

D. of Northumberland to Col. Beckshaw

39972 - 3

Albion Castle 2^d Oct^r 1809

My Dear Colonel

I should not have delayed writing to you so long, but I was uncertain where to direct my letter, & I beg therefore, that the same thing may not again happen, you will be kind enough to let me know in your next, whether it is proper always to direct to you at Carlton House, & whether your letters will be regularly conveyed to you from that Place?

I am very sorry to hear that you have been afflicted with so troublesome a Disorder as the Rheumatism, especially as in this part of the Kingdom, we had the small pox that ever was known.

If the Information, you mention in your letter, can be depended upon by Ministers, they are under a most dangerous Possibility for to have left this Northshire County, with all its Collieries in the absolutely defenceless State, in which it is; Not a single man in it that ever saw an Army, & but few who ever heard of or fired a Musket - I demand a regular Detachment with a Garrison of

only sixteen Invalids, & of 4,700 & odd volunteers considerably
upwards of 3,000 without arms. We have indeed been promised
arms, but none are arrived. If therefore the Army was sent to land
in this part of the Kingdom, poor Mr. Hew Dalrymple has little to
oppose them with. Nothing would be easier than for the French to
seize upon Berwick with the Crew of a Longboat, & then they will
have a most charming fortified Depot, where they may find in
perfect quiet & security what troops, Provisions, Ammunition &c
they please; Hold it with four or five Battalions, & from thence make
prodigious excursions into this County & Scotland; nor could they be
dispossessed of it but by a regular Siege in form. The only regular
Reg^t Mr. Hew is ever promised, is the 53^d, consisting of Officers & Men
& the best battalions for the Army of Reserve in the West Riding of
Yorkshire, who are to join the Off^r & Serj^{ts} at Sunderland, as soon as
they are completed. And this they call a Reg^t of His Majesty's
Regular troops. I had indeed forgot two troops of the 5th Dragoon
Guards, which Mr. Hew has under his Command!!!

D. of Northumberland to Col. H. C. K. H. C. W.

39973

I have had a right received the eleventh Edition of Populations
allowances &c. &c. &c. for the Volunteer Corps, with various
alterations (I wish I had had also amendments) in consequence of which
I have to send letters & copies to have written for the 12 Volunteer
Corps of this County. I had much rather have received the forms & accounts
sent for them.

I should have been cleared off H: h: H: the Prince's
disposition, had I not been sure, that if it was anything serious
I should have heard from you on the Occasion.

I beg you will excuse this of my Duty & Attachment,
and accept yourself of the Compliments & best wishes of myself
and Family. Believe me, &c. as before I ever am

Your sincere Friend
Northumberland.

1897

Office of the Superintendent

2nd Day 1893

October

[Faint, illegible handwriting on a folded piece of paper, likely a letter or document.]