

Duke of Northumberland

7 June 1812.

A. A. No. 110

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Private

Alnwick Castle 7th June 1812.

My Dear Colonel

I have had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 3^d, together with the very interesting Papers which accompanied it. No man in the Kingdom can lament more than I do the very disagreeable Situation in which H: R: H: is placed by the conduct of the different Parties; and perhaps it might have been as well if H: R: H: had determined at once to keep in the Lake Division, and depose the Parliament. Mr. Skeels Witley has much to answer for. He has done a mischief to this Country, far beyond any thing, which any attempt of Buonaparte's could have effected. Most truly and most sincerely do I sympathize with the Prince Regent's feelings. What must these be, if H: R: H: is driven to the necessity of taking those into his Councils, who basely, & most ungratefully, deserted him, at a moment when he stood in the greatest need of them? He never can have any regard for, or confidence in Persons, who have proved to him, that their attachment to H: R: H: was of the most selfish Nature, and only continued, as long as it was their Interest. And yet altho' they have deserted him in the most ungracious & brutal manner, they are not unwilling to return, and perhaps fetch the same attachment again, whenever their Interest, & Ambition lead them to suppose they shall be greatly benefitted by so doing. Even the most noble Lords are not unwilling to accept of office, provided H: R: H: will consent to their having all the Power, and submit Himself to their Will, and Pleasure. Should the Prince Regent's generosity not be his consent to overlook such unpardonable Ingratitude, and Indignities, as He has met with from

The Right Honourable
Colonel Macartney -

those, from whom He had an undoubted right to expect a very different return
for the great Fidelity, with which he had honoured them, I am certain at
least He can never in his heart forgive them; and less forget the Treatment
He has received from them. What Security can H: R: H: have, if such have been
to become his Ministers, that they will not desert Him again, whenever they think
it for their Advantage to do so. H: R: H: knows by Experience, that no Kindness,
or even Affection on his part, can bind them to Him; and therefore I hope He will
make the proper use of them, & keep them in, where they will, just as it suits
His convenience at any time; for it is absolutely impossible that they can ever again
enjoy his Confidence, or good Opinion. It is impossible for any body to have shown
more Address of kind, or more true Submission, than the Prince Regent has done,
His attempts to form a strong, & powerful Administration. He has ever offered to
sacrifice his own private feelings, to what has been thought the Good of the Subject.
If He has not succeeded it has not been his fault, & the impartial, and
thinking part of the Kingdom, will ever admire his Conduct, & feel the Obligations
they owe Him, upon this Occasion. I beg you will present my most dutiful
expressions of continued Attachment to His Royal Person, & the Happiness I shall
feel, if I can in any way be made useful. Accept yourself of the Compliments
and best wishes of the Duchess, myself, & all my Family, & offer the same for us to L^d
Mansfield. Please the pleasure to be, with the most sincere regard,

By Order of Council

Ever most faithfully your's
Northumberland