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Duke of Northumberland to Col. MacMahon

40073-4

Alnwick Castle 5th February 1846.

My Dear Colonel

An attack of my old Complaint
in my hands, has prevented me from acknowledging
sooner the receipt of your Letter of the 21st of
last month; & indeed it is with so much Pain & Difficulty
that I write ever now, that nothing but my having
last night seen an Article in the Newspaper, mention-
ing that the Prince was ill, would have induced me
to trouble you now. Interested however as I am by
Gratitude, as well as Duty, in whatever concerns His
Royal Highness, I cannot delay taking the very first
Opportunity of enquiring thro' you after his health.
I sincerely hope the Article is ill founded, or at least
that His Royal Highness is perfectly recovered.
Colonel MacMahon -

I must beg that, with the Appearance of my most Dutifull
attachement, you will return my Thanks to the Prince, for
permitting me to see the Letter he wrote on the Queen's
Birthday, & His Royal Highness may rest assured that
neither this nor any other Confidential Paper with which
I may be trusted by Him shall ever go out of my hands, or
be communicated to any other Person, but by the Order
of His Royal Highness.

I undoubtedly think the Prince perfectly right in
attending to the Duty of his Regiment at Guildford. The
same reason, which induced him to continue with it
at Brighton, is equally valid for his removal with it
to its new Quarters; for by so doing, the Prince will act
with that consistency, which I hope will ever be the guide of all
his actions.

From this last Notice, I trust in God H: R: H: will never

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Duke of Northumberland to Col. Ke. Mahon

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consent to any Coalition with Lrd Pitt. The Indignities & Insults offered to the Prince, ^{by} that arrogant & insolent man have been such as can neither be overlooked nor forgiven. It would be inconsistent with H. R. H.'s Dignity was he to do so.

As Parliament has now met again, I take it for granted some kind of arrangement must soon take place. Do pray let me know what you have on this subject. It appears to me that if Ministers do not take great care, they are in danger of burning their fingers with the Volunteer Corps.

I see by the Papers Lord Cornwallis has contrived to work himself again into Conscience. I wonder whether it was his conduct at York Town, or America, which has recommended him for a situation of such national consequence to this Kingdom on the present Occasion.

As I have no other Information relative to His Majesty's State of Health, except what I see in the Papers

I shall feel myself very much obliged to you for any information on this subject, which may come to your knowledge.

I am very glad that my opinion of the propriety of H. K. H. keeping his Reg. coincided with that of G. M. J. The only defect upon it that my advice I propose to offer the Prince will be founded on the sincere regard I have for his Dignity, Honour, & Welfare, & that as I see here no other Object in view but H. K. H.'s Welfare, being myself an Object of ambition to gratify, that my advice will ever be the pure Dictates of my heart. I understand a certain Lady is soon to return from Bath. G. M. J. should keep a strict eye on the Proceedings, & Intrigues of that Court. Adieu my Dear Colonel; accept of my best wishes, & believe me

Yours most sincerely
The Duke's Devotee
Wm. Mordaunt Esq. Northumberland
be remembered to you & L^{dy}
Mordaunt. I likewise desire you
will present my respects to her.