

H.R.H. to Duke of York

Oct. 12 1803

Copy in 40011

Ms 39983-4

12 Oct. 1803

By ^{my} replying to your Letter of the
 6th Instant, which contained no sort of
 answer to Mine. We have fallen into
 a very frivolous altercation upon a
 Topic, which is quite ^{foreign to} beside the present
 Purpose. Indeed the whole Importance
 of it lies in a seeming Contradiction
 in the Statement of a Fact; which
 is unpleasant even upon the idlest
 Occasion.

I meant to assert that no previous
 Condition, ~~had been imposed upon~~
 me to waive all Pretensions to ulterior
 Rank, under any Circumstances, had been
 imposed upon me, ^{personally, or even by the} ~~as the~~ ^{Terms of}
~~submitting myself to the Service~~ ^{submitting myself to the Service} ~~of the~~ ^{of the} ~~Army~~ ^{Army}. And, with as
 much Confidence, as can be used in
 maintaining a Negation, I repeat that
 assertion.

When I first became acquainted with
 His Majesty's Purpose to withhold from me

Further Advancement, it is impossible
to recollect. But, that it was so early
as the year 1793, I do not remember, and
if your Expressions were less positive,
I should add, or believe. But I certainly
knew it in 1795. and ^{possibly} ~~probably~~ before.
~~but we being then engaged in war, I could not~~
~~leave the ~~army~~ ~~at that time~~, and circumstances~~
~~think of~~ resigning my Regiment, if otherwise I
had been disposed to do that. But, in
Truth, my Rank in the Nation made
Military Rank in ordinary Times, a
matter of little ^{except to my private feelings} consequence. This sentiment
I conveyed to you in my Letter of -
of - ^{the same} saying expressly, that mere idle
inactive Rank was in no sort my
Object.

But, upon the Prospect of an Emergency,
where the King was to take the Field, and
the Spirit of every Briton was roused to
Coercion, the Plan, which I occupy in
~~the~~ Nation, made it indispensable to

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demand a Post correspondent to that
Place, and ^{to} the Publick Expectation.
This sentiment, ~~I~~ have the Happiness
to be assured, in a Letter on the
occasion, made a strong Impression
upon the Mind, and commanded
the Respect, and Admiration of
one very high in Government.

~~My dear Sir,~~ The only Purpose of this Letter
is to explain, since that is necessary,
that My former Obedience meant not to give
you the Trouble of interceding, as My
Advocate, for meer Rank in the Army.
Pursuing further My other more important
Claims upon Government would be
vainly addressed to any Person, who
can really think, that a former Refusal
of meer Rank under Circumstances so
widely different, or the most express ^{warning} ~~being~~

of such Pretensions, if that had been
the case, furnishes the blindest colour
for ~~the~~ ^{showing to the} answers ~~to the~~ ^{of} Tenders
I have now made of my services.

Your Department ^{was} meant,
if I must repeat it, ^{simply} as a Chan-
nel, to convey that Tender to
Government; and to obtain, either
Their Attention to it, or an open
avowal of Their Refusal.

October 12.

Wm. Pitt
October 12.
The Duke of York
John G. B. H.