

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Hectahou -

40476-7

Ashwick Castle 6th Nov^m 1803.

My Dear Colonel

As gratitude is a Virtue I know
you desire, I will begin my Letter by desiring you to
apprize H: R: H: that I am duly sensible of his kind rep
in being appointed by friend Dr. Greer a Supervisor of
Gir. Perhaps I was anxious this appointment should take
place; for it was promised to poor Greer in a Letter
written by the late General Payne, as far back as the
year 1786, & the disappointment in not having got it,
& the full conviction in Dr. Greer's mind that the fault
and not set with me, was the cause that occasioned him
& his family to support Dr. Garthstone at the time he
was elected for Leicestershire.

Your letter affords me indeed pleasure by its good
account of H^m D^r's health. what I said in my former
Letter, proceeded from the best, & I truly think her side of the

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most serious Consequence to our Royal Master. He can
say many things to him, which it would be impossible for
any body else to do, & can prevent him from leading & doing
many things, which Destroying, & ill informed, Persons about
him propose to him, for the purpose of distressing him, & which
his own most excellent Understanding makes him suspect, about
as soon as he has done them.

I am much obliged to you for all the information
you give me relative to the internal Staff for the Committee
of Army. I believe Mr. Pitt may spare himself the trouble of
mentioning them over. You will see, he has done for the
Austrian Army, & he will now with ^{his} usual closeness & care
the Spanish Armies, one after the other, & beat them in detail, for
when he, whose abilities are well equal to the task,
attempt to form Military Plans, or to carry them into execution,
Disappointment & Disgrace, are the certain Consequences. This
we know but too well by past Experience; with which,

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Gouven, Liebenau, Fland, Lennel, & the Helder. By the bye, does
the D^r know, that the Count of St. Petersburgh has written
a book against the D^r: of York being the Comand of the
army to be forced on the Continent, of which the Bricks, &
Harrowers are to form a Part? I own the Author from whence
I received this book, I believe it to be correctly true.

You see, by Dear Colonel how completely all Mr. Pitt's
older Friends have failed him; & instead of ending in the
whole Government of Buxenprate, ~~will probably go~~ ^{will probably go} to end in
his former Territories & Dover, & to the paying away, very probably,
a few more millions of British money. But as long as Mr. Pitt
is continued at the Head of Administration, what can we hope
for better. Believe, & believe me ever to be

Yours sincerely
Northumberland.

The Duke, Desires to write with an Appendix to you &
H^r Grace - Day I beg of you to offer my Compliments of congrat-
ulation to H^r D^r on her recovery.

Duke of Northumberland

b. Nov 1625