

PROCEEDINGS
OF A
GENERAL COURT MARTIAL,
&c. &c.

Salopian Coffee-House, February 5, 1792.

SIR—I understand that an accusation of seventeen charges, preferred by the late Serjeant-Major of the 54th regiment, against me as Commanding Officer of the regiment while in America, has been laid before the Secretary at War, and by him presented to his Majesty.

I have been further informed that several of the charges thus exhibited against me have been suppressed.

With submission to you, I think the whole, and not a part of these charges, as far as they relate to me, ought to be brought forward, as they will altogether evidently shew the ill founded motives upon which the accuser grounds his accusation.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Sir C. Gould.

RICHARD POWELL,
Captain 54th Regiment.

Friday Night, 10th February, 1792.

SIR—It may not, I presume, be unknown to you how indispensably my whole time has been employed this week, and my not having returned an answer to your letter, will not therefore have been imputed to inattention. With respect to the contents of that letter, I have now only to say, that the point in question by no means depends upon the Judge-Advocate-General. The Secretary at War, it is true, does me the honour, sometimes, of asking my opinion; which, as becomes me, I give him freely and honestly: but I have nothing to do with it officially in that stage of the business. Such charges as are contained in the King's warrant it is my duty to lay before the Court-Martial when convened, whether they accord with my private sentiments or not. I do not, however, wish to make a secret of my opinion. I certainly do think that the sending such a variety of charges, totally distinct in their nature, to be tried all together, may be very inconvenient, and is moreover open to much objection.

I understand from your letter that your wish is in opposition to this. I am sorry for it; such is my decided opinion. I do not mean by this that any charge should be suppressed. If, after disposing of some of the principal, it shall appear to answer any purpose of justice, I think the others should be investigated also. I am, &c.

Capt. Powell, of the 54th Regiment.

CHARLES GOULD.

Home-Guards, Tuesday Evening, 21st Feb. 1792.

SIR—I have this moment received your letter of this day's date. I was hopeful I had before explained (I certainly meant to do so) that no part of the business, concerning which you are naturally anxious, depends upon me, until the King's warrant comes to my hands, which is not the case; and I have reason to believe it has not yet received his Majesty's signature.