, which H: R: H: is goodly intends for you, & I shall
feel most particularly, & sincerely, happy, to be informed that you have
got your Appointment.

I suppose you will soon now be going to Chatterbox,
the Waters of which I trust will be of great Service to you.

I imagine we are not to expect any thing of great Consequence
soon from Portugal. We appear to be very happy, & well satisfied, if the
Army will only leave us alone; & never seem to think of ~~the~~ Active, the
Defensive, Operations. Such I was used to see Duke Ferdinand carry on
in Germany, during the seven years War; & Prince Henry of Prussia's
Campaign, is a most perfect Model, for that kind of Defensive Operations.

France has at last thro' our encouragement by being too passive,
gone somewhat too far. I trust the French Character perfectly,
& hope we shall be cool, firm, & dignified in our Language to her,
& if we are to act, we shall do so at once with Vigour.

I trust in God H: R: H: will neither on this Occasion, nor any other,
ever be induced by his Ministers to consent to half measures.
They are the foundation of all mischief; unworthy of a great &
noble Character; & never can be conducive to any good End. They are
the Resource of a low weak mind, & fit only for an Old Bailey Solicitor.

The great mind is always cool, firm, & decisive; & if I throw
any thing of H: R: H: Character, I should be happily endowed
with those necessary Qualifications for a Prince.

Adieu, my dear Colonel; I have the Honour of my created
Zeal for his Service, & dutiful Attachment to his Person, & believe

me
your ever most faithful Servant
Northumberland

The Duchess, with the rest of my Family, desire to offer their
Compliments, & best wishes to you, & M^{rs} MacMahon; to which I beg
to add my own.

1888

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

Duke of Northumberland

20. July 1811.