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and the Ships of war.

In relation to the temporary rank of Colonel which I wished Major Nicholls to hold whilst acting with the Indians, it is conformable to what was adopted all through the American war, where provincial Rank was given as high as that of Brigadier General, & even to those who had never held any Military Rank whatever. With the Indians it is absolutely necessary to impress a belief that their leaders are men of rank ~~&c~~ consequence, or as they style them, "great warriors". They are accustomed ~~by their intercourse~~ with the United States to see how Military Rank is prostituted, & that even the taverns are kept by persons bearing the Rank of Colonels, Lt. Colonels &c. This being the case I judged it for the advantage of H. M. Service to place Major Nicholls in a situation beyond or at least of equal Rank to persons of that description.

After the Service has been completed at New Orleans & the country properly secured I beg leave to propose that should there be more troops than are necessary for the security of our conquests ~~that~~ they shall join the Marines upon the coast of Georgia & Carolina;

and