

Col. P. Le Mesurier
to H.R.H.

Austin Friars 12 September 1799

Sir

I have the Honor most respectfully to transmit to
Your Royal Highness the Copy of His Majesty's Letter to the Artillery Company,
appointing Your Royal Highness to be their Captain General.

I shall lose no Time in getting ready for Your Royal
Highness's Information, Copies of the several Charters and Letters from the Sovereigns of
England which the Artillery Company are possessed of, and will take the Liberty to
add such Extracts from our own Records as may be material to shew the ancient
Privileges of the Company, and the Rank and Authority attached to the high
Situation of their Captain General.

I have to premise to Your Royal Highness, that in
the last Century, during the Civil Wars, the Members of the Company being divided,
part remaining steady in their Allegiance to the Crown, and others joining the
Parliament, the Charters of Henry the Eighth and His Successors, together with every
other Record of the Company, was taken away or destroyed, except the Book which

contains

contains the Signatures of the Kings and Princes who were Members of
the Company.

At the Period King Charles the First was the Captain
General, and the Senior Members of the Company being Royalists, it is understood
that they took away those valuable Charters and Records.

During the Protectorate, Major General Skippon was the
Captain General, and Your Royal Highness will find in every History of that Time
that he commanded all the City's Forces.

At the Restoration, King Charles the Second renewed the
Privileges of the Company, and appointed the Duke of York, afterwards King James
the Second, their Captain General, but when His said Majesty thought fit forcibly to
take away the Charters of the City, and to annul the Rights of the Citizens, He
revoked those of the Artillery Company, which remained wholly suspended untill the
Accession of King William the Third, from whom we have a Charter restoring the
Company to its ancient Rights and Privileges.

Your Royal Highness will therefore be pleased to see that
the Privileges of the Artillery Company, like those of nearly all the Corporate Bodies of

this

this Country, and particularly those of the City of London, arise from Prescription,
 and that in considering the Nature of the Command vested in the Captain General
 of the Artillery Company, it will be necessary to take into Consideration what has been
 the universal Opinion and general Understanding of the Public touching that high
 Situation.

As soon as I am able to transmit to Your Royal
 Highness Copies of the Records remaining in the Possession of the Company, I
 shall take the Liberty to address Your Royal Highness more at large on this
 important Subject.

I most humbly beg to subscribe myself with the greatest Submission and
 Respect,

Sir

Your Royal Highness's most Dutiful
 and most Devoted Servant

Paul Le Merisier

Colonel Hon. Artillery Company

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

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Col: de Meunier
12th April 1799.