

Col. J. Mc Mahon (draft in Sheridan's hand) to
Hon. J. Villiers July 26 1803

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Sir

I am commanded by his
Royal Highness the Prince of Wales
to express the strong sense of approbation
which every Part of your conduct
towards him respecting the Corps
proposed to be raised under your
command has impress'd upon
his mind. His Royal Highness
feels very sensibly the Propriety
Delicacy & respect of your sentiments
and offers upon that subject. but
his Royal Highness commands me
to say that he will on no account
hear of accepting your offer of
surrendering the Corps to his command

His Royal Highness declares his
conviction that the ^{actual Duties of} ~~actual command~~,
~~together with the raising~~ forming
& ^{2 commanding} ~~training~~ such a Regiment
cannot be in better hands
than those in which His Majesty
has placed them by His gracious
acceptance of your offer.

His Royal Highness at such a crisis
could not with consistency, or
as he ^{hopes} ~~trusts~~ may soon be manifest
with Propriety ~~to~~ ^{to those Duty} apply himself.
His Royal Highness therefore directs me
to ~~see~~ inform you that ~~whatever~~
~~was~~ ^{will} be his disposition to
comply with the Desires of those
who requested him to place himself
at the Head of a Corps proposed to
have been ~~raised~~ assembled on

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a similar but more extended
Principle of Service He now entirely
forgoes it and so far from
countenancing any Plan that
can in the slightest Degree interfere
with yours, ^{your officer's} now accepted and
sanctioned by his Majesty, He
will by every means in his
Power promote its completion
& success -

at the same time I have it in
command from the Prince to say
that if it be ^{the general} your idea ~~is~~ that
~~exists~~ of the Gentlemen connected
with your Plan, ^{as you have declared it to be yours} that ~~that~~
there would be a Peculiar and
distinguishing Propriety in his name
being at the Head of the list of

such an association of the young
nobility & Gentry not otherwise
employ'd in the Defence of their
Country, He is perfectly willing
and indeed ~~should~~ ^{with feelings highly gratified} under such
a call to accept of the honor of
being ^{named as} their Colonel, ^{but} upon the
same Terms as attach to those
Officers whose Rank does ^{not} allow
of their interference with the
Detail discipline or general command
of their Regiments - These his Royal
Highness again repeats, cannot be
more fitly entrusted ^{than to you.} & ~~and all~~
~~He would resume in the~~ ~~the~~
~~the~~ option in the name of actual
service, of assuming the Honor of
placing himself at the head of
such a Corps ^{showing} his military
~~such situations, unfortunately with regard~~
~~to his taking command remain such as to~~