

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Dickson,

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Albion Castle 16.th Nov^r. 1803.

My Dear Colonel

I always feel myself much obliged to you, for your letters, but particularly for the last of the 11th. as it explained to me a circumstance about which I was wholly left in the dark. I have not from any other quarter received the best intelligence of the Dear Depts for the ensuing Campaign in St. Stephens, or of the measures which it was intended should be pursued. I confess I do not quite like the Idea which has lately been taken up by some of our friends, that I say with these Dear influences, to follow as a matter of course, & in the crowd, those measures which others choose to adopt, without any previous communication with me on the Subject, & shall in future consider myself in such case at liberty to pursue those measures which shall appear to me most beneficial to the Country in general, without any other Consideration. And when it is resolved to carry on Negotiations for Arrangements, in order to please the D: of Bedford, Lord Liverpool, & the King without any

previous Consultation with me, or Consideration of what may
be agreeable to me, for myself or my friends, I shall think myself
equally justified & at Liberty to negotiate for myself & my
friends without Consideration of those Gentlemen. I can find
of being desired only one in the Crowd, except where Money, or
Seat in Parliament is wanted of me. My friend will assure His
Royal Highness that I feel myself singularly obliged to Him, for
the Communication, thro' you, which otherwise the other Gentlemen
would never have thought of making, & that the Honour He
has done me by showing me this mark of His Confidence, is
more than an Equivalent for the slight put upon me by His
Counsellors. I have been very sorry to have observed for some
time past, that a great jealousy of me has arisen amongst
those who are H: M: H: & Advisers. In Abilities, none of them
are my superiors, but in Attachment, Zeal, or Fidelity towards
His Royal Highness I will assure that no man can surpass me.
God knows I have no other view or bent in my conduct
towards Him, but the Advancement of His Happiness & Liberty.

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Hutchinson.

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And whatever Advice I say sh^d any time have presumed to give
His Royal Highness, has been founded on a thorough conviction
that it was for His Interest. You yourself must be sensible
of this, from the Conclusions we have had together on various
Subjects; & I believe I may add, without vanity, that it would
sometimes have been better for His Interest, had he listened to it,
& followed it. On the present Occasion, I coincide perfectly
in Opinion with Mr. Stender; the Insults which H: R: H:
has received from Mr. Pitt are such as should be never will
be forgotten, & the disinterested Support of Mr. Edington
is more becoming H: R: H: & dignified than any Coalition with
Mr. Pitt. When Lord Howe signified to me His Royal Highness's
flattering Word of Confidence in appointing me of His Council,
His Lordship added that he had it in Command from H: R: H:
to signify to me that the whole Direction of every thing in Council
should pass thro' my hands. By never being opposed the Court
Influence or consequence in Council Business, which the Duke
His gracious bepage, ought to be a convincing Proof, that
I am not eager either for Power, or Patronage. My Love

you or setting & directing every thing there, just as they have
have pleased, without any interference of mine, & sometimes even
as you well know, contrary to His Royal Highness's wishes.
What cause therefore they have to be jealous of my zealous &
disinterested attachment to His Royal Highness's service, I
cannot receive, but so it is, & I have only to thank you, & his
good officers to preserve as His Royal Highness's interest, & Regard.
His Interest is explicitly united with His, & His good sense
understanding can easily distinguish between those
whose advice for the Service they give proceed from habit
self Interest, & those whose advice proceeds purely
for Regard & attachment to H: R: H: 's Honor & Interest.

I am sorry to receive such an acct. of the State
of a great Service. If you have any thing particular
subject, or any other which is interesting, do give me a line.

The Duke's desires will for his Country with
me to you & his Grace's honor, & be assured I ever am
whoever advises a Coalition your faithful Friend
with L^{ds} with, consult their own
Interest, and then H: R: H: 's Honor,
at Sirath.

Northumberland.