

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Mc Mahon

19182-3

Confidential

Albion Castle 7th Feb^{ry} 1812.

My Dear Colonel

I was not half being a good deal surprised, just after reading your letter of the 1st, in which you mentioned Lord Moira's being deeply vexed, & affected, at his Name being brought forward by Lord Grenville in support of the Petition for Catholic Emancipation, to perceive, by the Newspapers, that our Friend had spoken wisely in the House most strongly in favour of a Catholic Cause. This I fear you will have a very great effect in the Country. People have been so long used to look upon Lord Moira as a Nobleman the most favoured by H: M: H: & Co. who was the Channel thro' which the Sentiments of the Prince were conveyed, that it will in this instance be a very difficult matter to convince the Publick, that he would have ventured to take so strong & active a Part in the Debate, if he had any reason to think he might incur the Royal's Displeasure by so doing. It is actually so that this will be the case, whatever his private Inclination might have been, he would have stood away; at least he would
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would have ventured to have shown herself so zealous an
Advocate in the Cause. This you must allow is very rational
Reasoning, & will, I fear, do a great deal of harm in the
Country. It is exactly, what I am sure every true Friend to
the Regent would wish to avoid at this moment, it is
apparently committing the Prince, unless H: R: H: would
submit to enter into explanations, which it would be
unbecoming in H: R: H: to do. Indeed, our worthy & good
Friend Lord having should consider his Situation, and be much
more guarded.

Knowing it was Lord Percy's Wish to act in such
a manner as would give the greatest Satisfaction to the
Regent, I was certain that he would feel himself most
particularly obliged to you, for any Concessions which
you would be so kind as to give him.

Old Duchess, tho' severely grieved at the Loss of her
Sister, endeavours to bear the Misfortune with tranquillity,
and patient Resignation; the surest Sign of real, internal
Grief. I have returned you Mr. Dodd's Papers, who seems to

understand nothing of his own Story, as well as any other
with whom I have ever met. He certainly appears to be as
keen, & anxious to add to his Church Property, as ever his
uncle was. The plain matter of Fact is this. He is the Rector
of a Parish in the City of London of very considerable Value,
the Presentation to which is alternate, in my Family, &
the Trustees for the Parish. Mr. Dodd was presented by the
Trustees in their Turn. The Ecclesiastical Law says, a Rector
possessed of a living to such a Value, ought not to hold a
second living. Mr. Dodd therefore says, if I can secure to myself
that I shall be re-presented to this Rectory, in case I resign
it, I will do so. I then told me living at all, & can be presented
to the little College living, & then this living being under the
value mentioned, I will cheat the Law by this fraud, being quite
re-presented to the great & valuable Rectory afterwards, &
thus hold them both in spite of the Law. For this purpose
he first began to endeavour to persuade me to forego my Right
& consent that a Resignation, should not be deemed a Vacancy. This
of course, contrary to every Rule, & full of every mischief, & Injury, to
the Person having the next Right of Presentation, I positively refused.
He then had the Effrontery to propose to me to join with him
in a Simonical Intercession; to finish the Business, he has now

the Impudencia to endeavour to draw H: R: H: if he
 was, into being, undoubtedly, a Participant in this petty
 Prosecution. For all Persons concerned in Simony are equally
 guilty. This I know, from the instance of a Clergyman, an Apprentice
 -area of mine who agreed to ~~take~~ accept the Presentation to ^{the}
 living, to hold it for a short time, till another Clergyman ^{and}
 take it, & it was ^{discovered} that accepting of the Presentation
 under such, or any promise of resignation, was absolute
 Simony, & rendered all the Parties concerned subject to
 the Jurisdiction for Simoniacal Contracts. So much for the
 modest Parson Todd ^{in reference to the b: he has had the truth, but not the whole}
 truth. The Bishop, & my Daughter, desire with any to offer
 our Compliments to you, & ^{to} ^{the} ^{same} ^{place} ^{below}. Adieu & believe me
 ever most truly your faithful Friend
 Northumberland.

Be kind enough to take my humble
 Duty acceptable to H: R: H:
 "Resignations can be absolute, & conditional; for it is against the
 Nature of a Resignation to be conditional, being a judicial Act." 3 H. 1:
 ab: 157.