

Duke of York G. B. R. H.

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Brighton July 20th 1819

Dear Brother,

As no General Probat has taken place in the Army since the peace in 1764, which is now above five years, I had fully intended to recommend to you, to take one at the end of the last year; but in consequence of the death of the poor Queen, I thought it more advisell to wait till the mourning was over before I took your pleasure upon it, and indeed I had now intended to propose to you, that it should bear date upon your own Birthday, had I not understood from Lord Melville, with whom I first saw of the Admiralty, it is thought right that I should consult upon all such occasions, in order that both services may go hand in hand, but it would suit the arrangements of the Admiralty better if in lieu of the 12th, it bore date upon the 1st of August, that is a day also of peculiar interest both to the Family and to the Country, as being not only the anniversary of George the 1st succeeding to the Crown of these Kingdoms,

Dulce of your 6th R.A.

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views of Government upon the subject.

By the promotion of these Generals John Hope, Wood, Brome,
Sir Robert Belton, Lord Howard and Ramsey to be Lieutenant Generals
then with allowances upon the different Staffs of these Generals, for
that I by then to recommend Sir James Blandford to succeed
these Generals Hope in Scotland, - Major General ~~Smith~~
General Wood in India, - Sir Dennis Pack ^{General Drom} in the Lieutenant Government
and Command of Plymouth, - Sir James Kemp, Lord Howard in
the Lieutenant Government and Command of Portsmouth, and the
Charles Phillips, General Ramsey in the West Indies. -

Nevertheless I must regret the loss of Sir Robert Belton, and however
difficult I may think it to replace him as Major General of Army
with the Staff, yet without injustice to the rest of the Army, I
can not think of recommending to you, Sir James Blandford, to
continue him upon the Staff after his promotion, and therefore by
to lay before you the name of Lord Edward Somerset, who I
truly believe upon the whole to be the fittest to succeed him.

Though two of your Aids de Camp, Sir James Murray and
Sir Andrew Bannard, are included in this present, yet
as you have still Sir Supernumerary Aids de Camp, his promotion

will create no vacuities ever, &c.

I have this, my Dear Brother, detailed to you, the Overt
what I by law to propose to you; should you approve of it,
I must entreat of you to sign it and send it back as soon
as you conveniently can, in order to its being gazetted on
Saturday night, or the Monday, or on any other day
of their engagements, but the publication shall be made sooner
or early as possible.

May I also add another prayer, which is not to take
of the Overt till it appears in the Gazette, as it will prevent
many very troublesome applications.

I am ever,

Dear Brother,

Your best Affectionate

Richard

He set his seals on Sunday evening at a little after seven
o'clock, when he was most comfortably lodged and gave heart
cheerfully, thanks to your good refs.