

My dear Brother.

Downing Street Dec 21<sup>st</sup>

I am very unable to say a tenth Part of what I ought to say to you this Evening, when there is so much to be said, and so few Opportunities of saying it. — but my Head is disabled by this Influenza, which has disabled us all by Turns, and my Attention, as far as I am competent to employ it, is engaged by official Business. —

Our Campaigns this Year has certainly not been brilliant, and the News (reported a few Days ago, and confirmed this Morning) of the taking of St. Johns completes our Disgrace — We have wanted a few hard Knocks to rouse us, and I trust that we are roused (at least we had the Knocks) I also trust that we are not stunned by them, but animated to a just Sense of the Contest, in which we are engaged, and determined (and let me add able) to take Measures equal to its Difficulties — You have rather a Predilection for America, let