

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Beckwith

20225 - 6

Alnwick Castle 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1812.

Private

My Dear Colonel

The accompanying Paper is formed from Official Documents. From the Manner in which the Entries are made, it is not possible, till the end of the Year 1728, to know, whether they are Appointments from other Regiments, or Promotions in the Corps. Besides it is perfectly known to those, who are acquainted with the Mode of appointing to Commissions in those Days, that the Colonels had so entirely the Disposal of the Commissions in their different Regiments, that they were not unfrequently given to Children, almost as soon as they were born. From 1728. Eighty four years ago, you see, My Dear Colonel, how seldom, the Prevalence of the Officers succeeding to the Vacancies, by Seniority, has been deviated from; and during the last 57 Years, not in one single Instance (altho' there has been no less than two hundred and thirty Officers) these last Appointments only excepted; ever if you take in the Appointment of The R. H. Col. Beckwith

Duke

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Captain Heyden or Hedden, which I inserted from an old  
 Army List, although I am told it does not appear from  
 any Official Document that any such Appointment ever  
 took Place. You will perceive, from this Paper, how very  
 pointedly marked the Difference is, between the Appoint-  
 ments H: R: H: the Prince Regent has been pleased  
 to make upon this Occasion, for those which were made  
 in the two former Instances of Augmentations in the years  
 1799, and 1803. when the late Duke of Richmond was  
 Colonel of the Regiment. As therefore the Officers of the  
 Royal Regiment of Horse Guards now see that they are  
 not to expect the same Indulgencies, which I am their  
 Colonel, which they have hitherto so long enjoyed under  
 their former Colonels, and more particularly under my  
 immediate Predecessor, I cannot expect from them the  
 same Consideration, & Respect, which my Predecessors

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enjoyed, & have therefore no other alternative left me  
than to make room for some more favoured officer, under  
whose command the Regiment they again receive those  
Indulgencies, which have been just now withheld from  
them, <sup>for several hundred years</sup> which, <sup>is</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>merely</sup> for them, I am Colonel of the  
Regiment.

I confess, by dear Colonel, I see the more hurt,  
by being held up to the Officers of my Reg<sup>t</sup> - the Army - &  
the Publick in general, in so degraded a Light, <sup>as is</sup> <sup>ordinarily</sup>  
different from that, in which all my Predecessors have  
appeared. And this too, at a moment when I flattered myself  
I was enjoying the good Opinion, if not even the Confidence  
of His Royal Highness the Prince Rupert. However I have  
the best self consolation to know, that my Attachment to his  
Person, and Zeal for his Service, have never been sur-  
-passed by any Person whatever. Of this, by dear Colonel, you  
can yourself bear Witness. I wish by of you to present my  
Duty to His Royal Highness, & assure Him, I shall ever pray

for His Royal Highness's Happiness, and the Prosperity  
of his Government.

The Duke, and my Lady write with  
in Compliments, and the very best of Wishes to you and  
M<sup>rs</sup> Mac-Nelson. Given by your Colonel and  
opened I ever am with the greatest truth

your ever faithfull Son  
Northumberland

201 (Northumberland)  
1712