

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Keekahan

20253 - 4

Private

Albrecht Castle 7<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1812.

My dear Colonel

I must trouble you to deliver the enclosed to His Royal Highness. I feel most sensibly the flattering expressions with which He has been pleased to honour me, and which, in addition to those I had the honour to receive from His Royal Father, and Great Grandfather during the Seven Years War, and American War, will prove a great consolation to me in my Retirement.

You must allow however, my dear Colonel, that the Public who can know nothing of this, can only judge of circumstances from the very different manner in which this last augmentation has been carried into effect, from what was adopted on the two former augmentations; and the Officers of the Regiment, who are now taught, that they need no longer look to their Colonel for their advancement, as has been the case formerly, will no longer show that attention to Right Honourable Colonel Keekahan



to Him, nor have that Deference for his Person, and  
 Orders, so vitally necessary to military Discipline, and Sub-  
 -ordination. To pretend to have entered into any Discursion upon  
 the Business with the Prince, would have been both improper,  
 and unwarrantable, H: R: H: 's Will is Paramount, to every thing, &  
 all power, custom, and usage, must yield before His Pleasure.  
 The statement I did myself the Pleasure of sending you,  
 was merely intended to let H: R: H: see, if He had wished to  
 peruse it, the most copious and authentic account possible  
 of all the Distresses of Officers that had ever been afforded  
 to the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, from other Regiments,  
 or from the Half Pay, & I have every reason to believe the  
 Archives of no Office whatever, can produce any other Distresses.  
 For I took the trouble to have the Offices, of the Commander in  
 Chief - The War Office - The Master General's Office, and  
 the late Lord Carteret's Papers, carefully examined; and ever

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Duke of Northumberland to Col. Beckton

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inserted an Instance, said to have happened in 1755, of a  
Captain Hedges, or Hedder, because it was found in an old Army  
list, altho' I believe no such Appointment is to be found, in  
the Archives of any Publick Office. The Instances, contained in  
that Paper I sent, were taken from the War Office; from the  
Archives in the Office of <sup>the</sup> Commander in Chief, and of the Master  
Master General, far as they do not furnish a single Instance;  
The Archives of the former Office, going as far back, then to  
the Appointment of H. R. H. the present Commander in Chief;  
and those of the Master Master General, only to 1760.

But, as I said before, my Dear Colonel, all this is unavailing.  
His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's Pleasure, has chosen  
to deprive the Regiment, and its Colonel, of all former Privileges;  
even those which the Officers were permitted, without the least  
interruption, to enjoy during the whole time of George's, the late  
Duke of Richmond, and the honour to be their Colonel. The  
present Alteration of Order therefore could not help striking  
every body; and I do assure you, my Dear Colonel, it has already



made a deep Impression on the Publick Mind, as I find from  
several Letters, I have received on the Subject.

I will venture to say, my Dear Colonel, no Man with  
the least, has a more sincere, and inviolable Personal  
Attachment to His Royal Highness, than myself. I shall  
therefore feel myself much particularly unfortunat, in being  
obliged to quit a Service, in which I have spent my whole  
Life, for upwards of Fifty three Years, and with those some  
little Ends to myself, and Advantage to my Country, during  
the Government of His Royal Highness; should I be witness  
the fatal Weakness of so doing, for those nice and delicate  
Feelings, which were instilled into me, when still a Youth, by the  
late Royal Highness, William Duke of Cumberland, and which  
I have preserved ever since, thro' the long Course of my military  
Service. Adieu, my Dear Colonel; I present the Corp<sup>n</sup> of the  
Duchess, my Family, and myself to yo<sup>r</sup> Respects, and accept  
the same yourself. God bless you, and believe me with the most  
affectionate  
Your ever most faithful Friend  
Northumberland.