

Duke of Northumberland

A.A. No.
11.

19268-9

Alnwick Castle 18th Feb^r 1822

Private

My Dear Colonel

May I beg of you to deliver the accompanying letter to the Prince Regent.

I was in hopes of receiving a letter from you, by the last night's Post; but as that has not happened, I must now wait till tomorrow for that pleasure, as we have no Post that comes in to night.

As the Prince is now arrived for H. R. H. to act entirely from Himself, I trust most sincerely, that all his Resourses, and Conduct, will be marked by that Decision, & Firmness, which are absolutely necessary for every Prince placed in his most exalted Situation. Half Resourses, I flatter myself, are indeed far short of what he will ever suffer to be ever proposed to Him. They are only the Resourses of weak Minds. I honour his Determination to preserve the utmost fidelity towards our Allies, & to persevere in the Defence of the Princess. Colonel Beecher

No. 19270

Duke of Northumberland
18. Feb 7/1812

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11.

19269

Of the Catholic Question, I hope we shall hear no more;
at least in ^{the} manner, & to the extent, to which the Irish
Catholics have been encouraged to demand it. I must
own, should I be disappointed in this hope, H. R. H.'s
situation, considering the sentiments expressed by the King
on this subject, would be truly distressing. Had H. R. H. been
induced to accede to it, & the H. recovered, it would infallibly
occasion His highest, & most needed displeasure; & probably
be the means of plunging Him back again into his present
melancholy state. During H. R. H.'s life here therefore I hope
the Question will be no more agitated; & indeed I cannot
say, that those who have chosen to bring ^{it} forward, just
at this time, have either shown their patriotism, or
great consideration for the Regent's private feelings.
But they laid their real characters pretty open to H. R. H.,
at the time, when H. R. H. was just declared incapable of carrying
on the Business of the State. Above all, by dear Colonel, I
hope H. R. H. will never be induced, either by persuasion,
or otherwise, to do anything which he does not fully approve,

or desist from what he thinks proper, & necessary, from the desire
of gaining, or the fear of losing a little temporary Popularity;
but that He will always act, in conformity to a Serene, &
I remember to have heard the late Lord Chatham / the
L^{td} Pitt / deliver in the House of Commons, or the late
L^{td} Geo. Grenville saying, that the measure L^{td} Pitt
proposed, would not be forced upon his Right Honourable
Religion, and Popularity - L^{td} Pitt, rose, & said,
"I spare the R. H. Gentlemen; I shall never abstain from what
I think necessary, from the fear of incurring a little temporary
& transient Displeasure from the People - I never courted
Popularity - No, Sir, I hope I have taken a nobler line -
I have always endeavoured, by my Conduct, to deserve it."
This is a sentiment highly becoming a great Statesman,
and in my humble opinion, not unworthy of a Sovereign.
I confess, it struck me at the time, & I have never
forgot it.

I think, my dear Colonel, I cannot finish better
than with this sentiment, & shall therefore conclude,

with desiring you to present the Compliments & best
wishes, of the Duke, my Daughters, & myself, to a
noble-lady, & desiring you to accept the same yourself.
I hope you are now perfectly recovered?

I have the pleasure to be, with the most
sincere regards,

My dear Colonel

Your ever faithful
Northumberland.

Northumberland
10. 7. 1771