Alnwick Castle 15th May 1812.

Private

My dear Colonel

Sensible how much your time is engaged, I had not intended troubling you with any letter, in answer to your's of the 2d; but this terrible event which has taken place, of the Assassination of Mr. Perceval, makes me very anxious to enquire after the Prince Regent, who must have been most particularly affected by this circumstance. Nothing could possibly have happened, which would have embarrassed H: R: H: so much. Before this, I take it for granted, He must have decided on Mr. Perceval's Successor, & the Arrangements necessary to be made in Consequence. It would therefore be useless for any Person to presume to give any Caution against H: R: H: submitting to deliver himself up into the Hands of those who have already treated Him with such Indignity, nay even Insult; & who if they once get into power, will indisputably carry into effect those threats, of making Him submit to their Will, & Pleasure, which they have so often flung out against their Friends, & Correspondents. I most sincerely hope H: R: H: will on this critical Occasion act from the Dictates of his own Head, and Heart, without listening to the

The Right Honourable
Colonel Macmahon —

advice of those who may perhaps be strongly interested in the advice they may give, and at any rate have not H: R: H:'s good sense & tender-standing. This, you know my dear Colonel, has ever been what I have wished H: R: H: to do; & wherever she has done so, she has fully proved the correctness of my good judgement.

I am very sorry to find, by letters from my Regiment, that the disturbances are become of a very serious character. I have great reason to fear, that a number of diabolical Emissaries are spread over the whole Country, administering illegal oaths, & distributing the most wicked, & treasonable papers, amongst those what they can seduce. Every Grievance is made use of, such as dearness of bread, want of Employment, weight of Taxes, stagnation of Trade, &c. &c. &c. to inflame the minds of people; make them dissatisfied, & unhappy; and encourage them to Riots, & Insurrection; quoting the Speeches of the Opposition, to prove the truth of what they allege, & that they can no longer entertain any hopes of Redress, but by their own Exertions. In what such I fear is the present State of a great part of the Country, that unless the most vigorous measures are pursued without delay, & prompt punishment immediately follows the Conviction of these illegal ~~Pro~~ Acts, the most dangerous Consequences are to be apprehended. First I may be mistaken; but I confess this is my

is my Opinion. "Principiis obsta" is a Maxim I have always thought a very wise one, on these Occasions; & also carried into execution myself, whenever I have been concerned, and have always found it to answer. A Too much Severity in the Commencement is Cruelty in the End, and never answers the purpose. Firmness, in compelling every Person to submit to the Laws of a Country, is the only sure Means of preserving its Peace, Tranquillity, and Happiness — but I must stop — I am perhaps interrupting you from Attention to serious Business to send my useless Opinions — I will therefore conclude with desiring you to present my Duty to H: R: H:, & to accept yourself of the Compliments of myself — the Duchess, & the rest of my Family, & to present the same from us to Mr Rae-Hutton

I have the pleasure to be with the most sincere Regard

your ever faithfull Friend

Northumberland

I have the pleasure to say that I now feel myself considerably better, & hope before long to get about again. I find Lord James Murray has been in waiting. I hope the D: R: approves of this?

Duke of Northumberland

15. May 1842