

inflammation and excoriation of the skin, without removing either the numbness, the swelling or the pain in any degree whatever.

On the fifth day both gentlemen told me, after carefully examining the state of the injury by placing the limb in every possible position, that they were so firmly convinced it would be a long and tedious cure (at the same time confessing that they could not categorically ascertain the exact seat of the hurt, or the precise cause of the appearance), that they felt themselves in duty bound strongly to urge me to apply without delay to the Admiral, for a ship of war, and to proceed immediately to England, that I might there have the benefit of the best chirurgical assistance that could be procured.

To this I immediately objected the delicacy and peculiarity of my situation (3), and my apprehension lest, if absorption should take place on the passage, which they admitted to be possible, though not probable, it might be conceived at home, the whole was an invention of my own brain or at least a cunning trick to effect my return to England ; as every one must feel after an absence of 13 1-2 years that I must be extremely anxious that event should take place, and moreover that from this opinion, Persons who might be disposed to be inimical to me, would insinuate, that I had in the first instance left North America without the King's permission and secondly, that I had quitted my station in a military point of view, without the sanction of your Excellency as Commander in chief ; at all events having solicited by letters that went home in April, leave to quit North America before the commencement of the next winter on acct of my health having been much injured during the preceeding one, from the effects of the climate, and apprehending there was a possibility of my receiving answers by the July mail, I thought myself bound to wait that period before I came to a determination. The Packet has since arrived on the 24th. instant, but no letter whatever communicating to me His Majesty's intentions on the subject of my application. The medical gentlemen still persisting in their former opinion, no change having taken place in the State of the injured limb, and being myself anxious to leave nothing untried before I adopted so pointed a measure, I promised them that I would forthwith write to your Excellency to solicit that Doctor Nooth, who is I believe justly considered the first professional man on

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(3) Pour bien saisir toute la portée de l'allusion que fait ici le prince à la singularité et à la délicatesse de sa situation, il faut se rappeler que le duc de Kent avait été banni de ses foyers par son royal père Georges III.