

Lord
Rawdon
to
Duke of
Richmond

4464

To the Duke of Richmond

Thursday noon Feby 21. 1782

My Lord,

I am this moment arriv'd from Ireland; from whence I have been hasten'd by the illiberal advantage which you have taken of my absence. When I learned by the public papers that an inquiry into the execution of Isaac Haynes of South Carolina was mov'd for before the House of Lords, I fear'd that their Lordships would not find any materials to decide their opinions: But from the unspotted justice of that high Court of honour, I rest'd secure that vague surmise and unsupported insinuations would not be permitted to affect the public character of a British Officer. The House, as I conjectur'd, have reject'd the suspicion with disdain. It now rests with me to notice such personal injury towards my private reputation, as could not become the subject of their Lordships animadversions. The expressions, with which you, my Lord, introduc'd the motion, were as unnecessary to the business, as they are little reconcilable to the dignity of a Senator, the public spirit of a Citizen, or the candor of a Gentleman: of course I feel them fit objects for my resentment. I do therefore require, that you, my Lord, shall make a public excuse, in such manner, and in such terms as I shall dictate, for the scandalous imputation which you have thrown on my humanity; a quality which ought to be as dear in a Soldier's estimation as valour itself. If your Grace had rather abet your malignity with your sword, I shall rejoice in bringing the matter to that issue: Besides the consideration of my own wrongs, I shall think myself the avenger of my Brother Officers in America; to whose security you have

given an oblique allusion, by your affected fears for the consequences of General Greene's proclamation.

signed

Bowdon

N^o 1.

Lord Bowdon's letter to
the Duke of Richmond
delivered to him by Lord
Ligonier on Thursday
evening at seven o'clock
February 21. 1782