

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Keane

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Alnwick Castle 3. Feb. 1805.

My Dear Colonel

I feel much obliged to you, for your Letter of the 28th of last Month, & for the Communications which it contained. I am now in hopes that all the Business relative to Princeps Charlotte is drawing towards a Conclusion, & most sincerely hope that it will be finally settled to the Satisfaction of all Parties. If I may be allowed to express any Opinion upon so delicate a Subject, I cannot say that Baroness Howe is exactly the Person I should have pitched upon for Her Royal Highness's Governor. Lady De Clifford I have not the pleasure of being acquainted with. Pray let me know where I might see her?

I think I can account very rationally for the frequent Visits paid by H. H. to Blackheath. He of course communicated to the D^{ty} his Intentions with regard to her Daughter, & he found such a perfect Acquiescence of Her Part to all this Deal, &c.

perhaps with no trifling proportion of I latter, that I am not
surprised that H: h: should have taken a partiality to Her
Royal Highness. Besides, if He wishes to mortify a certain
other Personage, He cannot take a more effectual way of
Doing so.

I am obliged to you for the trouble you took about
the Livings of S^r. Austle & S^r. Blagge. M^r. Spettigue repre-
sented to me that H: R: H: had presented the last time
to these Livings, & he was very desirous his Brother Edmund
should succeed to them. M^r. Spettigue has some heavily having
adhered steadily to me, when his Eldest Brother opposed me
most violently in Laurenceston. I wish therefore to have
obliged him. There is another Person at Laurenceston for
whom I am very anxious to procure something in the Bucky
He has always remained my next firm Friend, & has resisted
large Sums of Money, Offers of being provided for by Govern-
ment, & every other Temptation, without ever having asked

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me even for anything in his life. His Name is Perseverance.
If there should be any little Office or Situation, of the value
of from 60 to 100 £ p. ann. I should be very anxious to secure the
Reversion of it for him. Will you be kind enough to make
enquiry at the Duty Office, & let me know what there
are of about this Amount, that I may endeavour to discover
whether any of them would suit him. Being a Layman, a
Living of course will not answer the purpose.

If one is to judge from the Papers, the Reconciliation
between L^d Sidmouth & M^r Pitt does not appear to be a very
cordial one. A very short time must decide, which will
gain their Point. Should Lord Melville really resign, & retire,
I shall indeed then think it is all over with M^r Pitt.
Nothing will afford me more Satisfaction than to find it
is so, for I never can forgive that Gentleman the Insolence
& wicked Envy which he has always shown the Prince.
I am rejoiced to find that Lord Stafford, & Lord Lowther have
left him. The least, from the Number of members he brings into
Parliament, will be a Step he will not severely feel.

I see by your account of the Division of the Cabinet, that
my friend the Chancellor has jumped over the shield
again. He certainly was the Person who negotiated
Mr Pitt's Resignation into Power. This, & the D: of Scotland
however proves clearly that the D: is decidedly against
him. Pitt however will struggle hard before he gives way
& I take it he has Clibberie, & Curran, enough to hold
Edinburgh

The Ships that cleared Scotland, were out-
fitted to have been a Frigate, with a Spanish Prize.

Pray was it really the Indisposition of the Queen
occasioned the Drawing Room to be postponed last Thursday?
We are now in January, & the next month & April are
dangerous ones for the D's Indisposition. They must begin to
-work to keep him quiet, or his chief may arise.

All here write, with say in Compliments to you, & Mr.
Gracemaker. Adieu, & be assured I ever am
I fear D: Horse has as usual most faithfully yours
ascendancy as ever. I am truly
Northumberland.

Sorry for it