Worthy Gentlemen

As a Vacancy has happened in the field Officers of Severn Battalion by a Choice of our Worthy Col.ns Hall and Hammond as Representatives in the house; as our Majors has Risen to the Degree of Col.ns I Apprehend that a Regular Rise in the Inferior Officers Takes Place If so; I think (But am not Convinced) that my Enrolment is the Second in the Battalion, Capt. Hammond Commanded the first, he Being Promoted gave his first Lieutenant the Rise to a Captaincy; myself Commanding the Second Company was then the Oldest Captain, which, with Submission I Presume Intitles me to a Major. Commission; If a Recommendation from is Necessary to promotion, I flatter myself I Can Come well Recommend for my Assiduity and Heartiness in the Common Cause

from Gentlemen, with all Due Respect,
Your Most Obedient, and very Humble Servt.

February the
5th 1777

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Joseph Merriken