Duke of Northumberland to Col. MacMahon

A.A. No. 56

19535-6

Alnwick Castle 10th April 1812.

Private

My dear Colonel

It is impossible for me to say how sensibly both the Duchess & myself feel the kind & gracious expressions which the Regent has been pleased to order you to make use of, on account of the recent Calamity which has befallen our Family. And We return you and Mrs. MacMahon our thanks, for your Condolence on the same melancholy occasion.

I apprehend We may now daily expect some account of the Consequences, which have attended the Siege of Badajos. Let the Event turn out which way it will, it will most probably be attended with Consequences the most interesting, if not the most decisive, of any thing that has as yet taken place in the Peninsula. This movement of Lord Wellington's & the Style of this movement, accord more with my Ideas, than any his Lordship has as yet undertaken. For point it may be as successfull, as it deserves to be. Indeed I have reason to believe that Affairs in the Peninsula wear a more favourable Aspect, than they have ever done before.

I was a good deal pleased with a letter I received last night from Wicklow. It was written by an Englishman, who has been for many years in that County, & who I believe knows more of the real Sentiments of the generality of the People there, than any other Person. At least I mean

The Rt. Hon.ble Colonel MacMahon.

found him mistaken in the information which he has sometimes thought proper to send me, & as in this instance his Opinion corresponds so exactly with mine, I must of course suppose him to be right. After having detailed the Events which have taken place, & the real feelings of the different Parties in that Country, he adds "Since the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, People's Minds have been a good deal changed, & the War Spirit seems to be wearing away – The sense merely, Firm, & Temperate Conduct continued on the part of the British Government, as of late so conspicuously & wisely manifested, must effect every favourable result they can wish for; and I feel persuaded that Forbearance, but not Concession on the part of the British Government, will defeat the machinations of those men, who appear so violently opposed to its Influence & Prosperity".

I shall wait with Impatience till the Arrival of the Post on the 12th. to know what is decided on Mr. W. Wynne's Motion. This new mode of attacking personally the Prince Regent on every step he takes, is not only very indecent, & insulting, but, I should suppose, cannot fail of making the breach between H. R. H., and the two Noble Lords & their Party too wide ever to be closed again. Indeed the Insults and Ingratitude which He has met with from those, who have always basked in the Sunshine of His good Opinion, & Favour, are more than it can be possible for H. R. H. ever to forget or forgive. He has now had a good Specimen of the Nature of interested attachments.

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Duke of Northumberland to Col. McMahon

A.A. No. 56

19536

I am really quite distressed at the Conversation you have had with Lord Lisburne, about Lord Strangford. What in the name of God has he done to merit all this? I cannot possibly conjecture what it is. Either His Lordship must have been guilty of some most criminal Offence, or have been most maliciously & scandalously misrepresented. Hope in God on the proper close Examination of his Conduct, the latter will be found to be the Case. Should it prove so, this will not be the first Instance, where I have known the Ruin of a most deserving Servant of the State, effected by Malevolence & Falsehood. I really shall be quite unhappy till I know what this most unpardonable Offence is which Lord Strangford has committed.

Adieu my dear Colonel, & be assured I ever am

Your most faithfull Friend

Northumberland.

I am very glad Dr. Wellesley likes his Cup. He has always been very kind to me in procuring me what I wanted about my Kitchen Establishment and I was happy in an opportunity of convincing him, that I am not ungrateful.

Duke of Northumberland
10. April 1812