

Duke of Northumberland to Col.  
McMahon

19589-90

Albion Castle 27<sup>th</sup> April 1812.

Private

My Dear Colonel.

I may thank you for the favour.  
I may, with my Duty, congratulate the  
Prince Regent on the Capture of Badajoz,  
which I deem of the utmost Importance  
towards the Security of Portugal. So  
much so, that if ever G. W. should not  
get back his army to prevent  
himself from taking Ciudad Rodrigo,  
I should not hesitate that the Exchange  
of Ciudad Rodrigo for Badajoz an Advantage  
on our Part. The only attack upon  
Portugal I fear, & require can be offered  
with any serious consequence is from  
the Side of Alentejo, & not from Almeida.  
I lament exceedingly the Loss we have  
sustained in Officers & Soldiers on this  
late Occasion. I wish Lord W. had sent  
The R<sup>ts</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Colonel Maclellan.

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an account of the killed & wounded, on the  
part of the enemy. I want likewise to see  
what kind of articles of Capitulation  
he granted the Gov<sup>rn</sup> on his surrendering  
Dutch S<sup>r</sup> Christophel.

By a letter from Gov<sup>rn</sup> I am informed you have  
promised to present a Petition to the R<sup>ty</sup> from  
the late S<sup>r</sup> Col. Johnston. After the sentence  
of the Court Martial, it is impossible to say more  
upon his Descrip<sup>tion</sup>, than that he is a most  
unfortunate man. I am convinced he was on  
that Occasion a dupe of, & a Cat's Paw,  
by certain ambitious, restless, & most unskillful  
and if he really acted for himself, I am clear  
his culpable Conduct proceeded entirely from  
an Error of Judgment, & not from any really  
malicious Spirit, or Design. He once or a few  
Occasion by his spirited Conduct saved the Colony

from Insurrection, & I know that all the  
Governors (before Gov<sup>rn</sup> Bligh Gov<sup>rn</sup> Phillipps,  
Gov<sup>rn</sup> Hunter, & Gov<sup>rn</sup> King) had the highest  
Opinion possible of him in every respect.  
I have had but very little opportunity  
of having a personal Knowledge of him  
myself; but his Letter was my Aid in Court,  
& died of the Wounds he received in America.  
He was a most gallant, honourable, & worthy  
Character, & as such has his Service been always  
represented to me, by the Governors above mentioned  
as I before said. However, it is impossible after  
the sentence of the Court Martial for a reality  
has to place in favour of apparently clear  
altho' it is to be hoped without any  
doubt. If however it should appear from his  
former Character, attested by the former Gov<sup>rn</sup>,  
that probably his Crime proceeded from Error  
of Judgment, & not from any ambitious, selfish,

Duke of Northumberland

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& intentionally malicious a Disposition  
perhaps the R<sup>y</sup> may be inclined to allow  
in some Degree that Misery & Unhappiness  
in which the Sentence of the Court has  
been played <sup>him</sup> in consideration of his former  
good Conduct, & the eminent Services which  
he has at different Times rendered the  
Colony of New South Wales, as can be attested  
by Mr<sup>s</sup> Phillip & Hunter, who I believe are  
both alive. You my Dear Colonel who are  
so confidentially about the Regent, & must  
know his Sentiments on this Subject, are the  
best Judge here for it will be advantageous  
to Mr<sup>s</sup> Johnson's Interest to see him the sooner  
or to bury it in Oblivion. In your Letter I leave  
it to do what you shall think best.

Edin<sup>g</sup> - except the Copy of his Letters & present the  
same to Mr<sup>s</sup> Mac<sup>g</sup> Mac<sup>g</sup>.  
Your's ever most faithfully  
Northumberland