

giving way to power, on one side, and sometimes pushing my friends into the dirt on the other, would have carried me safely through. I even believe, that the adviser of the letters I lately alluded to would rather have seen me in that track, than in the other which he prescribed for me across the Atlantic.

As little would I be supposed to want discernment of the path I took : for the barefaced preferences, rewards and punishments held forth for parliamentary conduct, were among the most glaring parts of the system I had contemplated. And it was impossible to doubt, that as a delinquent *there*, I should be pressed both by art and vengeance to the end the enemies I had provoked foresaw—the loss of my profession and the impoverishment of my fortune. I trust it will be an innocent revenge on my part, to shew them I can bear my condition firmly; and that I am incapable of redeeming what I have lost, were it ever in my option, by the disavowal of a single principle I have professed.

I come now to the second charge, disobedience of orders; and in a point that so nearly touches the very essence of military character, I trust I shall not trespass upon the patience of the reader, if I treat it a little more at large than I have done in my correspondence with the secretary at war.

I admit that subordination and implicit obedience, as applied to the operation of arms, are primary principles in the military system. An army is a mere name without them. The officer who hesitates to meet certain death upon command, deserves to receive it from the hand of the executioner.

But there are possible exceptions to these general principles, especially out of the field, in the most absolute services; and in the British service they are known and marked, and co-existent with the military establishment itself, in the mutiny act, which confines obedience to legal commands. An army must again be garbled like the army of Cromwell (which God avert!) before an

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