Lt. Genl G. Porter to Col. Fletcher

Feb. 3 1814

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My dear Colonel

Altho' I am satisfied your time is too much, and too well occupied to answer the letters with which I have so often troubled you, I cannot refrain from expressing to you, my very severe mortification at the contents of the Gazette of last Tuesday, by the appointment of Major General Hewitt to Portsmouth. I cannot hesitate in thinking that my claims were at least equal to his, and that I trust I could as well have fulfilled the duties of the situation from the much longer Experience I have had of the Command, he being also so much my junior in rank. I am told by Lord Liverpool that I can expect no situation of a civil nature, but that I may hope for advantage in a Military one, and because I am in Parliament I am also informed that I cannot hold that military situation, which has ever been my favorite object. So that between both, I must remain unprovided. The vanity of being in Parliament after upwards of twenty years close attendance, has worn off, but as long as I thought my humble services were available, I have

remained, to the injury of my private fortune: finding however my case hopeless, I must make up my mind, and part with my property here, and relinquish my seat. I have always endeavoured by every exertion in my power to manifest my humble devotion and sincere attachment to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, by the kindness with which His Royal Highness has condescended to honor me, I have been highly flattered in thinking these Exertions have been satisfactory to him, and I therefore did encourage the hope that I might have a fair chance of succeeding in one object that of being placed on the Staff. I am disappointed, but that Attachment and devotion can never cease, and however I may be hereafter to retire to a private life, I shall feel most proud of every opportunity of manifesting both. In the Ministry I have no obligations, nor indeed as they know my political feelings, do I think I have much right to expect favors from them. It may be perhaps the wish of His Royal Highness or some person in his Royal Highness's confidence, to purchase my interest in this borough, most truly happy shall I be to obey his wishes on this head, and when I come to town in March, you will have the goodness to honor me with

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his Royal Highness decision. I need hardly add however that for obvious reasons, this must be a matter of confidence.

You will I am sure Excuse me for thus intruding upon you, I confess my feelings are really hurt, and if you could spare a moment you would oblige me much by letting me hear from you. Assuring you that I am

My dear Colonel

Very sincerely Yours

Geo Porter Lt G.

Stockbridge Feb 3. 1814