

I stated these sentiments when the King's intention of employing me was communicated, adding, that powerful as they were, they should be made subservient to the principles I had ever held of a soldier's duty ; and if his Majesty thought me, then the last and humblest upon the list of his major-generals, to be necessary to the service of the state, I should forego any idea of excusing myself upon the plea of my private circumstances. I was assured, in terms very honourable to me, that his Majesty was decided in his choice of generals, and I immediately declared my readiness to obey.

Thus engaged, I resolved to dedicate myself to my new situation. I saw the national objects to which it opened. I had uniformly supported the principle then held out by the Ministers—the supremacy of the King in Parliament ; and from truly public sensations, I endeavoured to put myself upon as good terms as possible with the First Lord of the Treasury. I suggested a command at New-York with four regiments (it was the very beginning of the troubles) with a view to negotiation, not to arms. The idea seemed to be much approved ; but I am not master of the secret and political circumstances that prevented its being adopted. I am now inclined to believe that had the measure taken place, the war would have been prevented ; or at least
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