

Sir

The distress which I
 have for some time been suf-
 fering in my mind is so acute
 that, reluctant as I am to
 trespass upon your Majesty's
 indulgence, I can no longer
 resist the impulse of appeal-
 ing to your Equity & your
 Goodwill.

When I originally solicited your
 Majesty's permission to addict
 myself to Military Pursuits, it
 was from the reflection that
 there ought to be some serious
 object to which my time should
 be devoted: and there did not
 appear any occupation deco-
 rous for the Son of your Maj-
 esty except the Service of
 his Sovereign either by Land

March 9th 1795

(Aspinwall)

or sea. I had the Honor to
explain to your Majesty the
principle & sentiment which
actuated me upon that occa-
sion; and it was not flatter-
ing to me to find them appro-
ved by your Majesty.

If you will deign, Sir, to
recollect my application to
be sent on Foreign Service, I
am sure the answer which you
understand to give ^{me} is

I ventured I make to your
Majesty in Person

immediately near to your Majesty
was ^{graciously pleased} to
say. ~~Your Majesty being~~
~~convinced that~~ ~~line of service~~

say that you conceived that

~~not suited to my situation~~
were an Inquiry to land in
England, I ought to be among

the moment did not offer
any opening for ~~being~~
militarily employed in that
line of service but

the very foremost who should
be opposed to that Inquiry.

It is in correspondence to so just
& magnanimous a sentiment that
I have visted to stand in readiness
for the hour of danger. A War of

~~a~~ ~~and~~ ~~a~~ ~~not~~ ~~for~~ ~~death~~ & unexampled =
 nature increases the probability
 of such a crisis, yet my fears
 of being useful are not suffi-
 -ed to agree with that pro-
 -bability. Now it is in this very
 moment that an impeachment
 is cast upon my zeal, my capaci-
 -ty, or my loyalty, by a preclusion
 from any rank that could lead
 to a station of trust.

I seek nothing but the power
 of discharging a duty more
 proportioned to my devotion
 towards your Majesty than I
 should now be enabled to fulfill.

There never, Sir, can be any con-
 -fliction on my part with the
 Duke of York, under whom I
 have always declared I should
 be happy to serve. The Duke of
 York will make the Army more
 particularly his profession. I desire
 a position in it merely as it is to

give me the opportunity of proving
that which the first of your Ma-
jesty's Subjects should be anxious
to testify; namely, that he is of all
those Subjects the most solicitous
to dedicate his exertions to the
Service of His Sovereign. This, Sir,
marks the line between the views
of the Duke of York & those which
I have felt it becoming to indige.
The Duke of York ought to be at
the Head of the Army, that he
may administer the detail of
it under your Majesty's Orders,
and I cheerfully see his pre-
-eminence in that respect, &c.
I am sure your Majesty will per-
-don me for saying that I cannot
think any similar reason exists
to justify my Brother Edward's
being left farther as more capa-
-ble to serve your Majesty than
myself, nor is there in the case
of Prince William of Gloucester
any public consideration which

of my Cousin

can satisfy my feelings that it
was natural to give his rank
immediately over my head.

It may be replied that, where ever
I go, in the character of Prince
of Wales I should be regarded by
the Army in a light superior
to that which any Military Rank
could give. But it is not the vain
Honour, it is the real Protection
that is the object in my con-
-templation. I must not in the Hour
of Danger be contented with the
Compliment which the Guards
of a Camp would pay to me: I, who
have more calls than any other
individual in this Country to stand
forward with the stake of my
Life in defence of your Sacred
Person.

It is now said to me by Ministers
that your Majesty had determined
on my entering the Army, I should
never go beyond the rank of Colonel.
May I be permitted, Sir, to declare

that I never had the slightest im-
-ination of such terms. Had such
a condition been ever insinuated
to me I should have considered it
as a mode of gentle rejection to
my supplication for leave to be-
-come a Soldier; and I should, tho'
not without the deepest regret, have
dropped the petition rather than have subscribed to so humiliating a li-
-mitation.

nor indeed would they have
been consistent with the nego-
-iations which then took place

The boon for which I venture to
look towards your Majesty's goodness
is the Rank of Lt General. That Rank
would, if the Country be invaded, afford
the opportunity of my being employ-
-ed in a real & important trust.
Tho' it would not give the Command
to which it might be thought by
experience had not rendered me
equal.

general, or of Lt General
so dated as to give me ~~the~~
seniority in such degree as
your Majesty may deem expedi-
-ent.

When your Majesty did me
the Honor to tell me that in case
of an invasion you would place
yourself at the Head of your Army,
the just dignity of your feelings
prescribed the line for my satisfaction.
But, Sir, the animation which your pre-
-sence would inspire into your Troops

would call me to a livelier sense
of the discredit attached to a situa-
tion which would not allow
me to take any efficient part
in the general energy. To be a
Cypher in such an hour of glorious
execution would be more than any
honorable mind could bear. Per-
haps, Sir, whether it would be
fitting that your Lord should ap-
pear as an useful adjunct to
the Pageantry of the Army, standing
forbidden to contribute to its
energy by that example which
he might be able to exhibit
as a Lieutenant General under your
Orders. The heroic Edward gave
to the inexperienced Prince of
Wales the Command of the Vanguard
at Cressy, and the ser-
vices of the Lord, not on that
day alone but thro' life, repaid
the confidence of the Father.

Having thus, Sir, embrothered
my heart, I throw myself upon

General or

the justice & the generosity of
your Majesty. If I am so unfor-
tunate as not to interest those
qualities in my behalf, I must
submit in humble & respectful
silence: only supplicating your
Majesty not to increase the in-
evitable dissatisfaction the deep
sense of degradation to which
I am brought. I expose all
my claims on the devotion of
your Majesty towards your Majesty
and however unwelcome I shall
feel the rejection of my prayer
it will not diminish the affec-
-tionate veneration which I owe
to you as a Son, or the duty which
I owe to you as a Subject.

After intended
I have been another
the first when
Military Affairs.

Mar. 9 1795

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Sir

The distress which I have for some time been suffering in my mind is so acute that reluctant as I am to trespass upon your Majesty's indulgence, I can no longer resist the impulse of appealing to your Equity & your Benevolence.

When I originally solicited your Majesty's Permission to addict myself to military Pursuits, it was from the reflection that there ought to be some serious Object to which my Mind should be devoted: And there did not appear any Occupation decorous for the Son of your Majesty, except the Service of his Sovereign either by Land or Sea.

I had the honor to explain to your Majesty the Principle & Sentiments which actuated me upon that Occasion, and it was most flattering

to me to find them approved by Your Majesty.

If you will deign, Sir, to recollect the Application I ventured to make to your Majesty in Person to be sent upon Foreign Service, I am sure the Answer which you condescended to give me must immediately recur to your Memory. You was graciously pleased to say that you conceived that the moment did not offer any Opening for my being suitably employed in that kind of Service; but that were an Enemy to land in England I ought to be among the very foremost who should be opposed to that Enemy. It is in correspondence to so just and magnanimous a Sentiment that I have wished to stand in readiness for the hour of Danger. A War of a most formidable Nature, & unexampled, increases the probability of such a Crisis; yet my Means of being useful are not suffered to augment with that Probability; Nay it is in this

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Mar. 9 1795

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very moment that an Impeachment is cast upon
my Deal, my Capacity, or my Loyalty, by a preclusion
from any Rank that could lead to a Station of
Trust.

I seek nothing but the power of discharging
a Duty more proportioned to my Devotion towards
your Majesty than I should now be enabled to
fulfil. There never, Sir, can be any Competition
on my part with the Duke of York, under whom
I have always declared, I should be happy to serve.

The Duke of York must make the Army more
particularly his Profession. I desire a Position in
it merely as it is to give me an Opportunity of
proving that which the first of your Majesty's Subjects
should be anxious to testify, namely, that he is of
all those Subjects the most solicitous to dedicate
his Operations to the Service of His Sovereign. This,
Sir, marks the line between the Views of the Duke
of York, & those which I have felt it becoming to

indulge. The Duke of York ought to be at the Head
of the Army, that he may administer the detail
of it under Your Majesty's Orders. And I cheerfully
see his Pre-eminence in that Respect; But I am
sure Your Majesty will pardon me for saying
that I cannot think any similar Reason exists
to justify my Brother Edward's being held forth
as more capable to serve your Majesty than myself.
Nor is there in the Case of my Cousin Prince William
of Gloucester any public Consideration which can
satisfy my feelings that it was natural to give his
Rank immediately over my head. It may be
replied that wheresoever I go in the Character of
Prince of Wales I should be regarded by the Army
in a light superior to that which any Military
Rank could give. But it is not the vain Honor, it
is the real Function that is the Object in my Contem-
-plation. I must not in the Hour of Danger be
contented with the Compliment which the Guards
of a Camp could pay to me: I, who have more Call

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Continued

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than any other Individual in this Country to stand forward with the Stake of my Life in defence of your sacred Person. It is now said to me by Ministers that your Majesty had determined on my entering into the Army I should never go beyond the Rank of Colonel: May I be permitted, Sir, to declare that I never had the slightest intimation of such terms; nor indeed would they have been consistent with the negociations which then took place. Had such a condition been ever insinuated to me I should have considered it as a Mode of gentle Rejection to my Supplication for leave to become a Soldier; and I should, tho' not without the deepest Regret, have dropped the Petition rather than have subscribed to so humiliating a limitation. The Boon for which I venture to look towards your Majesty's Goodness is the Rank of General or of a General so dated

as to give me Seniority in such degree as your Majesty may deem expedient. That thank would, if the Country be invaded, afford the Opportunity of my being employed in a real & important Trust, tho' it would not give the Command to which it might be thought my Experience had not rendered me equal.

When Your Majesty did me the honor to tell me that in case of an Invasion you would place yourself at the head of your Army, the just dignity of your feelings prescribed the line for my Sentiments. But, Sir, the animation which your Presence would infuse into your Troops would call me to a livelier Sense of the discredit attached to a Situation which would not allow me to take any efficient Part in the general Energy. To be a Cypher in such an hour of glorious Expedition would be more than any honorable Man could bear. Pronounce, Sir, whether it would be fitting that your Son should appear as an

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Continued)

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useless adjunct to the Pageantry of an Army; standing forbidden to contribute to its Energy by that Example which he might be able to exhibit as a General or Lt. General under your Orders. The heroic Edward gave to the unexperienc'd Prince of Wales the Command of the Van Guard at Crecy, & the Services of the Son, not on that day alone but thro' his life repaid the Confidence of the Father.

Having thus, Sir, unburthened my heart I throw myself upon the Justice & Generosity of your Majesty. If I am so unfortunate as not to interest those Qualities in my Behalf, I must submit in humble & respectful Silence, only supplicating your Majesty not to misconstrue into moody dissatisfaction the deep sense of degradation to which I must give way. I repose all my claims on the Devotion of my heart towards your Majesty, and howsoever unmerited I should feel the Rejection

of my Prayer, it would never diminish the
affectionate Veneration which I owe to you
as a Son, or the Duty which I owe to you as
a Subject.

The Prince of Wales
letter to the
King
March 9
1795