Duke of Northumberland to Col. McMahon.
A.A. No. 141

20009 – 10

Alnwick Castle 4th. Septr. 1812.

Private

My dear Colonel

I feel much obliged to you, for your letter of the 28th. of last month, and partake most sincerely with you of the Joy which the Victory near Salamanca, for this I allow to be a Victory. I am sorry to find so many of my friends amongst the List of killed, and wounded. I find that half the Royal Regt. of Horse Guards are under Orders to join the Marquis. Two Squadrons are too small a Body to send of so distinguished a Corps. If the Prince Regent would restore to us (as Heavy Cavalry are wanted) the two Squadrons of which H: R: H: knows We have been cheated, We could spare at least 4 Squadrons to be sent extremely well. The Regt. was so popular at Warrington that I understand, We could have ~~have~~ raised & completed three two Squadrons in a fortnight, and no Regimental of troops can be so cheap to Government, as our Recruits cost nothing, for We give no bounty money, nor receive any Allowance, like the other Regts in the Service.

I never much to receive so bad an Account of Lord Home's Affairs. I always feared it would come to this. I confess I think

The Right Honourable
Col: MacMahon

he is quite wrong, not to take your Advice. The Situation of Governor General, in India, is the only one, in which he can hope to clear himself from his present Embarrassments. Ireland would be his certain destruction. It is however to be hoped, that the regard the Prince Regent has for Lord Moira will prevent H: R: H: from ever consenting to an Appointment which would be his Lordship's certain Ruin.

I am very happy to find you receive so much benefit from Cheltenham Waters. It is very easy to conceive that the Duties of your Office as Private Secretary to His Royal Highness must be very severe, and every, as you justly observe, to wear out both the Body and Mind. You must however recollect not only that the Prince at all times, & that it may be looked upon as nearly a permanent Situation. Whereas the Office of one of the Paymasters General to the Forces, is a very precarious One, & infallibly the Popular of it changed, on every Change of Administration. You would therefore probably hold it only for a very short Period, and into your
of seeing
taking
well worth
upon the

I much
prevailed
grieved,
not culpa
neither
Throw
for this
Regent of
Lord Grey
H
Mrs Mac-
Condolence

Duke of Northumberland to Col. McMahon.
A.A. No. 141

20010

Period, and if you once lost it, very possibly you might not easily obtain it again. Besides, entirely, when the Prince had lost the habit of seeing you constantly, there would be great danger of your Successor taking your place in H: R: H: Affections. These are Matters well worthy of your serious Consideration, before you decide upon the Step to which you allude.

As nothing has yet been done with respect to Lord Strangford I much fear his Enemies have, by their Insinuations, & false Statements prevailed against my Friend. If this is the Case, I am I am much grieved, & disappointed, because I know for certain his Lordship is not culpable. What is a poor foreign Minister to do, if he can get neither Directions how to act, nor Answers to his Dispatches? Throw Ld Strangford is a very meritorious foreign Minister, & has done more for this Country, by the weight he has obtained with the Prince Regent of Brazil, than any other Minister, since the time of the late Lord Fitzwilliam.

The Duchess, my family, and myself write Compliments to you, & Mrs Macmahon to whom We all beg leave to offer our Comp^ts of Condolence on the loss of her Mother. Adieu, my dear Colonel, & believe me

Ever most faithfully Your's

Northumberland

Duke of Northumberland
4. Sept. 1812