

My Lord 54097 Duke of Somerset to the Earl of W — 43

It is a surpris to me to find that ^{the King.} ~~my Matie~~ has been interrupted in his most gracious Intercourse & favour to me in granting the Title of Earl of Northumberland. To w^{ch} no body at this time can have the least Claim or pretence of Right. But it must entirely flow from his Maties Royal Bounty & Goodwill to whomsoever It is granted.

And by the more surprisng that this Interruption has proceeded from a Letter wrote by my Son to his Matie in which he says that his Daugh^r is to inherit y^e Northumberland Estate after his death without Issue Male. And by that I suppose he w^d have it understood that the antient Family Estate of the Earl of Northumb^{er} was to come to his Daugh^r; and therefore that she had a pretence to the Title preferable to S^r Cha: Wyndham. How sh^d dare to approach the Sacred Person of his Matie but with sincerity and in Truth — and I will take upon me to say that that assertion in the Letter is not founded upon either. But is in it self altogether falacious.

If by saying that his Daugh^r will inherit the Northumberland Estate he means the whole Family Estate of the Earl of Northumberland, that cannot be; Nay his own Marriage Sollow: says y^e Contrary.

If by the Northumberland Estate he w^d have it understood that y^e whole Family Estate is confined to y^e County of Northumberland. The Contrary is so notorious to y^e whole Country that it does not deserve a word to confute it.

The Percy Estate that is y^e antient Estate of that
family which my Son calls the Northumberland
Estate extends it self into several other Countys
besides y^e County of Northumberland as Yorkshire
Cumberland Suffox &c And altho' a considerable
part of the Estate lying in the County of Northumb^r
will come to Lady Betty Smithson my Sons
Daughter on failure of Issue male of her father
yet for a greater share of the family Estate
And even a great part of the Estate in the County
of Northumberland will upon that great disorder
to S^r Cha: Wyndham ^{& afterwards to his Brother & sister} of which no body can
hinder them.

Now as the Barony of Percy is so limited as
to come to Lady Betty Smithson along with a
lesser share of the Estate, I woud hope that his
Majestys Royal Intention & undoubted Right
of limiting the Earldom of Northumberland so as
to go along with the Greater part of the family
Estate shall not be frustrated by so groundless
a pretence as the Suggestion of that Letter.

This my Lord is a true state of the matter
Which with all Duty Submission and Gratefull
Sense of his Majestys Royal Goodness to me
I desire may be laid before him.

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Copy of Duke of
Lorraine's letter to
the King of France
concerning the carden
of Monmouthland.

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