

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Macdonald

18834-5

Albion Castle 12th Nov^r 1811.

My Dear Colonel

I have to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of the 8th, & return you very thanks for
the trouble you have taken in order to procure the
appointment of my Relation Lrd David Hume to the
Situation of one of the Barons of the Exchequer in Scotland.
I fear however the Lrd Advocate will not desist from
his Desire of obtaining this Appointment, & therefore that
Lrd Hume has no Chance of Success. Indeed, as I am
your word, I understand that Baron Hephburn, who was
expected to die shortly, is now so much recovered as not
to be likely to make an immediate Vacancy. In this
situation of Circumstances, ^{as the Lrd Advocate is to have the right} my Application of here, in-
-mediately, & directly to Lrd Percival, could not possibly
be of any Service, as it would only subject me to a
Refusal. A Circumstance which I should feel extremely un-
-pleasant, & embarrassing, after, by an Application, having shewn
some readiness of laying myself under an obligation to the British
Colonel Macdonald

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Hesketh

18835

I should have consented to make any application to the
Ministers, without being the author positive assurance given me,
that such my Request would be complied with. I totally unac-
quainted at present with any Party, & only devoted to the Wishes
of the Prince, I wish to continue so; and it was for this
Reason I presumed to make the imprudent application to H:
D: H: in behalf of the late Captain Haswell, as it was
to the Regent alone, to whom I have wished to owe personally
any favours I might receive. Your letter however to me, on the
subject of Captain Haswell, cut off all my wishes in this
particular; as it informed me that such applications were
disagreeable, & disagreeing, to the Regent. I shall therefore
take care not to err again; & as I do not wish to lay myself
under obligations to any Party, go on, as heretofore, by informing
my Friends that I am not able to procure them anything.
God knows it is very little I want for any of them; - for myself
nothing.

I see it still reported in the Papers that the Regent
hardly goes any where, without being accompanied by the Duke
of Cumberland. I can feel I am rather surprised, as I did not know

The Duke was so confidential a Favorite with the Prince.
Perhaps however it is only Newspaper Invention.

I suppose every thing now is in a great bustle in the
political World. Parliament will meet soon pretty soon, & it
will not be long before the Removal, or Continuation, of the
Restrictions on the Regent must be pretty determined upon.
The different Parties I know are in a state of great anxiety.
The present Ministers hoping, & flattering themselves, that
H: D: H: will continue their in Power, & the opposite
Party, the Lords Grey, & Grenville, indulging themselves with
the expectation that, when the Regent becomes wholly
unfettered, He will indulge his Inclination towards the
& place them at the Head of affairs. At any rate they
keep up a good counterbalance in this neighbourhood, & their
friends insinuate, that this is a settled Point.

The Times are growing daily more & more critical; & require
experienced, able, & energetic Heads to conduct affairs properly.
I much see I like the Appearance of things in Spain and
Portugal. Millions of hay, & thousands of Lives, seem to have
been flung away there to very little Purpose. Long, long ago
I gave Colonel Fordon my Opinion of Affairs in the Peninsula, and

ever then ventured to foretell what the consequences would be
of the measures pursued; & the day before yesterday I received
a letter from him, in which he does me the justice to say
"your opinion, upon our Carriages in Portugal, are reaching
very fast". I am grieved to think our Dispute with America
has been protracted so long, & has given this Country so much
trouble. It ought not to have done so. Decisive measures
are more necessary in all Transactions with the United States,
than with any other Power whatever; & I will venture to say
that so where with half measures be attended with such
Consequences. I have seen a great deal of the American
know them well. Lord Perry will be in Town by the next
Parliament, desirous of doing whatever is best for the
Regent. Perhaps however, as he is a young man, in the
as well, if H: R: H: s Wishes were conveyed to him
I could then direct him & my other friends how to act, as
from myself. If the Regent is in Town, I beg you will spare
him of my most steady & dutiful Attachment. All here
write with me in Compliments & best Wishes to you & the
lady. I am now, thank God, getting pretty well again
I have been well enough to write & ever most faithfully yours
a long account of myself to D^r Jones, &
to ask his Obedience.

Northumberland.