

Duke of Northumberland to Col. McCahoon

41507-8

Alnwick Castle 17th Dec^r 1810.

My Dear Colonel

You may be sure that your letter of the 14th afforded me the greatest satisfaction, as it conveyed to me the Prince's assurance, that the herbs, I had presumed to give, were looked upon by H. R. H. in the light I had wish'd, & that they had met with his approbation. The Proceedings on Thursday last were these matters of course; but I am surpris'd indeed to learn that the Chancellor is reported to be bold enough to put ^{into} the Great Seal to any Instrument, in the present state of the King's Illness. I apprehend to put the Great Seal to an Instrument, without the authority of a Prince's seal; or the Prince's seal, without the authority of the King's sign manual, amounts to Treason; or at least subjects the Person, so offending, to the Pains & Penalties of a Premurderer. I know this is some time overlooked these little trifles. In the year 1788, I remember L. Galloway subjected himself to these Pains, & Penalties, & nobody took any notice of it. I trust however that on the present
Colonel Mac-Cahoon →

Occasion, they will not be permitted to forget (as they did in
1788/9) that the Act of the 13th Charles 2. Cap: 1. Clause 3^d
states that among other things, which follows. "Be it therefore
"further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person
"or Persons, at any time after the four & twentieth Day of June
"in the year of our Lord 1661 shall maliciously or advisedly
"by writing, Printing, Preaching, or other speaking, express, publish,
"utter, Declare, or affirm, that - - - - - or that
"both Houses of Parliament, or either House of Parliament, have
"or hath a legislative Power, without the King, or any other
"words to the same Effect; That then every such Person, & Persons,
"so, as aforesaid, offending, shall incur the Danger and penalty
"of a Praemunire - - - - -" and again the next Clause, making
it highly penal, for the Houses to pretend to pass any Act
with^out the King's Presence, or a Commission for that purpose.
This Act was totally forgot the last time; but I flatter
myself Ministers will this time be put in mind of it in
both Houses of Parliament. I have already written to some
of my friends, & advised them of this Act.
I trust in God care will also be

Duke of Northumberland to Col. M. K. K. K. K.

41508

taken, that, if a Regency is to take place, that the Regent shall
be invested with all the Royal Power; as I am certain he can
- and otherwise transact the Publick Business, with Advantage
to the Nation, placed under his Care & Authority. Nay, if they
attempt to withhold from him, some of the Powers, which it was
the Wish of Mr. Pitt to withhold from him in 1788. he will
hardly be able to carry on the Publick Business at all.

What a terrible Account was contained in the Paper you
were so kind as to send me enclosed. I such fear the
whole Squadron of Linnetes, with their Crews, will be lost to the
Country. I know almost the whole of the Grenadiers is impractic-
- cable. In the year 1761 I was embarked for an Attack upon the
Island; but Mr. Pitt, of those Days, was so convinced by the
Intelligence he received that the Capture of the Island was
next to impossible, that we were all disembarked again
at Plymouth. I wish our present intended Expedition may
not prove the truth of his Intelligence. We are rather too
apt to form Plans of Attack, with all the Impromtu reception
upon such Occasions. Witness Grenada - Walcheren or rather Antwerp -
& that most ridiculous of all Expeditions up the Dardanelles, against

constant people, under fear I.™ John Duckworth; whose good
sense, & Naval abilities, saved for a while the whole
fleet from Disgrace, & Destruction.

To, the President, & the rest of his Party, who are in the
pay of France, seen as if they had really a mind to save you
upon you. I take it for granted the Cabinet knows, that in this
case the New England States, & Kentucky, only wait, for
encouragement from you, to break the Union, & either to carry
on their Trade under Independent Flags of their own, or to form
an Alliance with you. One word of encouragement from the
Country I know would effect this; & then pray what would become
of a President, & the Middle States alone? I believe I might
rather have called them, the Southern States, or South Eastern.

Adieu my dear Colonel. I present my Duty to H: R: H: D.
and presume to trouble him with my letters, as I know what I write
to you is conveyed to H: R: H:, without giving him the trouble of more
than a verbal perusal; & I am sufficiently acquainted with your
Secrecy, & zealous Attachment to H: R: H: not to be certain the
what I write goes no further. Adieu except the Corp. & best wishes
of all here & present them to M.™ Macbride.

Your's most faithfully
Wm. Mather.