

There is no inducement for the officers, to continue
pursuit of this profession, but their patriotism
a prospect of elevation, to distinguished rank in
service; destroy their hopes in the one, and they are
materially in the other. To you Sir as the head of
gallant band of officers, they look with confidence
protection in their rank and seniority. They con-
sider it a sufficient hardship, to be deprived of an opportunity
of distinguishing themselves, and rendering service
country by the confined limits of the service, with-
out losing their seniority in the promotions, and be-
coming subject to the command of those whom they had
previously commanded. Lieut. Ridgely is an officer
much merit and value to the service, he has
times rendered himself a favourite with the Com-
mander he has served under, and is fully competent to
trust the Government can repose in him. I
hope you will not ^{allow} suffer an officer like him
to suffer in the promotions, and be deprived by accident
of the object of his long and steady pursuit.

The feelings of valuable officers, is at all times
to ^{his} standing, and situation, and where there is
an equality of talents and merit no injustice
to be done them through accidental circumstances.