degree of Rank (which most undoubtedly ought to Govern Regiments in all Cases where no Impediment lies, nor nothing done by the Party to preclude the Claim) Skinner Stands before Gibson, Goldsborough, Skinner & Gibson were Sergeants in the same Company in the flying Camp, & Ranked as I have wrote them — Goldsborough having done nothing to preclude his Claim, ought in Justice to be promoted higher than the other two — Broom having been out last Fall, (if a Commissioned Officer) ought to take Rank of the other three. Upon these Principles no Injury will be done to Skinner or Gibson by appointing Broom or Goldsborough over them. — as to Bird, should he take rank, his Resignation will be of advantage to the Service. — Stinson has no Right to set up a Claim — He is a good Intentioned Boy — as Desposing to Rise — Gibson & Skinner were the two I mentioned. The only Objection against the Appointment is Warfield, who was an Ensign last Campaign. I think Merit ought to have great weight, And I would much rather disgust a dozen Numskulls than keep one good Man out of the Service, since he would do more in emergencies than 2 dozen of them.

C. G. Handy stands equal to Dunlock and Thó Jones as to Service, & before Walls, Reed & Jacob Jones: Keying are above him, in point of former Rank. Could it unfit for promotion Keying I dont know (he is with the Artillery) but am told that Handy surpasses in Merit. Dunlock, as tis said, stands equal in Merit & Service, & Jacob Jones is a Clever Youth. I do not wish to have injustice done to any of the Lads that are promising, but I think the appointment of Handy will not disgust them.

d. I mentioned Marlindale more from his desire to Come into the Regiment, than from his Cleverness.