

Col. J. W. Gordon to Lord Wellington.

Enclosure.

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J. W. Gordon  
30<sup>th</sup> May 1811

My dear Lord

The Mail of Yesterday brought me a private Letter from Mr. Kennedy dated the 15<sup>th</sup> Instant, in which he informs me that he had on that day applied to your Lordship to forward an application from him to be relieved from his present charge, and to be permitted to return to England, and he states that his health requires it. — I have by this opportunity told Mr. Kennedy that if his health required his return to England, he should be immediately relieved, but that short of that reason, I should not feel myself justified in removing him from a Service, in which I believe he has uniformly conducted himself to Your Lordship's satisfaction. —

As however it is probable that Mr. Kennedy may feel himself too unwell to remain, it becomes my duty to turn my mind toward his Successor, & following the same course as I took previous to Mr. Kennedy's Appointment, and conformably to what I have since



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since written to your Lordship, I take leave to consult with you upon the best mode of replacing him. —

The Officer in whom I should be disposed to place my confidence for the able discharge of this important trust, is my Principal Deputy W. Bisset, a young Man of considerable experience in Commercial Duties, of good ability, and general information, and of whom I believe, Mr. Kennedy is enabled to speak more fully; — I should therefore of myself, recommend him for this Service. —

But, as your Lordship has several Commissariat Officers under your Command, of whose qualifications, activity and success, you must be the most competent Judge, I trust your Lordship will not be displeas'd if I suggest that out of that number you should select, without regard to Seniority, or any thing but your own opinion of his competency, such Officer as you may upon consideration think most efficient for the duty required, and appoint him to act as Commissary General to the Force under your Command: and should the conduct of such Officer after a fair and reasonable period of trial prove deserving of your approbation, I will upon your Signification of the same to me, use my endeavours to confirm him permanently in that

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that high Office, taking upon myself the whole responsibility and weight of the measure, and refusing all admission, or claim of a precedent, until similar circumstances of extraordinary Service shall arise, and until the recommendation shall proceed from a General Officer of your Lordship's most distinguished reputation. —

I have the honor to be

Yours  
Signed J. W. Gordon



*[Faint, illegible handwriting on lined paper]*

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