

Duke of Northumberland to Col.
McKean

41408-9 Alnwick Castle 3. Nov. 1810

My dear Colonel

Many thanks for your letters.
As this is really an anxious hour, might
I beg of you to continue them, till some-
thing is finally decided. I must wish
a friend of ours could be prevailed upon
to remain quite quiet for the present.
People in their dilemma must absolutely
come to him, if he appears himself & determine
to take no part, unless they do so. They will
naturally wish him to stand for them, & take a
very active part, as his enemies will wish
by this mode to find out something they can
take hold of. I fear such his ill judging
friends, of whom he has a great number
about him, & who for the obtaining their
own ends, are very apt to see him act im-
-prudently. I trust to find he would only for

Duke of Northumberland to Col.
Nicholson

41409

once, in this instance, follow the Dictates of
his own good understanding, & Judgment, than
hires superior to theirs, without attending
at all to their advice; & I am certain he will
see that perfect Equity, & Impartiality, only
existing himself in showing every mark of respect,
& Attention towards that Object which necessarily
deserves it at his hands; if they are determined
to act from themselves, without his Concurrence,
or Authority, in the Name of God, let them do so,
& take the whole of the dangerous Risk, &
Responsibility of such a Measure, at the present
critical hour. - And if they, either from duty,
or Duty, wish for his Advice & Counsellance,
they will be ready enough to come to him, without
his stirring one Step. Nay, so determined would
I be, not to take one Step, unsolicited; that
I would go immediately to the spot, & remain
there, under their daily, & hourly Observation;

You at least, my Dear Colonel, are sensible that
I can have no interested View in whatever I
say, for I neither want, nor wish for anything.
And whenever I presume to give an Opinion, I do so
solely & exclusively, in proceed which, & solely,
from that personal affection, & Attachment,
which I bear the Person alluded to, exclusive
of that Duty I owe him; & which acts as, & ever
will act as anxious, & zealous, for his Honour,
Comfort, & Happiness. Whatever I am in my Advice
it will always be occasioned by want of Judgment,
but not from want of Love, or from any interested
Views of my own.

Believe me, my Dear Colonel, & believe me
I am with faithful regards
Northumberland.

Be kind enough to offer my Duty to H: H: H:

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Duke of Northumberland
3^d Nov. 1610

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper.]