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General Gist was pleased to inform me he had inclosed a list of Serjeants for commissions in the 2d Maryland Brigade. If I may be indulged I had rather not have any appointed to my Regiment I have Serjeants as old in the service as they are whose good conduct & character entitles them to any favor in my power to procure for them as such but I am not consistant with the good of the service venture to recommend them as officers. If I could confine them to a subordinate rank I should be happy to have them but promotions from various causes in the American army & particularly in the Maryland Line are so rapid that there is danger of their soon arriving at a command to which they are unequal. These men will conceive themselves neglected they ~~must~~ be sensible of a mortification to which I should be sorry to have subjected if it is in my power to prevent it, for whatever may be the merit of those Serjeants recommended they have not had it in their power to give any distinguishing proofs of it out of the line of their own Regiments. If I knew any exceptions I should be glad to have them appointed to my Regiment. I know that attachment to faithful industrious Serjeants will sometimes lead us to believe them

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