

Sir John Doyle
12th Dec. 1812.

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Sir

If it be permitted to a faithful Servant, devotedly attached, to address a gracious Master, then may I hope to be pardoned for this appeal to your Royal Highness.

You are known to the Army Sir, as the Soldiers Friend, and the wounded feelings of a Soldier cannot fail to meet your Sympathy, — Mine have been sorely bruised — I have long had the humiliation of seeing my former "Comrades, of shorter Service and inferior Ranks, obtain (to my exclusion) that reward which it has been the effort of forty Years active Service to endeavour to deserve: and even in one instance the very Officer whose name by a mistake was inserted for mine — The error has grounded the fame and fortune of that Gallant Officer — His subsequent connection was unavailing to his Command. Having for years been made the Victim of a Note, of which I shall ever feel proud, I am now made the Martyr of Mistake — But to your Mind Sir, it can never be too late to do Justice, — and when my case shall reach your Royal Ear — I am certain of redress.

I learn it is suggested, that my Services were rewarded by a Baronetage — I feel due respect Sir, for any favor emanating from His Majesty, and am aware that a Baronet is higher in the State than a

Right Hon. Gentleman

Knight of the Bath, — In the recent case of General Schairer it cannot be mistaken and is truly valuable, — but in mine it could have had no such reference, it was bestowed for Civil Services rendered to the Government, and I declined it, untill it was distinctly stated to me "That so far from impeding the Order of the Bath, it would tend to the attainment of that sole object of my life." This I am ready to prove, and I implore my Prince to be my Judge;

Many of my Brother Officers, have received both distinctions, If in my case alone they are doomed incompatible, May I beseech your Royal Highness to permit me to resign my patents of Baronet — not from undervaluing the honor, but to remove the supposed bar, to my obtaining that reward for which I have so faithfully served, and so freely Bled.

With the most ardent prayers for your Royal Highness's happiness.

I am Sir,

Your Dutiful,

and Devoted Servant

Wm Pitt Rivers, General

Bury Street S^t James's

London 12th December 1812