

Albion Castle 21st Feb^r 1804.

My Dear Colonel

I feel sensibly your kindness in writing to me at this time. I cannot understand the sudden changes which appear to take place in the L's Disorder, nor indeed clearly what the Nature of the Disorder itself is. I am that one fears, I should conclude that this is no more than a third attack of his old complaint.

I hear from the Inn at this Place, that Mr. Gray has been sent for in a great hurry & is gone to Town. Doubtless to be consulted on the present Occasion, & on the Arguments to be made in consequence. I only hope, being, & remembering the Prince as I do, that those, on whom H: K: H: places his Confidence, & thinks proper to consult in this critical Situation of Affairs, may give H: K: H: such Advice as will contribute to his Comfort, Honour, & Dignity, without any selfish Views of their own. I have no doubt but H: K: H: will recollect on this Occasion that L. Shelton's Advice cannot be

quite impartial. He was at a former Period the L^d. Charleton
& one of those who were the strongest for laying the intended
Report under the restraints of such disgracefull Restrictions.
It cannot therefore be expected that he will, by contrary Advice
on this Occasion, & owing that under these restrictions the
pursuance of the Country cannot possibly be carried on, openly
declare to the Nation that he was actuated on the former
Occasion by the most unjustifiable & criminal Motives.

I clearly foresee the Game that will be played with the
Prince, by those different Sets of Men, & should H: K: H: implicitly
comply with the Wishes of any one of them, I am sure he will find
cause hereafter to regret his having so done. God grant H: K: H:
may take into his Confidence, & Consult, Wiser, Experienced, &
above all Disinterested & Honest Men on this Occasion, the
most critical perhaps that ever will be offered to him in the
whole Course of his Life, & upon ^{which} his future Happiness, or
Misery, may perhaps greatly depend.

Have ever lived long in

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the World, & have had great Experience in it, & I therefore feel
all the danger attending the Situation in which the Prince is
placed. I love H: R: H: most sincerely, & therefore trouble you
the least of Counsel He may be advised to follow. But whether
the Subject, or what I should say upon it, ought to be conveyed
thru the Mediation of the Dutch Office. Adieu & believe me

Ever most sincerely Yours
Northumberland.

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Duke of Northumberland

21 July 1704