

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Kahan.

40451-2.

Albion Castle 14th Aug^r. 1805.

My Dear Colonel

As I had nothing worth while to communicate to you, I was unwilling to disturb you with any letter from me till you were well settled at Chatterbox. As this must be the case by this time, I now have set down to thank you for your letter of the 29th of last month, & its enclosure. I am assured that the Person to whom it relates is not worse than when he left Windsor, & I see by the Papers that he takes his usual Diversion. This convinces me that his sight cannot be worse, or he would find no pleasure in his aquatic Excursions. I perceive the D: of York has been down with him, & I have no doubt of his paying frequent visits to Weymouth. As H: R: H: has it now in his power to be acquainted with the most minute & secret Transactions, he will not fail to pay his respects at proper times, to remove all difficulties on one side, & to settle them on the other. I sincerely hope our Prince will keep his Resolution, & go down to Weymouth, not for one day only, but to stay some time.

I pray, from Circumstances which have lately appeared, that S: R: Calder

had enough of it, in his Engagement with the combined Fleet, else I do not understand his subsequent Conduct. I much fear they will escape Lord Nelson. But in the name of God, why are we to be waiting after 20 Sail of the Line, & 350 Gun Ships, with the Sail of the Line at our heels, & eleven at another.

From the Orders issued to the Volunteer Corps in this Neighbourhood, one would suppose the Army to be actually in the Act of Landing. One thing I see clearly, that We are in a great fright, & like all other weak & ignorant Persons, have lost our heads, what you are to do in Gloucestershire I know not, but all the Volunteers here have their Route already for Milborne; & are ordered to march each Day at the best 31 Miles, ~~at six & seven~~ & 8 Days. If our Commanders in Chief's Calculations are formed upon such Measures, I fear he will in the End be much disappointed. I will venture to spare him, for such a combined Land, the thing is impossible.

What is our Heaven born Minister of existing Circumstances about? For my part, I am convinced he will stick fast to his Place till he has a Majority in Parliament against him, & ever then he will

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not resign his Place, till he has dissolved the Parliament, & been defeated in the new One.

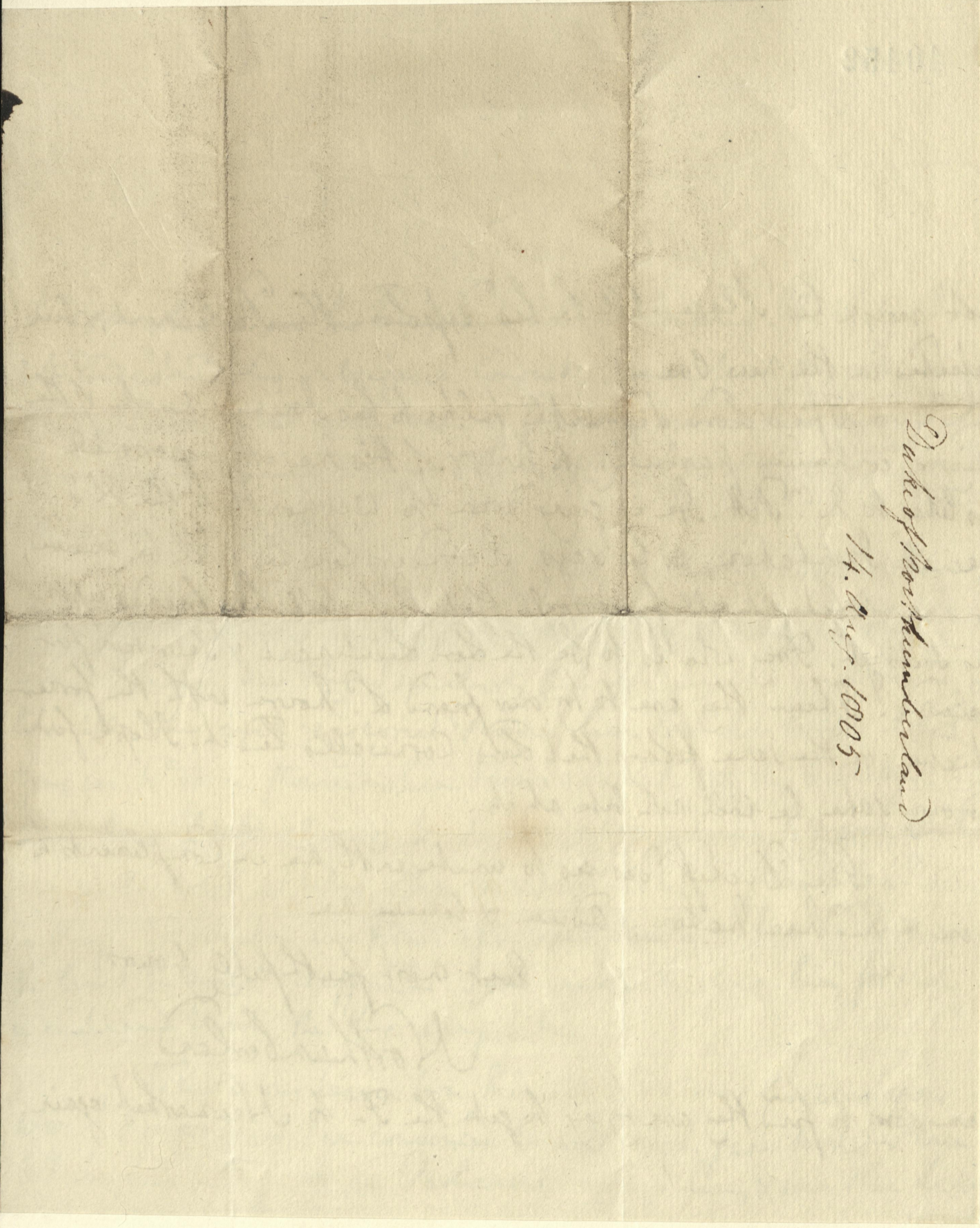
I find Lord Sidmouth talks to his Friends much of the King's continued partiality to him, & of His Majesty's personal dislike to Mr. Pitt. He is going down to Weymouth by the King's special Invitation, as he says. I wonder how he will be received, for I do not take it all for gospel that L. S. tells his friends upon this Subject. They who is to be the Lord Lieutenant, & Secretary for Ireland? I hear they are to be by our friend L. Howe with the former Situation, on the same footing that Lord Cornwallis had it. I hope for his own sake, he will not bite at it.

The Duchess desires to unite with me in Compliments to you & Mr. Macomber. Adieu & believe me

Ever most faithfully Yours

Northumberland

I am sorry to find they are trying to get the P. to Newcastle again.



Duke of Northumberland

14. Aug. 1005.