

[The two February letters to Mrs Beaumont from Henry Liddell, a candidate in the bitterly contested campaign for Northumberland's MPs in the 1826 general election campaign, were printed by him in a handbill in the course of that campaign. This copy ended up in the papers of the Middleton family of Belsay. It was presumably issued to counter what he saw as misinformation circulated about him in the campaign by the Beaumonts. In voting on 6<sup>th</sup> July Liddell was successful, topping the poll, and Beaumont failed to be elected to the other seat.]

**26 Jun 1826 Henry Liddell**

Mr. Liddell's letters to Mrs. Beaumont.

To the Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

Gentlemen,

So many erroneous impressions have been found regarding these letters, that I deem it right to publish them for the entire satisfaction of all, whether friends or opponents. — The first was written on the evening of that day when I first came forward for the County and when I fully expected a contest with Lord Howick.

**2 Feb 1826 Henry Liddell to Diana Beaumont**

My Dear Mrs Beaumont,

In consequence of the sudden death of our late excellent Representative Mr. Brandling, I am induced to offer myself for the vacant seat to the notice of the County. — Lord Howick has also started, and, as it is hardly to be believed that this County will return a second Whig Member, it does appear to me that my return at present would be the most likely means of securing Mr. Wentworth Beaumont a tranquil return at the ensuing General Election. May I be permitted to remind you also of the kind expressions you once made use of towards me at a period now somewhat remote, when you first came in for this County.

Should it be your inclination to give me the benefit of your support at present, have the kindness to write me a few lines to that import, addressed to me at Alnwick. — Excuse haste, not unmixed with anxiety, and believe me,

Dear Madam, Yours very faithfully,  
H. T. Liddell.

Alnwick, February 2nd 1826.

To Mrs. Beaumont,  
Britton [sic] Hall,

Barnsley.

Mrs. Beaumont's reply to this letter, I am not at liberty to publish. — Suffice it to say it was such as to call for the following answer by return of post.

**11 Feb 1826 Henry Liddell to Diana Beaumont**

February 11th, Newcastle

My Dear Madam,

In answer to your letter, only received this day, I must beg it to be distinctly understood that I rest my claims to the vacant Representation solely upon the ground of coming forward on the Tory interest of the County, and that I cannot consent to implicate myself in any degree with any other candidate whatever. The sentence in my last letter, alluding to Mr. Wentworth Beaumont, was simply given as a matter of opinion, without the smallest hint or intention of reciprocity.

I have the honour to be, Dear Madam, Yours very faithfully,  
H. T. Liddell.

**26 Jun 1826 Henry Liddell [continued]**

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, Your faithful and devoted servant,  
H. T. Liddell.

Alnwick, June 26th, 1826.

Davison, Printer, Alnwick