

Duke of Northumberland
to Col. The Marston
10. Aug. 1803.

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Alarick Castle 10th Aug^r 1803

My Dear Colonel

Many thanks for your letter with its contents. I sincerely wish our Royal master had taken the step at first, I have always desired him to do. It would have saved him a deal of trouble, & you see he is forced to it at last, & sure it does not come with the same grace as at first.

We got down here on Friday to dinner, & our Reception was of the most flattering Nature. I wish Ministers had been present. It would have been a lesson to convince them how very unwearied all their efforts have been to diminish Interest & Influence in this County, & which I hardly should have been about for seven years & they have avoided heaven & earth to crush that Influence.

Lord Percy has been very successful with his Corps of Gentlemen; nearly 1500 of the Gentlemen being, instantly enrolled themselves to serve under him. This is a proud situation

for a young man just entering into life, & with the enthusiastic
attachment & joy they showed on my return amongst them, will
tend to make him feel his future weight & consequence in this
Kingdom.

We are here in a terrible state for Defence, I. A. Det-
-achment being only one week & incomplete Battalion of Militia
& 3 troops of Dragoons within this County for its Defence. It
is a Shame. They trust I have to the Volunteer Corps, & yet by
their Conduct to them, & the frequent charges they make in the
houses they offer through the difficulties they bring in their way,
they do every thing to disappoint them.

Adieu my Dear Col. & believe me

Dear most sincerely Yours

Northumberland.

When do you set off for Cheltenham.