

Duke of Northumberland to Col. Mac Mahon

24. Dec. 1870

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Albion Castle 24th December 1870.

My Dear Colonel

I beg you will present my Duty to H:
R: H:, & assure her, that I feel most sensibly his goodness in
directing you to communicate to me what had passed on
the evening previous to your writing. The Protest contains
sentiments highly becoming the Illustrious Personages who
sent it, & such as cannot fail to induce them to their
Country. I cannot however express my astonishment at
the Conduct of M^r. Perceval, and the Cabinet, who, after
having received the strongest mark of disapprobation, with
respect to their intended Proceedings, from every noble
Member of the Royal Family, without requesting of the
two Houses even a delay of merely four hours, in order
to have time to consider the objections made by the Royal
Family, hurried on the business immediately in the most
indecent manner possible. Thus showing publicly a
marked Inattention, & Disrespect, to the solemn Protest of these

Regal Personages. Such Insolence, from such Men, is
insufferable. As for their intended Bills, & Restrictions, they
all are chary, & reserves, as I will explain to you on
another Occasion; but I know you must be so hurried
just now, that I will only detain you, to offer you &
Mrs. See what the Compliments of the Season, from
myself, & the rest of my Family, & to assure you that I
ever am

Your most faithful Friend

Northumberland

I was surpris'd by Lord Percy's arrival here this evening
I particularly enquir'd, whether he had ascertain'd that
his presence in Devon was not wanted, before he set off,
from that Quarter, which I had given him particular instruct
always to consult - & he assur'd me he had done so.