

Went in the evening to see my nieces, who have returned from seabathing.

18. *Sunday.* Captain Vanderput who called, told me that he had sent from the Thames 4,781 sailors who were pressed here. He said he had known for a long time that England had promised the King of Prussia to send 12 ships of the line into the Mediterranean in the course of July if His Majesty required them.

19. *Monday.* Captain Prevost came to communicate to me a petition which Lord Amherst had advised him to present to the Secretary of War, which I thought very good. He told me that Mr. Prevost had failed to obtain the company which Captain Dobson had got in my regiment; that the Secretary of War had told him that as the officer who had left had obtained a company of Pensioners, the King had ordered him to appoint a half pay Captain.

Prevost's protectors are Lord Sydney and Mr. Rose, who is urged by Mrs. Nesbit who has great influence over him and a Lady Warren, &c.

Prevost says he would not accept a captain lieutenancy. He has been very intimate with Prince Edward; it was he who obtained for him permission to have horses at Geneva and managed all his parties of pleasure. He has received several obliging letters and the Prince offered him a company in the Hanoverian Guards, &c. He studied for the Bar and was to be received as a doctor when the troubles in Geneva began; he took up arms in defence of the magistracy and had a uniform made for the Genevese dragoons, in which he appears as an officer.

General A. Prevost procured him an ensigncy in his battalion. He joined it in 1782 in the West Indies, two months before the peace; the battalion was reduced shortly after (in June 1783), and Prevost went to Geneva where he has enjoyed half pay for five years. He was then replaced as ensign shortly after; two new battalions were raised and I did my utmost to obtain a lieutenancy for him, which cost me much trouble. He was for some time at Chatham to receive recruits. He found means to go to Geneva, where he paid his court to Prince Edward, the son of Mr. Rose and some ladies, who have recommended him here, and it is through them he hopes to obtain a company. I do not believe that he has been altogether three years with the regiment. His lieutenant's commission is dated the 25th June, 1781. He quarrelled very unseasonably with Major Whitesake [Whiteside] of the 4th Battalion, because he entered into the battalion. The latter, brother-in-law of Mrs. Lewis, must have written about it. He is generally turbulent, and wishes to direct and interfere in every thing.

He desires to profit by the services of General Prevost (to the prejudice of the children), so that he may secure advancement. As to the affairs of Gibraltar, Prevost told me the Prince behaves very well. He dines once a week with O'Hara and will have (?) with him. Further, he sees him only in the evening. The Prince has a passion for horses, has the ears of the asses and mules cut, &c. O'Hara is not liked; he is too severe. He is at this moment embroiled with Colonel Mars [Marr], who is chief engineer. It seems to me that both are wrong.

Sir Byrd has gone to the King to ask to go to Gibraltar. The King told him he must think of it.

It is said that Lieut.-General Lenox is to take the place of General Heathfield; the latter ordered that his remains are to be taken to Gibraltar.

20. *Tuesday.* The Baron dined with me. Went to the Secretary of War.

21. *Wednesday.* Was at Lord Amherst's, to whom I spoke regarding Prevost. He showed me a letter he had written, begging him to procure him a company, as he was no longer in a position to purchase. He also wished to be employed in recruiting, but we agreed that it would be more suitable that he should join his regiment. Dined at Nepean's with Admiral Pigot, General Fawcett, General Clarke and Captain Croffort [Crawford]. We stayed till eleven; spoke little about Canada.