

Br. 3) 39979

Copy in 40008

My dear Brother

I have taken two days to consider the contents of your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. in order to be as accurate as possible in my answer, which must account to you for its being longer perhaps than I intended, or I could have wish'd.

I confide entirely in the personal kindness and affection express'd ~~by you~~ in your letter and am, for that reason the more unwilling to trouble you again on a painful subject, in which you are not free to act, as your inclination lead\* you. But as it is not at all improbable that every part of this Transaction may be publicly canvass'd hereafter, it is of the utmost Importance to my honor, without which I can have no happiness, that my conduct in it, shall be fairly represented, and correctly understood. When I made a tender of my services

I am sure woud

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Redraft of 39974 etc.

Feb 9 1803

Services to His Majesty's  
Ministers, it was with a just  
and natural expectation  
that my Offer would have  
been accepted in the way  
in which alone, it could  
have been <sup>with beneficial</sup> ~~any~~ Service  
to my Country, or creditable  
to myself; or, if that fail'd  
that at least, (in Justice to  
me) the Reasons for a refusal  
would have been distinctly  
stated; so that the Nation  
might be satisfied that  
nothing had been omitted  
on my Part, & enabled to  
judge of the validity of the  
Reasons assign'd for ~~the~~ <sup>such</sup>  
refusal. In the first  
Instance, I was refer'd  
to His Majesty's will &  
Pleasure; and now I am  
inform'd by <sup>Letter</sup> ~~your~~ that,  
before he had appointed  
me to the Command of the  
"10<sup>th</sup> - Lt. Dragoons, he had  
"caus'd it to be fully ex-  
"plain'd to ~~me~~, what his  
"sentiments were, with res-  
"pect to a Prince of Wales  
"entering into the Army"

<sup>My dear brother</sup>  
 It is impossible I should know all that pass'd between the King & You; but I perfectly recollect the statement you made of the conversation you had had with H. Majesty, & which strictly corresponds with that in your letter now before me; but I must, at the same time, recall to your memory, my positive denial, at that time of any condition or stipulation, having been made, upon my first coming into the Army; & I am in possession of full & complete Documents, which prove that, no terms whatever, were then propos'd, at least, to me, whatever might have been the intention; and the communications I have found it necessary, subsequently, to make, have ever disclaim'd the existence of such a compromise at any period, as nothing could be more averse to my nature, or more remote from my mind.

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Feb 9 1803

my dear Brother

As to the conversation  
you quote in 1796 (when the  
King was pleas'd to appoint  
me to succeed Sir William  
Pitt) I have not the ~~great~~  
slightest recollection of its  
having taken place between  
us. - if your date is right  
you must be mistaken in  
the exact terms, or, at least,  
in the conclusion you draw  
from it; for in the intimacy  
& familiarity of private  
conversation, it is not  
at all unlikely, that I sh<sup>d</sup>.  
have remember'd the  
communication you made  
me the year before; but  
that I should have acquie  
in, or refer'd to a com-  
promise, which I never  
made, is ~~absolutely~~<sup>absolutely</sup>  
impossible.

Neither in St. James's  
letter to me, nor in the  
correspondence with Mr.  
Addington (of which you  
may not be fully inform'd)  
is there one word, or the  
most distant allusion to  
the condition stated in

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*[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting on the top half of the document]*

Letter to H. B. Esq  
 The Duke of York dated  
 October 9<sup>th</sup> 1803

The Prince of Wales  
 to  
 The Duke of York  
 Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 1803.

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39981

your letter; and, even, if I  
 had accepted the command  
 of a Regiment on such terms,  
 my acquiescence could only  
 have relation to the ordinary  
 situation of the Country &  
 not to a Case so completely  
 out of all contemplation  
 at that time, as the probable  
 or projected Invasion of  
 this Kingdom by a foreign  
 Force sufficient to bring  
 its safety into Question.  
 When the King is pleas'd  
 to tell me, "that should the  
 "Enemy land, he shall  
 "think it his Duty to set  
 "an Example in Defence  
 "of the Country, that is, to  
 expose the only Life ~~pos-~~  
 -~~sible~~, which, for the public  
 welfare, ought not to be  
 hazarded; I respect &  
 admire the Principle,  
 which dictates that reso-  
 lution. & as <sup>my heart glows with</sup> ~~I feel~~ the same  
 Sentiments, I wish to par-  
 take in the same Danger;  
 that is, with Dignity &  
 effect; wherever His  
 Majesty

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+ He acts & commands.

+ his services rejected.

+ ~~at present~~

+ disregarded

Majesty appears, ~~He acts~~  
~~& commands~~ as King. +  
You are Comd. in Chief.  
Others of my Family are  
high in Military Station;  
and even by the last Breve  
a considerable number of  
junior Officers are put  
over me. In all these Ar-  
rangements, The Prince of  
Wales alone whose Interest  
in the Event yields to none  
but that of The King, is  
<sup>disregarded</sup> ~~rejected~~, omitted ~~to be~~  
and if, ~~had not happened~~  
~~at this moment to have~~  
~~been at the head~~  
of a Regiment, <sup>consequently</sup> ~~subject~~  
~~to the command of any~~  
General Officer in the Army,  
<sup>so that ~~he~~ in fact</sup> ~~should have~~ no post or  
Station whatsoever, in a  
Contest on which the Fate  
of the Crown & the Kingdom  
<sup>may</sup> ~~ought~~ depend.  
I do not, <sup>my dear Brother</sup> wonder that,  
in the hurry of your present  
Occupations, these consi-  
derations should have  
been overlook'd. They  
are now in your view, +  
I think, can not fail  
to

to make a due Impression.

As to the rest, with every  
degree <sup>proportionally</sup> of esteem for your  
judgment of what is due  
to a Soldiers Honor; I must  
be the Guardian of mine to  
the utmost of my Power.

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