Lt. Col. Isaac Barré to Hon. Pitt.

Fatesene

? Apr. 28/1760 (See D.N.B.)

10 London

Sir,

Mr. Wood did me the honour of acquainting me this day with your opinion of the Application I proposed to make for Preferment in the Army.

I am very unhappy to find that I am accused of over-rating my Services; Yet, Sir, as you have already honour'd me with some attention, I shall take the Liberty of adding a few Particulars to those you are already acquainted with.

Senior Captains will (I acknowledge) think themselves injured by my promotion; But had Seniority avail'd any thing to me when I was a Subaltern, Those Gentlemen's pretensions would not be now an Argument against me.

Some Officers my juniors in Service

have had lately the same Employments, & have almost all obtain'd the Rank of Lieutenant Colonel at first setting out; A Rank which I did not ask till two Commanders in chief express'd their approbation of my Conduct.

Since I was honour'd with His Majesty's commission of Adjutant General, Two of the Brigade Majors under my directions are now become my Superior Officers; And a third Captain Maitland who was appointed to act as Adjutant General when I was wounded, has since got the rank by virtue of that Appointment, altho' he had not the King's Commission. — I feel no mean Envy at the promotion of Officers of merit, Yet these are uncommon mortifications.

The five & twenty Battalions that conquer'd Canada, have at different times received their General's orders thro' me; And tho' my Commission was attended with moderate honours, Yet it was of such weight that the Majors of that Army were always thought my Inferior Officers.

Fortescue

Lt. Col. Isaac Barré to Hon. Pitt.

? Apr. 28/1760 (See D.N.B.)

In fourteen years service & after the duty of five Campaigns, the Step from Ensign to Lieutenant is all that ever was given me. My Company I bought after all my sufferings, by the advice of Mr. Amherst, who thought my case would by that means be so singular, that the bare mention of it at home would insure me redress.
After signing the last Capitulation, He told me, "This day, Barré, will give you five hundred pounds & make you a Lieutenant Colonel".

If what I now ask (from the encouragement my General gave me,) should be refused, It shall not in the least affect my Zeal for his Majesty's Service. I entreat your Permission, Sir, to return to my Duty with all expedition; As long as the War lasts, there is no Rank, tho' ever so low, but I may contrive to make myself useful in it, & acquit myself in every respect like a Man of Honour.

I am &c &c

* The paragraph marked thus displeased Mr. Pitt. He said he did not think that I over-rated my Services.

First Letter
to
Mr. Secretary Pitt
Dated: London

Col. Isaac Barré to ? Ld. Bute

Dec. 21 1760

21 Dec 1760

My Lord,

I send enclosed to your Lordship a Copy of the memorial which I had the honour of presenting to the King; Also Copys of the Letters which I wrote to Mr. Pitt.

10.

Your Lordship knows the situation of my Affair at the close of the last Reign. General Amherst's recommendation of me to Lord Barrington (tho' in the strongest terms) was to be farther explain'd, And in Consequence of that Explanation, my Commission of Lt. Colonel was to be dated the 20th. of October last. I hope it is not too much to say, That this precarious proposal for my advancement was not solely intended as a Compliment to the General, but also imply'd an approbation of my Claim

Lately I was informed that Captain Faucet had got the Rank in Germany for being Adjutant General to the detach'd Corps under the command of the Hereditary Prince.

It has been urged that I took the Commission, tho' the honours annexed to it were dealt with a sparing hand; I never heard of so discouraging a maxim in the King's service, As that my acceptance precluded me from asking greater promotion, more especially if my Generals thought I deserved it.

As the Custom in our Army has also been mentioned as an Obstacle, I cannot help mentioning to your Lordship, that General Napier said at L^d. Legonier's before M^r. Wood & me, "That a refusal of the ranks to me would be breaking thro' all rules, & the giving it would be only restoring me to my Rights."

I have the honour to be
with the greatest respect
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most humble
& most obed^t. Servt.
Isaac Barré

Suffolk Street
Decr. 21st.

Col. Isaac Barré to ? W. Pitt

Letterne

12 2d Letter a
London

Sir,

In obedience to your Commands, I waited upon my Lord Legonier: It affects me greatly, to find that his Lordship has either changed his opinion, or has forgot the favourable Impression which the first recital of my pretensions had made. He would not however give me any positive answer, but told me he would speak to Mr. Pitt on Monday next.

My Arguments can be of little weight; unless supported, And indeed, Sir, I can have no hopes, unless I flatter myself with your gracious protection.

I am the only Adjutant General to whom the usual Rank has been denyd; Yet I hope it will not be forgot, That I fullfilld the Duty of

that Commission two Campaigns with honour, That I bled by Mr. Wolfe's side in his last & glorious Effort for the service of his Country, And that Mr. Amherst's chusing me to be the messenger of the Account of his so happily finishing an uncommon Interesting War, is a distinguished mark of my present General's approbation.

Jhon G. G.