

Wolton one 2 - April 1857

Dear Sir

Fearful you may suppose my
not applying for a command at this ^{time} is owing
to a want of inclination on my part, to go
to sea, I am induced to address you on that subject.
I have not heretofore done so, because I have
no vacancies since my health would enable
me to enter on active service — since the
loss of the ~~minister~~ my greatest wish has been
to obtain a command, And as it is now reported
that a change is contemplated in the Frigate
institution, I have ~~imprudently~~ ^{imprudently} be-
lieved it to offer my claim with officers
of the same grade — I hope Sir, you will do
me the justice to believe that this is not a
temptation in me to attempt in any manner
the most trifling or interference in any con-
templated arrangements of the Department, And
nothing I assure you, but my peculiar situation
which is now a second time compelling me, within
a month, to trouble you — If precedents are writ-
ten against the claim of a senior officer to a
command, I have to refer to the cases of Comdr
Lodges claiming the Frigate ~~Warrent~~, Comdr
Bainbridge the Constitution, & Capt. J. the
Harp — This however, occurred during the Admini-