

Duke of Northumberland to Col. McMahon.

40501 - 2

Alnwick Castle 28<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>  
1805.

My Dear Col:

I was sincerely grieved to find from your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup>, that you had been so much indisposed. I really believe there has been something in the air extremely irksome to the human constitution. As for myself, I have been well three days together during the last three months; but my complaint has been entirely rheumatic.

I feel much obliged to you for the Intelligence you have given me, & the more so, as I have received hardly any letters from any of my friends, for a great length of time. Indeed nobody could afford me so much authentic information as yourself. I wish I am much surpris'd at the Minister's overhurry to take the D: of York's vote concerning the Army, & since you are of his Continuarance in Office. To this I should think the King never will consent; & after it has been so publicly declared that His Majesty has actually signed his appointment, He surely never will consent to cancel it.

please Mr. Pitt. If he does, I confess I do not see how the Duke  
of York can possibly avoid flinging up all his Appointments, &  
retiring as the Duke of Cumberland did, on a similar Offer  
being put upon him, by the Premier's Father. As for the Dispute  
about the S. of Cambridge, it is sorely impossible for the King  
to give way in that, after the Proclamation published & approved  
& signed by the King herself. The very Proposition is such an  
Insult to the King, that one can hardly conceive Mr. Pitt would  
dare to submit it to His Majesty.

I was very sorry to find from the latter part of your  
Letter, that a Subject was again renewed, which I had hoped  
was laid at rest, & that the Chancellor has again been  
deputed on this unpleasant Business. How unfortunate was  
it that our friend Lord Boringham was induced to advise the  
Prince to let her go with the first offer from H: K: H: to the  
King. You may remember I reproached that measure at the  
time, & wrote you words that I foresaw many disagreeable  
Consequences would attend. You see alas I have proved but too

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Mordaunt.

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me a Prophet.

There is a very trifling thing in Cornwall which this  
of considerable consequence for as to recommend to other it shall  
become scarce, & I must trouble you to care it to H:R:H:  
The name of the thing is Sordulph & the present Incumbent  
is Mr. Jago, who I understand is in a bad state of health.

Our weather here is cold & we have this year  
nothing but continual winds, snow, & rain.

May I trouble you to present my most dutiful respects  
to our Royal Master, assure him of my inviolable attachment,  
& offer him on my part the complements of the season.

Adieu my Dear Colonel & believe me

Ever most faithfully yours

Northumberland.

In your next, pray let me know, how the King does, & I am  
particularly anxious to have a true account of his eyes;  
about which I receive such different accounts. It is impossible  
to say how attentive & kind my new Heptate Coli forer has been to me

50208

*Order of Northumberland*

20. Jan 1005

*[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*