

H. R. H. to Duke of York

My Dear Mother,

My Letter was an official Tender of my services, founded, entirely on the peculiar Crisis of these Times, and my Object was to draw from Government, either an acceptance of these Services, ~~or at least~~ tendered on that Principle, or, at least, an open acknowledgment that they had been so tendered, and rejected. The last I claimed as due to Justice and Honour.

H. M. has been pleased to communicate to me his intention of taking the Field, in case of an Invasion; a purpose well suited to his great Situation, and spirited Character. The ~~Wine~~ of Water would in that case ^{have} remained the only idle Spectator, if Accident had not placed him at the Head of a Regiment. Would Government have thought that Circumstance an advantage to the

in such a Crisis as the present?

in which he may be & indeed must be
commanded by the
younger Branches of his
Family & by ~~many~~^{other}
other Officers that have been
put over his head particularly
by the last brevet.

have overlooked, & which I am
sure you that they are brought
before you, you will not but feel,

general Cause, or does
It now think that ~~it~~^{it simply}
~~the command~~
of a Regiment, & a Subaltern
Rank for the Prince of
Wales in
such an Emergency?

These Considerations
(in the Hurry of your
present Occupations It
is no Wonder) you
~~will~~^{may} overlook; and
I treat my earnest Address
to Government on so
urgent an Occasion, as
a meer Application of
Rank, a fond Wish,
which your paternal
Attachment would
induce you to gratify,
if it were possible: And
this, though I was
careful to inform
you, that in a
Rank was no Part
of my View.

As to the present Question
It is really a Matter of
no Consequence, whether I
received my first Commission
under a Declaration, that
I was to expect no further
Rank; even obtained it by
acquiring in such a

condition. The present Crisis
 supersedes those trifling Points,
 and, if I had had seen the
 case, I should have been
 equally bound to urge my
 present Claim upon the
 attention of Government.
 But the fact was otherwise;
 and ~~of this~~, I have
 Documents to confirm
 this Assertion.

My first Commission
 was in 1792. and it was
 proposed to be that of
 Major General. But the
 Post of Colonel was
 recommended to me as
 being ~~was~~ affording
 readier Means to become
 acquainted with Regimental
 Details. The Objection was
 that being junior I should
 be commanded by all
 the existing Colonels. To
 obviate this my Commission
 was antedated 1782

As he was pleased to
 inform you in 1795, ^{that} before
 I had my Commission,
 that is 1792, he had
 caused it to be fully
 explained to me, what
 his Sentiments were with
 Respect to a Prince of Wales

Draft of Correspondence
relative to His
Royal Highness the
Prince of Wales's Rank
in the Army

1003.

In the Correspondence which
has already passed
which perhaps you are not
fully acquainted with.

In my Correspondence
with the

In the Correspondence,
which has already passed
on this occasion (with
which perhaps you are not
fully acquainted) no Hint

This either proves that
no such fact exists, or,
at least, that it was thought
nothing to the present
purpose. It certainly
affords

entering into the Army,
and the public grounds,
upon which he ^{never} could
~~never~~ admit of my considering
it as a Profession, or of
my being advanced in
the Army, whatever His
Majesty's intentions were, that
Explanation was never
made. nor do I at this
moment know, what are
the grounds of His Majesty's
order, which should exclude
the P. of W. from the
military service of His
Country. ~~upon the~~
~~circumstances of the~~
~~received as the present~~
occasion, no Hint of
such grounds appears;
before you ~~set forth~~
the ~~contrary~~ very
emphatic expressions have
been used of a ~~contrary~~
Judgment. nor till your
Letter, ^{was} any Hint of the
supposed Conditions.
But certainly this
affords no ~~Disproof~~
of them, because they
would have afforded no
sort of answer to my
present application.

anxious I might have
been to enter into the
service,

When the King was pleased
to appoint me to succeed Sir W.
B. H.

+ of such a conversation
taking place between us

I remember, that in the
year 1795, your communi-
cation of the Language,
H. M. was pleased to
hold with you. but I
must at the same time
recall to your Recollection,
that I then assured
you, that whatever ^{explanations} H. M.
might have thought
of causing to be made
to me, nothing of that
sort had been said, ~~and~~
and, however ~~indifferent~~
~~I might then have been~~
to ~~Rank~~, I should not
have accepted a
Regiment, ~~clipped up the~~
such conditions.

3 as to the conversation,
you quote in 1795, I
have not the ~~most~~ ^{best} Recollection. If your
Recollection. If your
Date is right, you must
be mistaken in the exact
terms, or, at least, in the
conclusion, you draw
from it, ^{for} the Intimacy,
and Familiarity of private
Conversation, it is not at
all unlikely, that I should
have remembered the
Communication you made
me the year before.

but, that I should have
acquiesced in, or referred to a Compromise,
which I never made, is
absolutely impossible.

If I had, you must
have imparted that
circumstance to Mr.
Baker, when I went to
return my humble
thanks to H. M. for
my Appointment, and
a word passed upon
any such Subject.

5 For the rest, with
every Degree of Esteem
for your Judgement of
what is due to a Soldier's
Honour, I must be the
Guardian of Mine to
the utmost of my
Power. My Sentiments
upon that Head are
also confirmed by the
publick Voice, that
It cannot stand right,
but by an open
avowal, that my
Services have been
tendered in the
manner, I have already
mentioned.