

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Maclean

20169-70

Alnwick Castle 4th Nov^r 1812

Private

My Dear Colonel

I have been so extremely busy, and mortified, at what has happened to my Reg^t and myself, that I really have been unable to write to you. Indeed my time has been so much taken up in making Enquiries, and giving Directions for searching for irretrievable Official Documents upon the Subject, that I really have hardly had time to do any thing else. The further my Researches extend, the more I am inclined to hope, that when H: R: H: made the late Appointments, the State of Facts, relative to the Appointment of Officers from other Regiments, or from Half Pay, into the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, and not have been laid correctly before Him. And I am the more inclined to flatter myself this has been the Case, by perceiving, in consequence of my Research after Official Documents, that the Person from whom H: R: H: the Commander in Chief received his Information has not

The Right Honourable
Colonel Maclean

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Keekon

20170

The Subject.

I am certain, my dear Colonel, a very little Recollection, will make you sensible, of the very disagreeable Situation I am particularly placed in, by this very unusual (I am sure I may truly make use of this Expression) Appointment of an Officer from half pay to a Group at the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards. In year 1758 the Groups of Horse Grenadiers were reduced, with the rest of the Kings Corps of Life Guards, & for 146 years afterwards, I never was placed at the Head of any other Reg^t. This was of course (as it naturally must be) construed by all my Brother Officers, as a mark of high Displeasure; being never happen'd to any body but myself. It was again another mark of Displeasure is affix'd upon me, which likewise never happen'd (to the best of my belief) to any other Officer than myself, holding the Commission of Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards / for I believe it will appear that the only solitary Instance of an Officer being appointed to the Blues from half Pay happen'd at a time when the Reg^t. was vacant, & had no Colonel / In what Light must I appear to the Army in general, and how will it be possible

for me, so signatized with this Double Dash of Displeasure
to continue any longer in the Service? The Prince Regent's
Justice, & Regard for the Service, are too well known, to
have it injured. He would place this second Dash
upon me, ever to the prejudice of the usual Promotions
of the Officers of the Regiment, without some very serious,
and weighty Cause; & more especially too, as H. R. H. has, ^{all} ^{the} ^{North} ^{York} ^{Regiment} ^{Discontinued}
this Instance, honoured me with more than common Dash
of Esteem, & Approbation. I am sure, my Dear Colonel, ^{that} ^{you} ^{will} ^{consider} ^{all} ^{these} ^{circumstances} ^{you} ^{must} ^{feel} ^{the} ^{very} ^{delicate} ^{situation} ⁱⁿ ^{which} ^{this} ^{unfortunate} ^{event} ^{has} ^{placed} ^{me}. I am convinced (as far as my research has gone) ^{that} ^{it} ^{will} ^{turn} ^{out} ^{that} ^{no} ^{officer} ^{whatsoever} ^{was} ^{ever} ^{appointed} ^{to} ^{the} ^{Blues} ^{from} ^{any} ^{other} ^{existing} ^{Regt.}, & that the only
solitary Instance of an Officer from half Pay being appointed, was
62 years ago, when the Commission of Colonel was vacant. Not
being gone through none of the Documents that for little more than
70 years yet; I will not positively assert therefor this to be the fact
at present, but I fancy this will prove to be the truth. If so, how unfortunate that
the second Instance in upwards of 150 years, should just be at the time of
concerning the Regt. But I will say no more at present, except to add my Duty
to H. R. H. & that I ever am most faithfully yours
Northumberland