

M. Gen. Wm. Cardiner 6th R. H.

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Norwich March 7th 1799

Sir

After an absence of fourteen years, and some months, I have at length the honor of addressing Your Royal Highness once more from this country, and my satisfaction in regard to this article would be complete, could I add to it the hopes of shortly throwing myself at Your Royal Highness's feet, and appearing you sir, in person, of the unalterable continuance of my devoted attachment; but no person knows better than Your Royal Highness the risk I should run by attempting such a measure, which could only produce immediate destruction to myself, and give pain to those who are so good as still

to take some interest in my situation: perhaps I run nearly as great
a hazard in going to Ireland, but I found something decisive
was absolutely necessary to be done, as it had been frequently sig-
-nified to me, and even from high authority, that I could receive no
advantage in the Military line as long as I continued abroad,
and I had a fatal proof of this in the last Promotion of Lieutenant
Generals, which stopped almost at my name, though I had had
the preceding Rank the same year, as many of those then appointed,
and was a Field Officer before a number of the present Major
Generals were in the Army: all then that remains for me in the
actual circumstances in which I find myself, is to throw myself
on Your Royal Highnesses protection, for, though I have received
many acts of marked kindness from the Duke of York, and that
I am persuaded, both of His Royal Highnesses Justice, and good
offices, yet You Sir cannot fail to have great weight, and particu-
-larly since You have taken a Military Career, in which I am happy

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to hear from every body (what I can most perfectly believe myself) that Your Royal Highness is distinguished for attention, discipline, and knowledge of the Profession, beyond any Officer in the Service.

I took the respectful liberty of sending Your Royal Highness by Colonel Anstruther who left Yarmouth yesterday morning for London, a real Damascus Blade, taken by the Cossacks from a Turkish Pashaw at the Battle of Rimnicki gained the last War by the Marshal Sussarow; the Blade was sold in its simple state to a Polish Nobleman, and probably had been very richly mounted, as is the custom with the Turks, but such as it is, it was given to me by the then possessor, as a mark of gratitude for some attentions I was so fortunate as to have it in my power to shew him, and his family during the Revolution, and if it proves acceptable to Your Royal Highness, I shall be doubly recompensed.

I am now on my way to Ireland, and shall repair there with the utmost expedition; it is more than three months since I

quitted Warsaw, and was detained above two parts of that time
at Hamboure and Cuthasen, at the latter of which places I believe
I should have died, had it not been for the Society of Colonel
Austriether, who was my Companion in all my latest misresses.
Excuse Sir, the Liberty I have taken in writing You this
long letter, and be assured of the high Respect, and inviolable
attachment with which I have the Honour to be

Sir

Your Royal Highnesses

Most Faithful

and Most Obedient

Humble Servant.

William Gardiner

William Gardiner
March 7. 1799.