

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Mac Mahon -

A.A. No. 81.

19728-9

Alnwick Castle 26.th May 1812.

Private

My dear Colonel

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters, of the 19.th and 23.rd, and lament sincerely the very disagreeable situation, in which Mr. Stuart Wortley's motion has placed His Royal Highness. It has undoubtedly only left Him a choice of Difficulties. I trust however H. R. H. will still preserve his Integrity of Mind, & not be in any way alarmed by these struggles for Power, & Dominion; for which you may remember I endeavoured to prepare Him, in a letter to you, before H. R. H. accepted the Regency. This, depend upon it, my dear Colonel, is the very last struggle that will, or indeed can be made, on either side. Should H. R. H. consent to give Himself up into the hands of those who have already treated Him with such Indignity, & Insult, you know full well what in my Opinion the consequences of such a Step would be; but should H. R. H., altho' He has authorized Lord Wellesley to submit to Him an arrangement for the formation of a new Administration, object to admitting into his Service, and Confidence, the Heads of that Party, who have in their Conduct, and Language, treated H. R. H. in a manner that no Private Individual would submit to, without strongly resenting it,

Private
The Right Honourable
Colonel Mac Mahon -

and declare, that till He had received an ample apology for such
 Insults, & was fully convinced from their Conduct of their Contrition,
 He never would admit them into His Councils, If I say, by Dear Colonel
 H: R: H: should take up this Line of acting on the present Occasion,
 I will engage for it, with all their Pride, & Hauteur, they will
 readily submit to any reasonable, and proper Terms, rather than
 forego the whole Object of their Lives. To conduct the Affairs of a State
 a Person must be endowed with great Political Courage, & Discrep.
 without these necessary Qualifications, they soon become mere Puppets,
 & are played upon by every arrogant, artful, & ambitious Demagogue,
 who continues to make their Lives miserably, by keeping them in almost
 continual Alarm; either for the purpose of putting Himself into Power,
 or of preserving the Power, he already is in Possession of. I confess, as
 far as I am capable of judging, the Prince, in the Situation in which
 He now finds Himself, could not have selected a more proper Person
 than Lord Wellesley to place at the Head of his Affairs. I? His
 certainly has many Faults, which in a great measure disqualify
 Him for that elevated, and arduous Situation; yet when I look around
 me, & consider the total want of proper Abilities, & Character, as well
 as the Disposition of those, who are likely to be his Lordship's
 Competitors, I cannot help, with ^{all} his Failings, to give Him the
 Preference. He is possessed of those Qualities, which are absolutely

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Duke of Northumberland to Col. Keekahou -

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reception to the Prime Minister in the present Times, & the present
situation of the Country. He has certainly great abilities, I own, &
Energy, in his Composition, wherever he is pleased to exert his talents;
and I should really hope that under the conduct of H. K. H.'s good
understanding, & goodness of Heart, His Lordship may prove an usefull
Minister for the Country. You must acknowledge, by Dear Colonel,
I am very impartial; for I have not the slightest Connection, or
ever Acquaintance with the Noble Marquis, & you know besides,
I have no great reason to be extremely pleas'd with him, for his cruel,
and I believe most unjust, attack upon my friend Lord Strafford.
Great care, & attention, however, I should suppose necessary to check this
on some occasions, & prevent his bad Qualities from frustrating, what
otherwise his great Abilities would perform; & I trust in God our
worthy R. will never forget the great difference that exists, between
advising, & being Advis'd with Deceit, & being Dictated to. Plans
may be form'd, & Measures propos'd, by the Minister; but the final
Adoption of them must absolutely depend upon the Regent. It is the
Regent who must decide upon them, & as in practice of this Rule, in any Curable
opinion, ought ever to be permitted.

I am I shall wait with Impatience, till I learn the
Result of Lord Wellesley's Endeavours to form an Administration, &
the Regent's Decision on the Measures to be employ'd &
brought forwards. It is the most anxious moment I ever felt; as I look

upon it as decisive of H. R. H.'s future Conduct, or Government.
I confess I look with Dread at the consequence of ^{the} Universal & Total
Tranquillity of the Roman Catholics, for all those wise, &
necessary Restraints, under which they have been placed by
the good Sense of our forefathers, & which their Experience con-
-vinced them were necessary for security of the State, & the
Constitution. allow me likewise to say, I cannot help lamenting
the probable consequence which will arise to a poor ^{man} I need not
say for, when L. W. is clothed with full Power, as he is ^{greatly} ^{to}
shod be merciful. But I fear when interested Views, which relate
to his own Family, are in the way, they supersede every ^{other} ^{consideration}
& become one of the great Faults, which refer so much ^{to} ^{the} ^{public}
Advice by your Colonel; present my Duty to H. R. H. ^{10/15}
the Duchess, & my Family, with my, in Compliments
of Wishes to you, & in ^{the} ^{most} ^{affectionate} ^{and} ^{earnest} ^{desires}
I have the pleasure to be with the most

sincere, & true Regards,
Your ever faithful Friend

Northumberland

P.S. I hope in God, altho' the D. R. has given L. W. carte blanche, he does
not mean to give himself up blindfold into his hands, but select his own
administration for amongst the Names, which L. W. shall lay before him