Duke of Northumberland to Col. McMahon

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Alnwick Castle 17th Nov. 1810

My dear Colonel

I was made very happy to find from your letter, which I received last night that the Prince had not suffered in health from his attendance at the melancholy Ceremony of Princess Amelia's Funeral. That He must have been deeply affected on the Occasion, every body, who knows the Excellence of his Heart, cannot doubt. Pray be kind enough to let me know how Princess Mary has borne this most affecting Scene? Her very amiable & affectionate Conduct to her Sister during the whole of her illness, has been such, as will ever make me feel interested hereafter in whatever concerns Her Royal Highness.

Nothing be assured, my dear Colonel, could afford me greater Satisfaction, than the message which the Prince directed you to communicate to me. So you I may safely say, because you know it to be true, that the Interest I take in whatever concerns H: R: H: does not proceed solely from the very elevated Situation He holds in the State, but from the sincere attachment, affection, & Love which I

Col: Macmahon

feel for him as a private Individual. I do most solemnly protest to you that His Honour, & Interest, are as dear to my heart, as my own; & if I have ever presumed to give my Advice on Occasions where H: R: H: is concerned, I have always done it from the purest motives, unalloyed with any private Views of Interest or Advantage to myself, & with all the Freedom, & Sincerity with which I would have given it to my dearest Friend, or my Brother. Would to God, that all those whose Judgment, & Abilities, are superior to mine, may act in the same manner by H: R: H:

Should the Cabinet adopt the measures you mention, I shall certainly entertain a worse Opinion of their Understandings, than I do at present.

As for Officers in Portugal I have constantly entertained the same Opinion. With such an Army, & such an Expenditure; added to numberless other Advantages which we possess in that Country, if the General has only a moderate knowledge of the principles of defensive War, we cannot fail of Success. Should it be otherwise, the Commander will have a

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heavy Load indeed of Responsibility upon his Shoulders; for it must have happened from extreme Incapacity, & total Ignorance of the fixed, & established Principles of Warfare. I confess I have my apprehensions from what I have observed of his Conduct ever since the Siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, & most sincerely hope that it may all end well.

Dear my dear Colonel — Present my Duty to the Prince, & accept yourself of the Compliments & best wishes of myself, & all my Family, & offer the same for us to Mrs. Macmahon.

Your's ever most faithfully

Northumberland.

I gave Lord Percy strict Charge to go to Carlton House, & receive H: R: H:'s Commands, as soon as ever he arrived in Town; which I have no doubt but he has done. So you likewise he had something to say.

Duke of Northumberland

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