

Ld. Sandwich

Fortescue 3079

3876

Admiralty June 17<sup>th</sup> 1780.

In answer to the contents of the note with which Lord Sandwich is just now <sup>honoured</sup> by your Majesty, he takes the liberty to observe that as neither Captain Collins of the Victory, or Captain Pole of the Britannia had more than 28 gun frigates, it would in his opinion occasion uneasiness if Captain Patton had a ship of a higher rate.

Lord Sandwich had some conversation a few days ago with the Comptroller (Captain Patton's great friend) who had not the least expectation of anything for him above a ship of 28 guns, & seemed perfectly satisfied with Lord Sandwich's saying he should have the second of that class that became vacant;

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as he was under a sort of engagement to Captain Stanhope to move him from the Garland into the first vacancy of a frigate of 28 guns. however this engagement must of course give way if your Majesty wishes Captain Patton should be immediately provided for; the only <sup>way</sup> that Lord Sandwich can find of doing it is to give the Apollo to Captain Montagu of the Medea who is by far the senior officer at home who is in the command of a 28 gun ship the others are much too low on the list to have any claim as yet to a fifth rate. Your Majesty will observe that Lord Sandwich has no intention of giving this step to Captain Montagu, unless it is upon this arrangement of providing for Patton in consequence of the honour he has of your Majesty's patronage. Lord Sandwich will wait your Majesty's pleasure before he does anything farther in this business.

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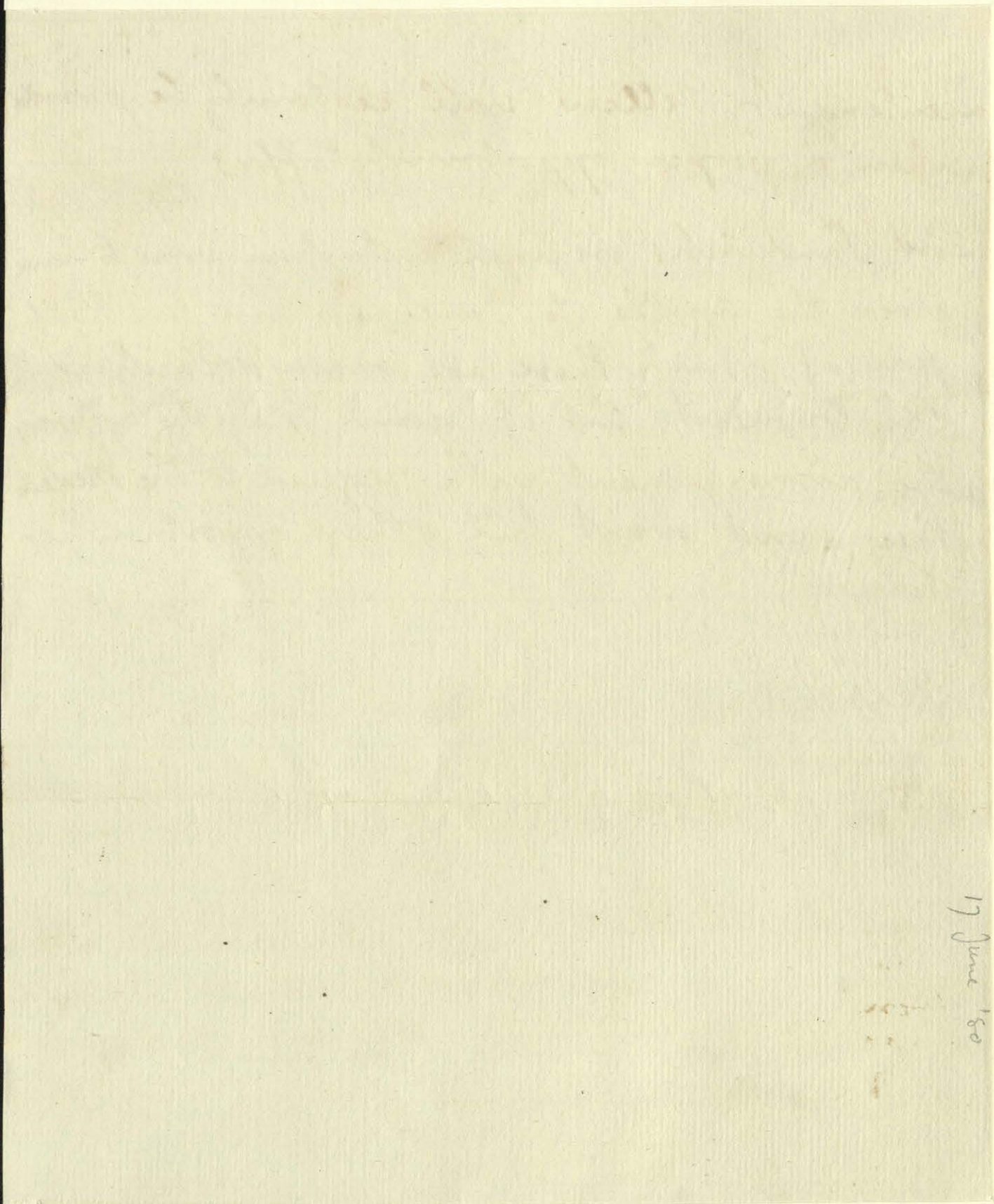
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Lieutenant Pellew will certainly be promoted when a proper opportunity offers.

Lord Sandwich's original intention was to have given the Apollo to some Captain on half pay, of which there are many soliciting employment, but if your Majesty approves the arrangement with regard to the Medea they must wait till other opportunities happen.



17 June '80