

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Kebleton.

40402 - 3

Alnwick Castle 15th March 1805

My Dear Colonel

It has been out of my power some
to thank you for your letter of the 1st, for I have been
confined to my bed with the severest attack of my old
Complaint, that I ever experienced, & altho' now much better,
it still hangs about me, & I cannot shake it off completely.
I ought however in some degree to be consol'd, from finding
that all my young Acquaintances have suffered more this
year than usual. This severe attack I fear will prevent
my being able immediately to obey the Prince's wish, of
setting off for London, which however I will not fail to do
as soon as ever I am sufficiently recovered to undertake the
journey. Times are very critical, & the approaching two months
not less so; some thing must soon be done to give strength &
activity to the Government of this Country, or the Country itself will

be undone, as long as the Direction of Affairs continues in
the present hands, as good can be expected. Believe me, whatever
high Opinion these Gentlemen may entertain of their own Abilities,
they are as none equal to the Government of the Affairs of such
a Kingdom as this, than a parcel of Children. All Europe
knows this, & keeps close. By a Letter I received some time ago, I was
informed that all matters were amicably settled between the Prince
& the D: of York, & a such sincere, & cordial reconciliation had taken
place. Pray be kind enough to inform me in your next, whether
this is true, or merely put about by the Letter's friends, for certain
purposes?

I'm much obliged to you for the service in which you
have managed the business of the Superintendency. I was
certainly promised the first vacancy by the late Ed: Taylor
in the Prince's Name as long ago as the year 1787. but as
he never succeeded to any vacancy during this long period, I thought

Duke of Northumberland to Col. McClellan.

40403

be had quite given up all idea of it. However as you have
covered the business, I shall have full time to settle this point.

Since the Prince was at the Windsor Lake. The
Prince was probably the cause. You may remember what I said to
you long ago on this subject, that the barrier in which the
I - conducted herself, by asserting herself always when she appeared,
was to the news of creating her wherever she pleased to travel
H:K:H: for every Lake & Entertainment. Why cannot H:K:H: send
her in Public, let every other woman, without taking the least
Notice of her, or even appearing to know she is there?

I am much satisfied with the account you give me of Lady
De Clifford. She appears from it to be the fittest person possible
to fill the situation, with which she has been lately honored.

I have strange accounts of the D's beyond here. It is really
almost surprising belief. How can ministers contrive to find ways &
means for it? I am likewise assured that his cousin the Duke
is such, that he can hardly be induced to see her, & that for six

weeks together he could not procure an audience, but by
application in writing in the most earnest manner. How can things
go on so. A most intricate of L. Sidmouth's opinions on that
the state of the Intercourse & Communications between the H: &
L: Pitt, are carried on through L. Sidmouth, & that he ^{is} ~~is~~
submits to receive his Directions thro' him, or more properly
perhaps from him. How are the rights fallen! He keeps
however his intrigues in Parliament, & whilst he could
L. Babel & Co. care little for any thing else.

Adieu my Dear Colonel - I have no excuses to give
for not writing; it is part of the Duty of a Secretary to be able to
deceive. I present my Duty to His Royal Highness - & as I am
he is in London, my Duty to your Indignation for! Doubtless, if you
see him.

Yours ever most sincerely
Northumberland.

of the
March 1783
Northumberland