

Copy

Lord Hutchinsons Letter to Col. Calvert

Aug. 7 1803

I have receiv'd your letter of the fifth of August, in which you express the regret His Royal Highness feels at not finding me at my Station, when he visited my Brigade on the second instant; on my part, I am to express much concern, that you never communicated to me, the intention of His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief; Had he, through you, intimated any wish, that I should be present, I should (postponing every other business, and sacrificing every other duty) have seiz'd with the utmost satisfaction, such an opportunity of paying my personal respects to His Royal Highness, to whom, I trust, I never have been deficient in that obedience which I owe to him as an Officer, and in that deference & respect, which are due to him, as the Son of my Sovereign. - But Sir, I have also other Duties to perform, and those of a most important kind. As a Peer of the Realm, I claim it as my undoubted privilege to attend the proceedings of Parliament, and that privilege, I never will relinquish, as long as I continue on the home Staff, except in cases of the utmost emergency. When His Royal Highness, without any solicitation on my part, impos'd the command of a Brigade upon me, I accepted it as a Duty, and not as a favor; I then address'd a long letter to His

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Royal Highness, in which I enforce'd my claims
to a more extensive Command, specifically
stating, that nothing would have induc'd me
to accept a situation so inferior to that which
I had once fill'd, but gratitude to The King,
and a sense of the Dangers which threaten the
People of England; but, I do not recollect that
I ever pledg'd myself to be present at any
particular hour, or in any particular week.

That I meant to take upon me the command,
is evident, because a house has been hir'd for
me at Hastings, and my servants are there.

The urgency of public affairs can well account
for my absence hitherto, It was but the last
week that Bills of the utmost importance to
that Country in which I was born, & in which
my Family have a deep Interest, pass'd through
Parliament - during the whole of this week,
the House of Commons has been occupied in
discussing Military Points of the greatest
importance; I wish'd much to be present at
their Debates, because it is my duty to form
an opinion on such Subjects. - There is even
at this moment, a Notice given in the House
of Lords by a Noble Peer, that he means to
bring forward the same Questions that were
agitated in the House of Commons on the

second

second instant. — I certainly thought, and do still think, that I have been engag'd in pursuits much more material to the Public, than the command of a Brigade, mostly dispos'd of in two Barracks, under the orders of two experienc'd Colonels, with another General Officer at the distance of a few miles. — Without any responsibility, and, from peculiar circumstances, almost without a command, I did not suppose, that I was plac'd there, for the purpose of drilling a Brigade, for which pursuit, the habits of my life, and the dispositions of my mind, but little qualify me. — I am perfectly willing however to bring any knowledge and experience I may possess, to the public service, and I lament that it should have been deem'd expedient to remind me of "the necessity of every Officer in His Majesty's service, giving the strictest attention to his Military Duty." — I can without vanity say, that I have never yet been deficient in my Duty, or show'd an example unworthy of imitation; I was a Volunteer for two Campaigns on the Continent; I was wounded at the head of my Brigade in Holland; I commanded the Army in Egypt;

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I think, at least, such conduct, might have
exempted me from animadversion. - I shall
immediately repair to take the command at
Hastings, where I shall remain till the
Proceedings of Parliament may again require
my attendance, unless the danger of Invasion
shall be eminent, and in that case, no Man
will be more unwilling to quit his Post than
he who

Who has the honor

to subscribe himself

Your most obedient

servant
John Lubbock
Esq. Colonel

(Signed)

~~John Lubbock~~
August 7th 1803

Welbeck Street
Sunday August 7th 1803.

To Col. Calvert