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Duplicate of Proceeding

October 2-24 1903







Brighton 2<sup>d</sup> Oct. 1803

My dear Brother,

By the last Night's Gazette which I have this moment received, I perceive that an extensive promotion has taken place in the Army; wherein my pretensions are not noticed; a circumstance which it is impossible for me (whatever may have happened upon other occasions) to pass by, at this momentous Crisis; without observation. —

My standing in the Army, according to the most ordinary Routine of Promotion, had it been followed up, would have placed me either, at the bottom of the List of Generals; or at the head of the List of Lieut. Generals — When the younger Branches of my Family are promoted to the highest Military Situations; my Birth, according to the distinctions usually confer'd on it, should have placed me first on that List.

I hope you know me too well, to imagine that Idle Inactive Rank is in my view, much less is the Direction and Patronage of the Military Department — An Object which suits my place in the State or my Inclination.

But in a moment when the Danger of the Country, is thought by Government, so urgent as to call forth the Energy of every Arm in its defence, I cannot but feel myself degraded, both as a Prince, and a Soldier; if I am not allowed to take a forward and distinguished part, in the Defence of that Empire and Crown; of the Glory, Prosperity, and even Existence of that People, in all which, Mine is the greatest Stake. — To be told I may display this Zeal solely & simply at the head of my Regiment is a degrading Mockery —

If that be the only Situation allotted me I shall certainly do my Duty, as others will; But the



Considerations to which I have already alluded, entitle me  
to expect & bind me in every way to require a Situation  
more correspondent to the Dignity of my own Character  
and to the Publick expectations -

It is for the sake of tendering my services  
in a way, more formal, and official, than I have before  
pursued, that I address this to you, My dear Brother, as  
The Commander in Chief, by whose Councils the Constitution  
presumes, that the Military Department is Administr'd,

If those who have the honor to advise his  
Majesty on this occasion, shall deem my pretensions among  
those of All the Royal Family, to be the only ones fit to be  
rejected, and disdain'd, I may at least hope as a  
Debt of Justice & Honor, to have it explained, that  
I am laid by, in virtue of that Judgment, and not  
in consequence of any Omission or want of Energy  
on my part.

Se. Se. Se.

Signed ( G. P. W. )



House Guards. Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> 1803.

Dearest Brother,

Nothing but an extraordinary press of business, would have prevented me from acknowledging sooner your Letter of the 2<sup>d</sup>. inst, which I received while at Oatlands on Monday evening -

I trust that you are too well acquainted with my Affection for you, which has existed since our most tender years, not to be assured of the satisfaction I have ever felt, and ever must feel, in forwarding when in my power every desire, or object of yours; And therefore will believe, how much I must regret the impossibility there is, upon the present occasion, of my executing your wishes, of laying the representation contain'd in your Letter before His Majesty -

Suffer me, My Dearest Mother as the only Answer that I can properly give you, to recall to your Memory, what pass'd upon the same Subject soon after His Majesty was graciously pleas'd to place me at the Head of the Army; and I have no doubt that with your usual Candour, you will yourself see the absolute Necessity of my declining it -

In the year 1795, upon a General Promotion taking place, at your Instance, I deliver'd a Letter from you to His Majesty, urging your pretensions to Promotion in the Army, to which His Majesty was pleas'd to Answer, that before ever he had appointed you to the Command of the 10<sup>th</sup>. Light Dragoons, he had caus'd it to be fully explain'd to You - what His sentiments were with respect to a Prince of Wales entering into the Army, And the Publick Ground upon which he never could admit of your considering



it as a Profession, or of your being promoted in the service, and His Majesty, at the same time, added his positive Commands and Injunctions to me, never to mention this Subject again to Him; and to decline being the Bearer of any application of the same nature should it be proposed to me; which message I was of course under the necessity of delivering to You, and have constantly made it the rule of my Conduct ever since, and indeed I have ever consider'd it as one of the greatest proofs of Affection, and Consideration, towards me, on the part of His Majesty, that He never allowed me to become a party in this business -

Having thus stated to you, fairly, and candidly what has pass'd, I must trust you will see that there can be no grounds, for the apprehension express'd in the latter part of your Letter, that any slur can attach to your Character as an Officer, particularly as I recollect your mentioning to me yourself, on the day on which you received the Notification of your Appointment to the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, the explanation and condition attach'd to it, by His Majesty - And therefore surely you must be satisfied, that your not being advanced in Military Rank, proceeds entirely from His Majesty's Sentiments respecting the High Rank You hold in the State, and not from any Impression unfavorable to You - - Believe me ever with the greatest truth

Dearest Mother

Your most Affect. Brother,

(signed) Frederick



Brighton Oct<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1803.

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 wished.

I confide entirely in the personal kindness and affection, expressed 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 I am sure leads 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 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 most so beneficial 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, and enabled to judge of the validity of the reasons assign'd for such refusal.

In the first Instance I was refer'd to His Majesty's will and pleasure; and now I am inform'd by your Letter, that before "He had appointed me to the command of the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, He had caus'd



"it to be fully explained to me, what His sentiments  
"were, with respect to a Prince of Wales, entering  
"into the Army."

It is impossible, My dear Brother, that  
I should know all that pass'd between the King & You;  
But, I perfectly recollect, the statement you made of  
the conversation you had with His Majesty, and 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; and I am in possession  
of full and compleat Documents, which prove, that  
no terms whatever were then proposed, 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 avowed, to my Nature, or more remote  
from my Mind.

As to the conversation you quote in  
1796. (when the King was pleased to appoint me to  
succeed Sir Will<sup>m</sup>. Pitt) I have not the most slight  
recollection of its having taken place between us.  
My dear Brother, If your date is right, you must  
be mistaken in your exact terms, or, at least, in  
the conclusion you draw from it; for in the  
Intimacy and familiarity of private conversation,  
It is not at all unlikely, that I should have  
remember'd the communication you made me the year  
before; but that I should have acquiesc'd in, or refer'd  
to a Compromise, which I never made, is utterly Impossible.



Neither in His Majesty's Letter to me, nor in the correspondence with Mr Addington (of which you may not be fully informed) is there one word, or the most distant allusion to the condition stated in your Letter; and even if I had accepted the command of a Regiment on such terms, my Acquiescence could have only relation to the Ordinary Situation of the Country, and 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 pleased 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 which, for the Publick Welfare, ought not to be hazarded - I respect and admire the Principle which dictates that resolution; and as my Heart glows with the same sentiments, I wish to partake in the same Danger, that is, with Dignity and Effect, whenever, His Majesty appears as King, He acts & commands - You are Commander in Chief, others of my Family, are high in Military Station; and even by the last Brevet a considerable number of Junior Officers are put over me. In all these arrangements, The Prince of Wales alone, whose Interest in the Event yields to none but that of the King, is disregarded; omitted his Services, rejected; so that in fact He has no Post or Station, whatsoever, in a contest, on which the Fate of the Crown, & the Kingdom may depend.

I do not my Dear Mother, wonder that in the hurry of your present occupations, these



considerations should have been overlooked. They are  
now in your view & I think cannot fail to make  
a due Impression

As to the rest with every degree of  
Esteem possible for your Judgment of what is due  
to a Soldier's Honor, I must be the Guardian  
of mine to the utmost in my Power

This Royal Highness  
The Duke of York.

(signed)

G. P.



Howe Guards.

Oct. 11. 1803 —

My dear Brother:

I have this moment upon my Arrival in Town found your Letter, and lose no time in answering that part of it, which it appears to me highly necessary should be clearly understood.

Indeed my Dear Brother you must give me leave to repeat to You, that upon the fullest consideration I perfectly recollect you having yourself told me at Carlton House in the year 1793, on the day on which you was informed of His Majesty having acquiesced, in your request of being appointed to the Command of the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Light Dragoons, of which Sir William Pitt was then Colonel, the Message and condition, which was delivered to you from His Majesty; and what His Majesty repeated to me, in the year 1795 as mentioned in my Letter of Thursday last, and I have the fullest reason to know, that there are others to whom at that time you mentioned the same circumstance; Nor have I the least recollection of your having denyed it to me when I delivered you The King's Answer, as I should certainly have felt it incumbent upon me to recall to your Memory what you had told me yourself, in the year 1793 —

No Conversation whatever pass'd between us, as you justly remark in the year 1796 when Sir William Pitt was promoted to the King's Dragoon Guards, which was done in consequence of what was arrang'd in 1793, upon your first Appointment to the 10<sup>th</sup> L<sup>t</sup> Dragoons, and I conceive that your mentioning in your Letter my



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having stated a conversation to have pass'd between us in  
1798 must have arisen from some misapprehension, as  
I do not find that year ever adverted to in my Letter.

I have thought it due to Us both, My  
Dear Brother, thus fully to reply to those parts of your  
Letter, in which you appear, to have mistaken mine;  
But as I am totally unacquainted with the correspondence  
which has taken place upon this subject, I must decline  
entering any further into it.

I remain ever, My Dear Brother  
with the greatest Truth - Your most  
Affectionate Brother

(signed)

Frederick



(Copy)

N<sup>o</sup> 5.

Brighton Oct. 12. 1803.

My dear Brother,

By my replying to your Letter of the 6.<sup>th</sup> instant, which contain'd no sort of answer to mine of the second, We have fallen into a very frivolous altercation upon a Topick, which is quite foreign to the present purpose. Indeed the whole Importance of It, lies in a seeming Contradiction in the statement of a Fact; which is unpleasant, even upon the Vollest occasion.

I meant to assert that no previous condition to forego all Pretensions to Ulterior Rank, under any Circumstance, had been imposed upon me, or even submitted to me, in any shape, whatsoever, on my first coming into the Service; And with as much Confidence, as can be used in maintaining a Negative; I repeat that Assertion.

When I first became acquainted with His Majesty's purpose to withhold from me further Advancement, It is impossible to recollect, But that it was so early in the year 1793, I do not remember, and if your expressions were left positive, I should add, (or believe.) But I certainly knew it, as you well know, in 1795, and possibly before — We were then engaged in War, therefore I could not think of resigning my Regiment, if under other circumstances, I had been dispos'd so to do; But in Truth my Rank in the Nation, made Military Rank in ordinary times a matter of little Consequence, except to my own private feelings. This Sentiment I conveyed to you in my Letter of the second, saying expressly, that mere Idle inactive Rank, was in no sort my Object. But upon the prospect of an



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Emergency, where the King was to take the field, and the spirit of every Briton, was roused to exertion, the place, which I occupy in the Nation, made it indispensable to demand a Post correspondent to that place & to the Publick Expectation, This Sentiment I have the happiness to be assured, in a Letter on this occasion, made a strong Impression upon the mind, and commanded the respect and admiration of One very high in Government.

The only purpose of this Letter my dear Mother is to explain, since that is necessary, that my former ones, meant not to give you the trouble of Interceding as my Advocate, for mere Rank in the Army, urging further my other more Important claims upon Government would be vainly address'd to any Person who can really think, that a former refusal of meer Rank under circumstances so widely different, or the most express waving of such pretensions, if that had been the case, furnishes the slightest Colour for the Answer I have received, to the Tenders I have now made of my services —

Your Department, my dear Mother, was meant, if I must repeat it, simply as a Channel, to convey that Tender to Government; and to obtain either their Attention to it, or an open avowal of their Refusal;

(Signed)

G. P.



House Guards.  
Oct. 13. 1803 —

Dear Brother! I have received your Letter this morning, and am sorry to find that you think that I have misconceived the meaning of your first Letter, the whole tenor of which, and the Military Promotion, which gave rise to it, led me, naturally to suppose your desire was, that I should apply to his Majesty in my Official Capacity, to give you Military Rank, to which might be attached the Idea of subsequent Command — That, I found myself under the necessity of declining in obedience to His Majesty's pointed Order, as I explained to you in my Letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst. But, from your Letter of to day I am to understand, that your Object is not Military Rank, but that a Post should be allotted to you, upon the present Emergency, suitable to your Situation in the State — This, I conceive to be purely a political Consideration, and as such, totally out of my Department, and as I have most carefully avoided, at all times, & under all circumstances, ever interfering in any Political Points, I must hope that you will not call upon me to deviate from the Principles by which I have been invariably governed.

Believe me my Dear Brother

Your most Affectionate Brother

(Signed)

Frederick,



Carlton House  
Oct. 14<sup>s</sup> 1803.

My Dear Brother.

It cannot but be painful to me, to be reduced to the necessity of further explanation on a subject which it was my earnest wish to have closed; and which was of so clear & distinct a nature as in my humble Judgment, to have precluded the possibility of either Doubt, or Misunderstanding) -

Surely, there must some strange fatality obscure my Language in Statement, or leave me somewhat deficient in the Power of Explanation, when it can lead your Mind, My Dear Brother, to such a palpable & Mis construction (for far be it from me to fancy it wilful) of my meaning, as to suppose for a moment, I had unconnected my Object with Efficient Military Rank, and transferred it entirely to the view of a Political Station, when you venture to tell me, "My object is not Military Rank, but that a Post should be allotted to me, upon the present Emergency, suitable to my situation in the State."

Upon what ground you can hazard such an Assertion, or, upon what Principles, you can draw such an Inference, I am utterly at a loss to determine For, I defy, the most skilful Logician in torturing the English Language, to apply with fairness, such a Construction, to any word, or phrase of mine, contained in any one of the Letters, I have ever written on this, to me, most Interesting Subject.

I call upon You, to re-peruse the Correspondence, In my Letter of the 2<sup>d</sup> Inst. I told you unequivocally that "I hoped you knew me too well, to Imagine, that Idle Inactive Rank was in my View" And that Sentiment I beg you carefully to observe, I have in no Instance whatever, for a single moment relinquished or departed from.



Giving as I did, all the considerations of my Heart, to the Delicacy & Difficulties, of your situation, nothing could have been more repugnant to my Thoughts, or to my disposition, than to have Imposed upon you, My Dear Brother, either in your Capacity as Comm<sup>o</sup> in Chief, or in the near Relationship which subsists between Us - the Task, much less the expectation, of causing you to risque any Displeasure from His Majesty, by disobeying in any degree His Commands, although they were even to militate against myself. But, with the Impulse of my Feelings towards you, and quickly conceiving, what Friendship and Affection may be capable of, I did not, I own, think it entirely impossible, that you might, considering the magnitude and Importance which the Object carries with it, have officially Advanced my wishes, as a matter of propriety, to Military Rank & Subsequent Command, through His Majesty's Ministers, for that direct purpose; Especially when the Honor of my Character, and my future Fame in Life, were so deeply involved in the Consideration, For I must here Emphatically again repeat, "That Idle. Inactive Rank was never in my View, and that Military Rank, with its consequent command was never out of it."

Feeling how useless, as well as Ingracious, Controversy is upon every Occasion, and knowing how fatally it Operates on human Friendships, I must entreat that our Correspondence on this Subject, shall cease here, for nothing could be more distressing to me, than to prolong a Topick, on which, it is now clear to me, My Dear Brother, that You & I can never agree.

Se. Se Se

(Signed)

G. P.



No 8.

Copy of a Letter from The R.<sup>c</sup> Henr. Henry Addington  
dated, Richmond Park Oct. 23. 1803.

Sir -

In consequence of some Intelligence, which  
has reach'd me, I am impell'd by a sense of Duty to your  
Royal Highness, and to the Publick, to express an earnest  
and anxious Hope, that you may be induc'd to  
postpone your return to Brighton, until I shall  
have had an opportunity of making further enquiries,  
and of stating the result of them to your Royal  
Highness -

I have the Honor to be, with the  
utmost Deference & respect

Sir

Your Royal Highness's

Faithful & most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

(Signed)

Henry Addington

The Prince of Wales -



No. 9.

Answer.

Sir/

By your grounding your Letter to me upon Intelligence which has just reach'd you, I apprehend that you allude to Information which leads you to expect some immediate Attempt from the Enemy - My wish to accomodate myself to any thing which you represent as material to the Publick Service, would of course make me desirous to comply with your Request - But if there be reason to imagine that Invasion will take place directly, I am bound by, The King's Precise Order, & by that honest Zeal, which is not allow'd, any fitter Sphere for its Action, to hasten instantly to my Regiment. If I learn that my construction of the word Intelligence be right, I must deem it necessary to repair to Brighton immediately -

L. L. L.

Carlton House  
Oct. 24. 1803.

(Signed)

J. P.

R. Hon. Henry Addington.



Second.

The Prince of Wales

and

The Duke of York

Oct. 1003.

The Prince's Rank in

The Army.