

it ought. You are the very man to do all this; but you have such scruples and delicacies about men and places, that we must understand one another first. Take notice, it is no favour we do you, it is *you* do us one, for we want such men as you. If you will undertake this, you will have the common pay, and your expenses paid.' Colonel Napier instantly answered, 'Nothing is so easy as to understand me: first, I feel excessively flattered, and obliged to your lordship, for the manner of this offer, and, whatever comes of it, I shall always be grateful for the confidence you repose in me; as to politics, you know I hold Mr. Pitt to be the bane of his country, and of course could never utter a falsehood and praise him; but never did I for a moment hesitate to follow the duties of my profession, which I hold too high by far ever to subject them to political opinions. The country, you say, is in danger. I am ready and happy to serve it, if in my power. I want no place or emolument, and, if you choose it, I will go directly to such places as you point out, and make my report to you for your private use.' 'Oh no,' cried Lord Carhampton, 'I want to employ you; it is a shame such a man should not be employed in these times, when they are so much wanted. May I name you to the Lord-Lieutenant?'—'Will you be so kind as to give me a short time, to write over for leave from the Duke of York? As there is no actual fighting here, he might think I wished to evade the West Indies, and I hold it my duty to avoid no service whatever; and, being under his command, I wish to write.' 'Do so.' It was done, and Lord Carhampton, who was at that time getting himself made Commander-in-Chief (unknown to us), was some time before he sent for Colonel Napier. When