222

Gentlemen

Frederick Town Feby 10th 1776

222

I had the Honour to receive from the Delegates of the Freemen of this Province a Commission as Captain of one of the Independant Companies in the Regular service, no one would be more happy than myself in the acceptance of it, had the Gentlemen who then appointed Lieutenants been known to the men I would wish to carry into action. It is twenty Years since I first had the Honour to command a Company in Defence of my Country. Since that time I have Commanded many. And being apprehensive at the beginning of this Unhappy, Cruel, and Unnatural Contest between the mother Country and her Colonies that I might be one more called on to stand forth in defence of our Liberties, I had frequently conversed with and informed my Malitia Company and many others of my Neighbours and acquaintance that it was highly probable I might again solicit them to follow me to the field of Battle - they in the General most chearfully agreed to March whenever I should Call on them, but as it was possible I might fall if we went into action, they desired that two Gentlemen which they had agreed on might be appointed Lieutenants. And as it had been Customary with me to Nominate the Subalterns, I promised that those Gentlemen (did I accept of a Commission) should be my Lieutenants, and had wrote to Mr. Johnson while at the Convention mentioning the names of the Gentlemen and informing him of my Promises but unfortunately my letter Miscarried - One of those Gentlemen was a Lieutenant of mine in a late Expedition against the Indians who behaved himself much to the Satisfaction of my Company as well as to myself - I have Come this far in consequence of a letter from Mr Johnson, who inclosed my Commission with an Intent to accept it and to return and enlist a Company of Rifle men, which I flatter myself I could have done at furthest in a week (not knowing but my letter had got safe to Hand, and the Lieutenants (if appointed at all by the Convention) were the Gentlemen I had mentioned. From this Disappointment after my engagements I am reduced to the disagreeable necessity of betraying the Confidence of my Company

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND 222

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