

Duke of Argyll

Feb. 6 1786

6120

May it please Your Majesty

I humbly entreat Your Majesties pardon, for giving you the trouble of this address, in an affair which tho it may at first sight appear trifling, is of great consequence to me, and indeed ultimately not immaterial to Your Majesties Service

About three weeks since, I applied thro the Secretary at War for Your Majesties leave, that two friends of mine might make an exchange, the one being an officer of Invalids, and the other on the half pay after having been severely wounded.

The application to the War Office was from me, and not immediately from the Officers themselves, who do not appear

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in the transaction farther than what is necessarily implied in the form of a Declaration setting forth that nothing is proposed to be given by the one or received by the other more than what is allowed by the Regulation in such Cases.

To this Application I received no answer for a fortnight, but at length without previously stating to me any impropriety or difficulty in my Request, I am informed by the Secretary at War that my Application is rejected in the principal part of it. For if the appointment proposed by the Secretary at War should take place, one of my friends meets with a disappointment, the other suffers a material injury by being obliged to relinquish a Commission which he did not mean to quit, but with a View to

6120(2)

accommodate his Brother a Gentleman who has been of infinite service to me in assisting to raise men for your Majesty's service in Argyllshire.

The reason alledged for this by the Secretary at War is, that No Officer is allowed to name his Successor. But this reason I most humbly apprehend, does not apply in this case. because, As I have presumed to observe before, the Officers themselves do not pretend to have any title or claim to name their Successors, but only desire me to intercede for them.

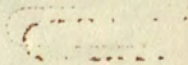
In this situation permit me most humbly & earnestly to implore your Majesty, not to let me meet with a disappointment in my Request which would tend to destroy my influence in the Country. An influence which with the most strenuous efforts has been lately exerted by raising near two thousand men for your Majesty's service, & which I wish to preserve, principally, to enable me on any future occasion to prove the Zeal & dutiful Attachment with which I shall ever remain

May it please your Majesty
Your Majesty's most dutiful & devoted Servant
Argyll

London Feb 6 1786

[Faint, illegible cursive handwriting on aged paper]

*D. J. 1794
London 1794*



Mr Knox

February 27. 1706

6123

Your Majesty's continued most gracious
condescension to Mr Knox encourages him
still to hope that the Papers he has humbly
presumed to lay before your Majesty are
considered by your Majesty as Testimonies
of his Duty and Gratitude, and in that
hope he humbly presumes to lay this
Paper also before your Majesty, which an
application from Mr Eden gave him the
occasion of writing. He is in dread of your
Majesty thinking his presumption too great
in reciting what he had said respecting him-
self in his introduction to his discussion of
the Subject proposed to him, but he was
afraid to suppress it, lest his doing so might
have raised a doubt in your Majesty's

Mind, that his motives for so ready a compliance with Mr Eden's request, were either former connexion or personal attachment and not those of pure Duty and Gratitude to your Majesty which have always directed his conduct and will continue to direct it through the remainder of his Life.

Your Majesty will perceive that the Letter was written 17 days before the meeting of Parliament and consequently that none of the Ideas it contains could possibly be taken from the Speeches made in either House on the first day of the Session, altho' the similarity of some of the Sentiments makes it probable that Mr Eden communicated the Letter to particular friends before that day

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27 February 1786