

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Fectehow

41398 - 9

Alnwick Castle 20th Oct. 1810.

My dear Colonel

I have received your letter of the 16th,
acquainting me with your return to town, from your usual
excursion, & hope that the Chatterbox Waters have been
as beneficial to you as usual. This dry air has been of infinite
service to Lady Elizabeth, who has got entirely the better of
her late Complaint, so that We are relieved from all anxiety
on her account. For her most surprising recovery I am indebted
to our worthy friend Lord Hovington, who mentioned Dr. Stewart first
to me, & it is under his Advice that Lady Elizabeth has got rid
of her late dangerous Disposition. He has particularly desired that
we would remain here as late in the Winter as possible, instead
of going into Devonshire, as we intended. As for myself, I have not
had the least attack of my old Disorder, since the first of last
May, but have enjoyed the most perfect state of health possible
thanks to Dr. Jones, & l' Eau Medicinale d' Hupou. It is the most
wonderful medicine possible, & I have seen its effects on other Persons
which are really most astonishing. With me it has no operation whatever
Colonel Macdonald -

I perceive by the Gazette that the Army in Portugal has gained another Talavera Victory. That, was followed by the Evacuation of Spain; I hope this is not to be followed by the Evacuation of Portugal. Victories by which We lose a great number of the finest troops in the World, without being able by ^{them} to maintain the objects for which We contend, are not Victories that please me. I am of the Old School, & do not understand the New System at all. Perhaps the Newer System is best, & the Smells of the Victories of Talavera, & Buena Vista, will greatly surpass those of Maida, & Wagram; but I confess I am blind enough not to perceive it.

As General de Saxe has spoken to Lord Beverley, he will be the best Judge on the Subject you mention. I know, some time ago, Lord Beverley would not consent to accept of his enlargement, unless his Son, who is a Prisoner likewise, was released at the same time.

I was sorry to see in the Papers, that there is an account of the Prince's being an Attack of the gout. I hope if it is true, it has been very trifling? I beg you will present my Duty

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Fecthano

41399

to H: R: H: & spare her of an insupportable Attachment.
I greatly lament the unfortunate State, in which poor
Princess Amelia continues. Surely Princeps Harry must be ^{the} most
amiable Creature in the World, who has so long given up every
thing to her affectionate Attendance upon her Sister. I have not the
honour to know Her Royal Highness, but I shall respect her, as long as
I live.

The Duke, with the rest of my Family here, desire I will
send their Compliments, & best Wishes, to you, & M^{rs} has been
to which I desire to add my own, & to spare you that I am with
the most sincere Regards

My Dear Colonel
Your ever faithful Friend

Northumberland

I hear our Friend at Aldborough is not quite ^{so} secure as formerly.
Do speak to M^{rs} Wilson on this Subject, for this next is I believe the
5th Sep^r, & L. Perry is very anxious about it.

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

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20 Dec 1810