

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Decker -

19958-9

Alnwick Castle 10th August 1812.

My dear Colonel

I deferred answering your letter of the 3^d till I thought you would be quietly settled at Cheltenham, taking it for granted your time would be fully occupied, just at your Departure.

It was with infinite Satisfaction I received the Copy of Lord Kenmore's letter, and feel the greatest Obligation to His Royal Highness for having permitted me to see it. Not that I could ever have believed the Assertion of Counsellor Dirdley to be correct, but as there are Persons, even in this County, wicked enough to repeat the Counsellor's Assertion, & weak enough to believe it, I am happy in being in my power to declare that the Assertion was false, & that no such Pledge was ever given by the Prince Regent to his Lordship.

Having seen in the Papers such positive & repeated accounts of a Victory obtained over Buonaparte by Lord Wellington, I am willing to flatter myself it is true, altho' no official Dispatch is arrived; and I congratulate you most sincerely on the Occasion. I trust we
The Right Honourable
Colonel Isaac Incher

shall soon receive some News from S.^m Rowland Hill.

Enclosed I send you the Extract of a letter from the Head Quarters of the Emperor Alexander, written on the 11th of last month, which I have just received. I am the more induced to do so, as it comes from a Person in great favour with His Imperial Majesty, & I know the account may be depended upon. It is a complete contradiction to the noble Puff, published in the Secret Bulletins; & it is truly ridiculous to read, & compare, the two accounts together.

I begin to fear a letter I wrote some time ago to the Duke of York has been mis understood by His Royal Highness; & I wish you could assist me in the Business. I troubled him with a request for Promotion, for Lieutenant Fellow of the 14th Reg^t of Dragoons, who is Heir to S.^m Edward Fellow, and the only Child of his Brother, Rear Admiral Fellow. Thinking it would be injudicious in me to presume to push out to H. R. H. in what way the Promotion was wished for, I mentioned in my letter only, that I wish H. R. H. would promote him in such way as H. R. H. thought most proper. My fear is that the D. of Y. imagined I applied for the young man to be promoted without Purchase. The Wish of his Friends however is, that he may be allowed to purchase a Company, or Troop, selling his Lieutenancy as usual on such occasions. A Promotion is given to undistinguished young Gentlemen to Officers of Dragoons, who have been two years Lieutenants.

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Duke of Northumberland to Col. Jackson -

19959

The great death of the young Genl's Father, & Uncle, in the North Sea, with I am certain induce H. R. H. to grant the favour, as soon as he can, & I have the pleasure to know, that Lieutenant Fellow's conduct has been such, as to have induced Lord Wellington to return him his thanks. I confess I am particularly anxious to succeed in Lt. Fellow's favour, because I feel great obligation to S^r Edward Fellow, for having appointed my second son, Lord Algernon, a Lieutenant, the day after he had papered his Examinations, having kept a vacancy open some days for that very purpose. In gratitude therefore I feel myself called upon to procure a promotion for his nephew in return. If the D. of York understood the meaning of my letter, I am in duty bound to wait with patience; but should it have been mis-conceived I should be sorry the young Genl's promotion was unreceivingly delayed, to wait for a vacancy without purchase, which H. R. H. can give him without injustice to some other senior, & equally meritorious officer. I am already ashamed to give you so much trouble; but if you can get this set right for me, I shall feel myself particularly obliged to you.

We all write in compliments to you, & S^r Macartney; and hope you have already received benefit from the Cheltenham Waters. I have the pleasure to be with great regard
Your ever faithful friend
Northumberland.

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Duke of Northumberland?

10. Aug. 1812