

H. Genl. A. Mackenzie to Hd. C. Somerset

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Brighton 15th May 1808

(Copy)

My Lord

I have hitherto been prevented from acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 12th inst - the impression which that extraordinary production at first excited in my mind having in some degree worn off, I shall now beg leave to reply to it, but as I have never been accusom'd to receive communications of such a nature, I may perhaps find some difficulty in transmitting to you a suitable answer. I shall however endeavour to be explicit; in being so I must inform your Lordship, that the statements in many parts of your letter are as erroneous, as they are offensive in all the others - I have now in my possession Genl. Montesori's letter enclosing two others from the Duke of Beaufort, dated Grosvenor Square on the subject of Major Davis's leave of absence, in this same letter the General strongly recommends that Lieut.

L. Genl. Lord Charles Somerset, &c, &c, &c.

Col. Winstanley of the Lucasta may have leave,
but in no part of it, does he in any manner do
so as to Major Davis's application, nor does he in
any way notice his having had any other
communication with the Duke of Beaufort - without
any other explanation whatever, this mode of
application appears to me at variance with the
orders of the Commander in Chief; and as it was
in every way an official communication, I could
not, I conceived, do otherwise than direct General
Montresor to require that the regulations on this
head should be observed, and that when they
were so, I should then forward the application
for Major Davis's leave - in acting so it was
impossible that I could have had any other
motives than the desire of wishing, that all the
duties of the district should be carried on consistent
with the orders and Regulations of the Service;
and it is this desire on my part that appears
to have occasion'd so much spleen on that of
Your Lordship. I cannot have the least objection

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to its producing this or any other effect, but I must desire that in your unofficial communications with me (and as such I of course consider your polite letter of the 12th) you would abstain in future from indulging yourself in conveying to me sentiments expressed in the same manner, as I do not allow myself to be address'd by my private correspondents, in the style & tone which you have been pleas'd to assume -

When in an official capacity you may honour me with your correspondence (which by the bye is the only mode I ever wish to hear from you) I shall at all times receive it with that respect and attention which is so properly due to it, as coming from my Senior in rank -

You are so good as to inform me that you cannot offer me your thanks for the desire I express to attend to your wishes or suggestions now; in this I must be permitted to say that there is as well a want of Gratitude as of Civility, for ever since I have had the ~~Command~~ of the District, I have uniformly endeavour'd to find

out what would be most agreeable to you in
conducting the duties of it, and on which I have
as invariably acted. indeed in the temporary
Command which I held, I had no particular wish
of my own, I only felt desirous of forwarding your
views & plans; If therefore you have had no
reason to be satisfied hitherto with me on this
account, I rather think you will have still
left for the future; your own incomprehensible
conduct towards me must easily suggest to you
the cause of attraction.

In order to prevent the possibility of the
transaction which has occasioned this unpleasant
Correspondence from being misrepresented, and
with the view of elucidating a paragraph in your
last letter respecting the duties of the General
Officer present in the Command of the District,
I conceive it will be proper to submit Copies
of both your letters to me, as well as of mine
addressed to you, and also of Brig. Genl. Mowbray's
communication with its enclosures, to the

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consideration of the Duke of York, so that His Royal Highness may be enabled to judge of the motives which have influenced my conduct, which has attracted so large a share of your disapprobation, and also that he may convey to me instructions for my future guidance whilst in the temporary command of the district, this I must necessarily do in justification of myself, unless you can satisfy me that there exists no necessity for my doing so.

With respect to the request which you express in not leaving General Higonni in the temporary command here, I beg leave most cordially to join you in that feeling, and to assure you that I have already seen quite enough of the state of the Sussex district to prevent my being the least desirous of having that Honor

I remain, my dear Madam,
obedient servant
(signed), A. McKenzie.

P.S. An application regularly made having

been just now received from Lt. Col. Sir. S. Fludy
soliciting a further leave of absence for Major
Davis - it is my intention by this day's post
to recommend that it may be granted.

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