

which creates vigor and energy in the execution of the orders of a commander in chief.

In writing to you, Gentlemen, I consider myself addressing you as a body, not individually. I do not expect individuals, who have immediate expectancies, to fly in the face of authority, and forfeit those rewards, which are indeed distributed with so partial and sparing an hand; but these are few, compared with the whole; yet I trust that, promotion will not destroy those fine feelings, those generous principles, those liberal ideas, which do more honour to the officer, than the lace with which he is adorned.

Though subordination and respect to rank is the spirit of military life, in actual service, yet, at other times, it should subside into urbanity and politeness; the pride of the superior should be sunk in the manners of the gentleman; and a friendly attention in private life, supersede the distant demeanour on public duty. I am sorry that truth obliges me to add, I have, in my intercourse with naval men of various ranks, too often perceived the superior (to use a common sea phrase) "*top the officer*," and the inferior display that kind of inferiority not due from one gentleman to another. The conduct of the former has seemed to demand this kind of distant respect, as if, during the *solemnity* of his oath, he had swallowed an oblivious potation, and lost the remembrance