

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Kebleton

41485 - 6

Albion Castle 10th December 1610.

My dear Colonel

I had last night the pleasure
of receiving your letter of the 9th & appreciate, as I ought
to do, His Royal Highness's Kindness & Condescension towards
me. I lament extremely this continued fluctuation in His
Majesty's Health, which is truly lamentable, & most
occasion the greatest possible Distress to all parties. It
is nearly impossible to know how to act. To have a Regency,
if it is merely to continue for perhaps a month, or two, would
be to place the Regent in the most distressing, & cruel
situation possible; & yet to go on, from fortnight, to fortnight,
perhaps for the same length of time, with this new Constitution
of Electors, Lords, & Commons, would be both injurious, &
even dangerous, to the Nation for who can tell, whether,
from the frequent repetition of it, some dangerous way
will pretend to find out, that, as the Inaction of the
Single Power is no Impediment to the carrying on the
Business of the Country, that this Power is unnecessary

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& therefore that it might safely be abolished. Believe me, there are Persons in this Kingdom, who would not be unhappy to have any grounds to broach such a Doctrine, & therefore it is, that I look upon the Suspension of the Royal Power, for any time, as highly dangerous to the Constitution. In saying this however, I still recommend perfect Quiet in a certain Quarter. Depend upon it, being the soundest Policy.

We have been much surprised here at Lord Grey's unexpected return into the Country. Different Persons draw different conclusions from it.

Do not imagine we can expect anything material from Portugal, for some time. In considering the whole of the Operations of this last Campaign, it appears clearly to me that L. W. feels he has a most powerful Opponent in Napoleon, & that he is really afraid of him. A degree of Caution characterises all his Operations this year, that

Duke of Northumberland to Col. McCracken

41486

has not, till now, been used with his Lordship. Indeed it
has been often too great in my Opinion.

May I beg of you to offer my Duty to the Prince, &
express H: R: H: that he has with a more zealous &
attached Serv^t accept yourself of the Corp Lieut, & best
Wishes of myself, the Duke, & Family, & present the
same for his H: M: service. Believe & believe me

Your ever faithfull Friend

Northumberland

Wilson writes me word our friend Crespien has settled
every thing, & all is secure again.

Duke of Northumberland
10. Decr. 1691