

requesting promotion. But again his efforts were unsuccessful.¹ His Lordship replied: "Promotion is for Officers who belong to active Corps. Officers of Invalids not being in that situation, are not promoted in the Service, but enjoy the honourable ease they have so well merited. There is but one instance in either of the last promotions by Brevet, in which this rule was not observed, & that instance happened by mistake."² Obviously the tide of fortune was not flowing in Knox's direction!

The relations of Captain Knox with certain officers in the barracks do not seem to have been cordial, and, on October 21, 1777, he complains of the conduct of Lieutenant Simpson. On November 1 Lord Barrington replied: "I have received your letter of the 21st of Oct'r & am to acquaint you that I am always desirous of supporting the Authority of the Officer who commands in Garrison; and therefore if you think the Service requires that Lieut. Simpson's Conduct towards you should be enquired into officially, I shall move H.M. to direct such enquiry to be made:—at the same time I apprehend as that part of Lieut. Simpson's conduct which first gave offense does not appear to have had any connection with your situation as Commanding Officer, you will think it most advisable to drop the prosecution of your complaint."² At the same time Lord Barrington addressed the following letter to Lieutenant Simpson: "Captain Knox, Commanding the Garrison at Berwick, having represented that your behaviour on the 19th and 21st of Oct'r last, was highly disrespectful to him as your commanding Officer, I am to desire that you will send me an explanation of your conduct to him on those days. Should you on reflection find that you have been betrayed by any sudden warmth into expressions inconsistent with the subordination and respect due to your commanding officer, I daresay you will think it most advisable on receipt of

¹ Public Record Office, W.O., 4, vol. 100.

² *Ibid.*