

I have been supported under that aspersions by the consciousness I did not deserve it, and the confidence that you (to whom chiefly upon that charge I was responsible) would not adopt it. After the fortunes we have run together, it is not surely unworthy of belief, that I should rather have desired, than avoided to partake the closing scene: uniting with a due sense of personal attachments, the preservation of my military fortune, and a retreat from the distractions of my country. The defence of your honour and my own, at one time, and resistance to an affront \* which my nature could not bear, at another, alone detained me here.

In regard to my political transactions, I have stated them, and I wish them to be considered by my friends, apart from my military conduct. I bear very high respect to some eminent and ill-treated characters in our profession, who in deference to the tranquility of government, have silently resigned the stations which they could no longer hold with security to their honour, or benefit to the state. But the option is not left to those, who having a voice in Parliament are obliged to act as citizens as well as soldiers. The number of officers altogether of the army and navy, who with known love to their country and professional spirit equally conspicuous, have voluntarily withdrawn themselves from employment within these two years, exceeds all precedent. I do not place my name in the list with the same pretensions; but it is not arrogant to emulate where we cannot compare; and I am desirous of following the high examples before me in no point more than in that of avoiding to disturb the zeal of those who are now employed. The officers who have held it their duty to take part in opposition, have acted openly and directly in their place in Parliament; but they may

\* The part of my treatment which I call an affront upon this and other occasions, is the refusal of my service in this country, even at the head of my own regiment, or as a volunteer, in the time of exigency, and when other officers *precisely in my own situation* were employed. My complaint of this partiality has never been officially answered; it has only been evaded by anonymous writers, who have laid it down as a position, that I meant to allude to the example of Lord Harrington (with which it certainly has nothing to do) and then have taken a merit in refusing me. The particular example to which I appeal is that of Lieutenant Colonel Kingston, of the 86th regiment, appointed to that regiment, employed in it for the defence of Plymouth, and actually now embarking with it for foreign service, under the same terms of the convention, and the same terms of parole to the Congress verbatim with myself. Other objections, and of a nature that could not be afterwards supported, were tried against the Duke of Rutland's recommendation of this excellent officer: but the objection of parole, though fully known to be precisely the same with that which was so preemptorily urged against my pretensions, was never mentioned.