Duke of Northumberland to Col. Hathaway

A.A. No. 371

Private

Alnwick Castle 18th March 1812

My dear Colonel

I am very glad to hear from your letter of the 13th, that the Regent's first dinner went off so well; and it affords me much satisfaction to find that H: R: H: marked strongly his Displeasure towards a certain noble Lord, who in addition to every thing else, had the indecency to talk of publishing a Conversation which passed at the Regent's private table. It is highly necessary the Regent should now be firm. He has had a fine Opportunity of judging of the true characters of different men; and of discovering the real motives of their pretended attachment to Him. H: R: H: can now clearly discriminate those, whose attachment to His Royal Person was truly sincere, from those, who only pretended to feel such an attachment, to answer their own private Purposes. Who cares only for H: R: H: as much, as conduces to their views of aggrandisement; and I sincerely hope He will, by his Conduct towards them, make them sensible that they have incurred His Displeasure.

I predicted, you may remember, my dear Colonel, upwards of a Year ago, that there would be a violent struggle when H: R: H: assumed the Reins of Government; and the Event has proved I was correct. Firmness; and Firmness alone, will now ensure H: R: H:'s future Tranquillity, & Happiness. Should He be unfortunately persuaded to give way in the least at this present moment, they will do what they threaten; storm the closet, & Colonel Macmahon

and having taken the R: Prisoner, they will compel Him to act in every particular as they please. God grant that H: R: H: may preserve firmness enough, to overset all their Designs against Him. The struggle will be short; and when they find that H: R: H: will not yield, and is not to be intimidated, they will be too happy to accept the good things of this world, upon H: R: H:'s own terms. It now depends entirely upon the Regent Himself, whether these proud, haughty, and ungratefull, men shall in future be His Servants, or his Masters. I am most sincerely grieved at what I hear about Lord Moira's Conduct. The Regent's Partiality towards him for so many years merited a far different Return. It is impossible the P: R: can ever forgive or forget the Insult offered to the Princess, & the Indignity offered to the Order, in refusing the Garter, when H: R: H: was graciously pleased to signify his intention of decorating him with it, added to the Ingratitude of forsaking H: R: H:, at the present most critical juncture, can never be overlooked by the Regent.

At all events, I hope the Regent will not permit the word <u>Compromise</u>, much less the thing itself, to enter into any Arrangement, or Negotiation, in which H: R: H: is any way concerned. It would, in my humble Opinion, be highly unbecoming the Dignity of his Situation.

I hope the letter I did myself the Pleasure of writing to you on the 14th. pleased the Regent, and was satisfactory to yourself?

I am obliged to you for what you say respecting Lord Strangford, for whom you know how much I interest myself.

Duke of Northumberland to Col. McMahon

A.A. No. 371

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I trust the P. R. has now nearly completed his arrangements, which I fear for some time merely look upon as temporary, & not finally settled. Present the offer of my most dutiful attachment to H. R. H., and be assured I remain, with the most unfeigned regard

My dear Colonel

Your ever faithfull friend

Northumberland

Duke of Northumberland
10th March 1812.