

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Hekahou,

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Albion Castle 4<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1805.

My Dear Colonel

What a curious State have we been brought into by the Ignorance & Precipitation of our Government Minister. We cannot now ever entertain any reasonable hope of being Constitutional Allies, or of forming on the Continent any Opposition to whatever Buonapartes may choose. In the case of France why would he precipitate Austria into hostile measures before she was properly prepared, & the Russian Colours were sufficiently advanced to strengthen her; & why did he deceive both Courts by the promise of a powerful Division, when he knew or ought to have known that he could not make it for her, even if he was desperate enough to drain this Country & Ireland of almost all the regular Forces. But what are we to expect whilst such ignorance, tho' presumptuous Terms manage our Affairs; & yet my Dear Colonel, I do not expect

that ever this will occasion any charge. Mr. Pitt used  
to be a bold Minister; but I am assured he is now charged;  
if so, he possibly may take flight at the awful situation  
into which his Presumption, & Ignorance, have brought this  
Country, & may leave to others the pleasing task of correcting his  
Errors & of averting all the Evils which threaten us, if it is  
possible to do so. I hope it will now be acknowledged that  
instead of the Title of "the Pilot that has weathered the Storm"  
he merits more justly the title of "the Wizard that has raised  
the Storm". And a Storm he has raised that I wish this Country  
may be by any means enabled to weather. I have always said  
that Persons, who ~~are~~ <sup>with</sup> want of Experience or <sup>sufficient</sup> Abilities, pretend to  
plan or execute military Operations, and do with these Matters,  
nothing but Disgrace, Defeat, & Destruction can result from them.  
This Doctrine I have been preaching up for some years in  
vain, & now I fear by Experience we have all learnt the truth  
of it. The present Aspect of Affairs is gloomy indeed, & I am

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Heccheron.

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~~For~~ All our Naval Victories will not save us, from a  
most disgracefull Peace.

What does the Prince think of all this? He needs feel  
indeed, for what he cannot remedy. Our Cabinet are but as children  
in the hands of Buonaparte, & if they are suffered to govern the  
Country much longer, H: K: H: will succeed to the Crown of these  
Kingdoms with as little Power, or Weight, in Europe, as a King  
of Portugal.

But I will drop this melancholy Subject &  
close my Letter with Desiring you to excuse H: K: H: of  
my most dutifull Attachment, & to accept yourself the  
best Compliments of the Duke & myself, & offer the same  
on our part to Col. Heccheron.

Your's ever most sincerely  
Northumberland.

Book of Mr. Humboldt  
4. Dec. 1805.