

Lady Sarah Napier to ? Col. Kekehow

18128 -9

Castletown near Leixlip Ireland

June the 11th
1811

Dear Sir

The obliging terms in which you have expressed the pleasure it gave you, to communicate H.R.H.'s commands to me, claim my best thanks, & I hope you will accept of them.

I could not trouble H.R.H. with an explanation of what I think, has been misunderstood in my Letter, & therefore have written ^{this} by way of memorandum, which I shall be much obliged to you to keep, least my son Charles should lose by any mistake of mine, relative to his claims, and I will be obliged to you, to refer to this Letter, when ever his Promotion is in question. I never presumed to expect my son to be promoted out of his turn, nor can I mistake the date of his Majority, the time being too well imprinted on my mind, by its being the gift of H.R.H. the Duke of York, to Mrs Fox, entirely from private Friendship for that great Man, not long before his Death, as he had asked it, as a Personal favour. And you will find that it took

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place in 1806. - I have founded my request entirely on another ground; My Son, Major Napier, commanded the 50th at the Battle of Corunna, & is literally the only Major, who has commanded a Regt^l in Egypt, Spain, or Portugal, who has not been rewarded by Rank. - It therefore greys on his mind, as almost a stigma on his conduct, which tho' it gained the universal approbation of those with whom he served, still leaves in his opinion a sort of equivocal appearance, in the positive fact of his having been for two Years, not only entirely forgotten, but several Majors younger than himself have received Broast Rank - In a mind so strongly tinged as his is, by the nicest sense of Honour, this humiliating feeling can only be removed by such Promotion, as will mark, that the 16th of January 1809 was the Day in which his Services are now rewarded; for since that time, he can only take his share with those Claims, which the general good conduct of the Army gives daily proof of - You will, Dear Sir, by this account judge, that it is on point alone, I am most anxious for, & not from a vague wish of Promotion without due attention to the general Rules of the Service, but as an exception seems to have been made by Sir

David Dundas against my Son, I trust that an exception may be made thro' H. P. H.'s Graciousness for my Son on this occasion, because I have appeal'd to H. P. H.'s Justice, & goodness, & I am not afraid of disappointment, if the case is clearly understood. - But it is impossible for any Individual to expect their case to be held in remembrance by one situated as H. P. H. now is, & I have therefore troubled you with this Letter, by way of Memorial - Believe me Dear Sir,

Your Obliged, & Obedient
Humble Servant

(Signed) Sarah Napier

My Letter of thanks to H. P. H. you will have the goodness to present, at some proper moment of leisure -

Sarah Napier
June 11. 1811.