

Duke of Northumberland to Col.
McMahon

A.A. No. 124

19864 - 5

Alnwick Castle 26th June 1812.

Private

My dear Colonel

I have to thank ^{you} for two letters, of the 18th & 22nd. The Prince has certainly acted a very noble and generous Part, in having fixed your Salary, as Private Secretary on His Dining Table, instead of the Civil List, and in having given up the Erector of the Barracks. I most sincerely wish the H. of Commons may be gratefull for these Concessions on the Part of His Royal Highness; but I confess my Experience leads me to doubt, whether such Concessions are attended with any permanent Advantage. I remember after the Peace in 1763, His Majesty gave up to the Publick the enormous Sum paid by France, as the Difference due on the Exchange of Prisons. This Sum would have sufficed to have built a most magnificent Palace & made many other beneficial Improvements, without requiring the Aid of one Shilling from the Publick. The Plans were drawn; the Estimates made out; but His Majesty having been advised, that the giving this large Sum up to the Publick, just at that time, would tend much to increase His Popularity, did so. Unfortunately however it was almost immediately forgot; H. L. received neither Thanks, nor the Popularity promised Him; and there is no doubt the People would have been better pleased, to have seen hundreds of Workmen employed in building

Right Honourable Col. McMahon —

Duke
etc

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the magnificent Palace, as at first intended. This, and several other
 Instances which I recollect (for few Sovereigns have made such Consp.
 -ious to the Publick as His present Majesty) have convinced me: that
 all such Conceptions, however inconsiderate to the Sovereign, are never
 received by the Publick with that Gratitude, which ought to attend
 them; and indeed H: R: H: himself has felt the truth of this Observation
 from the second Motion made in the House of Commons, when His Majesty
 -ing all the Sacrifices He made, in order if possible to have formed such
 an Administration as the House seemed to point at, in their first Address.

It has been the cause of most serious grief to me that any of those
 whom I have brought into Parliament, should have taken so improper
 a Line upon L^d Dillton's Motion. Indeed I did not know that L^d
 Northey had done so, till I received your letter of the 22^d. My
 were certainly all three apprized of my Wishes, and Lord Percy's.
 as for L^d Daire, I had not proposed him to my friends at Laurence
 till Lord Percy in writing fully explained to them the Part desired
 my friends to take in Parliament, and till L^d Daire had in answer
 consented to follow that Line of Conduct, in every particular;
 and Lord Percy has now in his paper L^d Daire's answer, & a Copy
 of his own Letter. After this what can I say in extenuation of
 L^d Daire's Conduct? All I can do, is to have advised L^d Daire

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to call at Carlton House, and endeavour to explain to you his motives
for that vote, and to afford you such security, for his future good conduct,
as shall satisfy H. R. H. That there will be no repetition of it in future,
Indeed I have received his verbal assurance, that the vote proceeded from
a mistake - which certainly was a strange one - & that in future he will be
more guarded. I have likewise written a very strong letter to H. R. H.,
whose answer I have not yet received, but expect every day. So H. R. H.
Nottley I shall write immediately; for there are such times, when I will
allow my friends the least latitude, of not supporting His Royal Highness,
in His Government, on any occasion. I am full as angry with
H. R. H., as the Marcellon can possibly be. By utmost exertions will ever
be employed in the Prince's service. He has found sufficient Incon-
-trast in other Quarters; although His Majesty has, in one
Instance, so nobly forgiven, & seems to have forgot it. The true Characteris-
-tic of a great mind.

What an amazing Achievement has this been of Captain
Hothers, by dear Colonel, I have received a letter from an old, and
very experienced Admiral, who, writing upon this action, says, "Of all
I have ever read, heard, or seen of Naval actions, none ever
equalled what Captain Hothers has done, both as a seaman, & an
officer; & I trust this glorious Conduct of Captain Hothers will serve
as an example to every Officer in the Navy hereafter. This is not only

my Opinion, but that of every Admiral, & Officer, with whom I have
conferred on the Subject." So says my Old Admiral; and I beg leave
to congratulate His Royal Highness, on his being in the Navy,
a Captain, who by his Naval Talents, and Intrepidity, may
hereafter be able to ~~replace~~ make the Top of the Services of a
Nelson, a St. Vincent, or a Collingwood, less severely felt. Pray
Dear Colonel, let me ask you, what Honours, or Marks of Distinction
is Captain Hotham to receive, for this most extraordinary ~~and~~
valorous, on shore, We have had Ribbards, & Deering, granted for Services
performed; and I am satisfied, in this Island, Naval Gentles, & ~~and~~
particularly such as Captain Hotham's, never can be rewarded
I have no other Interest, but the good of my Country, in what I have
said above; for I do not ever know Captain Hotham's ~~will~~.

Let me beg of you, my Dear Colonel, to present my Duty to the
Prince Regent; and accept yourself of the Compliments of the
Duchess, my Family, and myself, & offer the same for us to H^r.
Majesty. I have the pleasure to be, with the most
sincere regard and esteem

My Dear Colonel
Your ever faithful Friend
Northumberland.