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*Sixth Edition.*

AN  
APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC,  
AND A  
FAREWELL ADDRESS  
TO THE  
ARMY,

BY  
BREVET-MAJOR HOGAN,  
LATE A CAPTAIN IN THE THIRTY-SECOND REGIMENT  
OF INFANTRY--IN WHICH HE RESIGNED HIS  
COMMISSION, IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE  
TREATMENT HE EXPERIENCED  
FROM THE  
DUKE OF YORK,  
AND THE SYSTEM THAT PREVAILS IN THE ARMY  
RESPECTING PROMOTIONS;

INCLUDING  
SOME STRICTURES  
UPON THE GENERAL CONDUCT OF OUR  
MILITARY FORCE.

"Let others tamely suffer if they will."  
"I'll state my wrongs, and tell them to the world."  
----- cuncti se scire fatentur ;  
----- sed dicere mussant.  
Det libertatem fandi -----

LONDON :

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1808.

[Price 2s. 6d.]

The Publisher thinks proper to observe, that SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED copies of this Pamphlet have been already disposed of.---The following is Mr. COBBETT's opinion of it:

"This, I scruple not to say, is the *most interesting* publication that has appeared in England for many years. It should be read by every individual in the nation. Oh, what a story does this gentleman tell! What a picture does he exhibit! What facts does he unfold!"

*Political Register, Oct. 22, 1808.*

In order to obviate the difficulties which have arisen in the circulation of this Pamphlet, a second copy has been composed, and four presses are at work without intermission. Therefore the booksellers are not likely to have any reason in future to complain of an inadequate supply.

## MAJOR HOGAN'S

### APPEAL.

WITH a character unimpeached, and, I flatter myself, unimpeachable, I venture to appear before the tribunal of public opinion. I have only to request a fair hearing; and, from the nature of my case, I can have little doubt of meeting a favourable decision. Feeling confident that no human being can find, in the whole course of my life, an apology for imputing to me even the disposition to any act unworthy of a British officer and a gentleman, I cannot doubt of exciting

the attention of a British public, when I have to complain of slighted services and insulted feelings.

This description of myself, which it is necessary for me, however reluctantly, to premise, the reader will, I hope, acknowledge justifiable, when he examines the testimonials to my character, which this publication contains;—when he considers also the rank and consequence of the person of whom I complain.

To those who are acquainted with the character, and can appreciate the worth, of the British army, it is superfluous to urge any arguments to shew the necessity of rewarding the service, and cherishing the pride, of its members. For, if the reward of merit be uncertain, the great stimulus to emulation is gone; and,

if the pride of a soldier be depressed, where are we to look for that which sustains valour and the love of glory?

Finding it incompatible with the respect I owe to my own character, or with the solicitude I feel for the interest of the military profession, any longer to remain in the army, under the circumstances in which I was placed, I have resigned my commission. For my individual wrongs I care not; but shall rather be gratified in having suffered them, if their publication to the world can tend in any degree to benefit my country, and to relieve my late brother officers, by producing a reformation in the army. When I make this declaration, the reader, who comprehends my object and coincides in my sentiments, will be gratified to learn, that I am at present in a situation which

enables me to despise the spirit, by placing me beyond the power of persecution.

But, without further preface, I shall proceed to state the facts connected with my case, leaving it to the public, and to the army; to judge, whether my complaint be well founded, and whether the abuses, to which that complaint refers, ought to be tolerated.—I repeat, that to expose those abuses, in the hope that they may be corrected, is the great object that has prompted me to offer myself to public notice; for I have no personal resentments to gratify, no personal interests to promote.

Encouraged by the opinion, which several officers of eminence in the profession thought proper to express of my services, and also by the examples of success in similar cases, which every day

afforded; I took the liberty, in 1805, to present the following memorial.

*To Field-marshal His Royal Highness FREDERICK Duke of York and Albany, Commander-in-chief of all His Majesty's Land Forces, &c. &c. &c.*

The MEMORIAL of Captain DENIS HOGAN, 32d Regiment:

“ Humbly sheweth,  
“ THAT Memorialist has had the honour  
“ of serving his sovereign for upwards of  
“ fourteen years; seven of which he was,  
“ in the course of the last war, in the  
“ West Indies, and on other foreign sta-  
“ tions. That he assisted at the capture  
“ of Demerara, Berbice, Esquibo, and  
“ St. Lucia—was taken prisoner on his  
“ passage to Cape Nicola Mole, with a  
“ detachment of troops and stores, on the  
“ 7th July, 1796, and carried into Cape

“ François, where Memorialist was at-  
 “ tacked with the yellow fever, of which  
 “ he had three several relapses.

“ That Memorialist has purchased  
 “ all his commissions, and has been a  
 “ captain since the 3d April, 1796. That  
 “ he had the honour, on the 1st of Octo-  
 “ ber, 1795, to be appointed by Earl  
 “ Camden, captain-lieutenant in the late  
 “ 99th regiment (vice Captain-lieutenant  
 “ Blomart promoted), and did duty ac-  
 “ cordingly for upwards of two months,  
 “ under the orders of Lieutenant-general  
 “ John Whyte, at Spike Island camp,  
 “ which appointment was however after-  
 “ wards cancelled by your Royal Highness,  
 “ the 99th regiment being marked down  
 “ for reduction.

“ That Memorialist begs leave to  
 “ refer your Royal Highness, for a know-  
 “ ledge of his character, to General H. E.  
 “ Fox; to Lieutenant - generals John

“ Floyd, John Whyte and Francis Dundas;  
 “ to Major-generals Donald Macdonald  
 “ and James Hall; to Brigadier-generals  
 “ James Hay, Christopher Tilson and  
 “ John Hamilton: under all of whom  
 “ he has, at different periods, had the  
 “ honour to serve.

“ Memorialist with great deference  
 “ solicits your Royal Highness's consider-  
 “ ation of his services; and hopes that,  
 “ with such recommendations as he has  
 “ the honour to present, your Royal  
 “ Highness will be graciously pleased to  
 “ grant him promotion.

(Signed) “ D. HOGAN,  
 “ Captain 32d (or Cornwall)  
 “ regiment of foot.”  
 “ London, May 27, 1805.”

“ Before I presented this Memorial,  
 “ my money was lodged for purchase in

any regiment, and my name regularly inserted in the quarterly regimental returns, agreeably to the Duke of York's regulations; therefore, I sought no particular favour from his royal highness, but merely applied for that, to which, according to the established practice of the army and the ordinary routine of promotion, I was fully entitled. Had I solicited favour, his royal highness might have been warranted in refusing my solicitation, although, even in that case, from the nature of my services, and the high testimonies which appeared to my character, I think I should have had good ground for complaint. In making this remark, I can have no fear of exposing myself to the imputation of presumption or vanity, when I refer to officers so high in rank, and so distinguished in merit, as those mentioned in my Memorial.

Upon presenting my Memorial, I thought proper to accompany it with letters from some of the officers to whom I have alluded: and, as I know these honourable gallant men are incapable of stating any thing to any person, or under any circumstances, which they would not be willing to avow before the world, I take leave to subjoin some extracts from their letters. These letters were originally addressed to me with a view to promote my interest, and to do justice to my character:—that character and interest I feel infinitely more involved on the present occasion, than I did on that, which induced those friends, in the first instance, to come forward with their testimonies in my favour: for, having, at a crisis such as the present, withdrawn myself from the military profession, it is necessary to the satisfaction of my feel,

ings, and perhaps to the vindication of my character, to shew, that I have not acted upon light grounds, by producing testimonies to the justice of those pretensions, which the commander-in-chief has thought proper to overlook. Standing before my country as a complainant, seeking the justification of my own conduct, and the promotion of the interest of others, the production of these documents becomes not only warrantable, but indispensable. I request the reader's particular attention to their nature and tendency; as he will be enabled from them to decide that most important question in my case, namely—whether I was right in my application for promotion, and whether the Duke of York was right in declining to comply with that application, particularly after repeated promises in my favour.

Edinburgh, May 21st, 1805.

Dear Hogan,

On my return from a tour of inspection at Dunbar and Haddington, I found your letter of the 15th instant. I perceive by the Gazette of last Saturday, that you have exchanged into the 32d foot. I hope that this is a preliminary step to promotion, which I sincerely wish you may soon attain. If I can be of the least service in forwarding the object, I will be very happy in adding, to those of other friends with whom you have served in the West Indies and at the Cape, my testimonial of your military merits, which is due to you from me, for the able and willing assistance you afforded as my adjutant, in forming the 55th on the return of

its skeleton from St. Lucia in 1797.  
&c. &c.

I am,

dear Hogan,

with faithful regard,

yours,

DONALD MACDONALD,

Capt. HOGAN,

32d foot.

No. 68, George-street, Portman-square,

27th May, 1805.

Dear Hogan,

I shall be extremely  
happy to hear of the success of your  
Memorial; and I assure you few things  
would afford me more sincere pleasure  
than contributing in any manner towards  
it. If any certificate I could offer could

in anywise serve you, I feel it my duty  
to say, that I conceive you entitled to  
the strongest testimonial in my power to  
give, of your knowledge, zeal, subordina-  
tion, and perfect propriety of conduct as  
a gentleman and as an officer, during the  
time you were under my command in the  
colony of Good Hope. &c. &c.

I had also much reason to be par-  
ticularly pleased with your management  
of the detachment while you were invested  
with a separate command; and in no one  
instance can I at present call to mind  
your having subjected yourself to cen-  
sure. &c. &c.

Believe me to remain,

yours very faithfully,

JAMES HALL.

Capt. HOGAN,

&c.

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Maidstone, May 21st, 1805.

Dear sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday; and I beg to express my regret at your having quitted the 8th. light dragoons. I sincerely hope that the exchange you have just now effected may turn out (as you expect and merit) to your advantage. The great and unremitting attention you paid while employed on the recruiting service, and under my more immediate orders, claim my warmest thanks. With every wish for your future welfare and happiness, believe me,

dear sir,

your very faithful and obedient  
humble servant,

JAMES HAY, B.G.

Capt. HOGAN, &amp;c.

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23d May, 1805.

Dear sir,

I am favoured with your letter of the 20th, which accompanied the Memorial you are desirous of being transmitted by me to the Duke of York; and though nothing could be more agreeable to me than to interest myself for your promotion, and truly anxious, as well on your own account, as from my esteem and friendship for your brother, to comply with your request, I find I cannot with propriety recommend any officer not belonging to my own regiment, and not under my immediate command, or unless some solid ground of connection should happen to subsist to justify the interference. It is in my power to furnish you with a certificate of your services while under my command at the Cape. &c. &c.

I sincerely hope soon to have the pleasure of hearing that your health is fully re-established; and remain

your very faithful

humble servant,

FRANCIS DUNDAS

Capt. HOGAN,

&c.

The presentation of my Memorial, with the inclosures, was soon followed by the receipt of a very promising epistle from the Duke of York's secretary, of which the following is a copy.

Horse Guards,

30th May, 1805.

Sir,

Having laid before the Commander-in-chief your Memorial of

the 27th instant, with its inclosures herewith returned, I am directed to acquaint you, THAT YOUR NAME HAS BEEN

NOTED FOR PROMOTION, AND YOUR CLAIMS WILL BE CONSIDERED ON A FAVOURABLE OPPORTUNITY OFFERING

I am,

sir,

your most obedient humble servant,

J. W. GORDON.

Capt. HOGAN, 32d foot.

In August following I made another application to the Commander-in-chief, to which I received a favourable answer by letter from Colonel Gordon: and at an interview which I some time afterwards had with the Duke of York, his royal highness repeated and confirmed the promises contained in his secretary's letters.

Feeling some surprise at the postponement of my promotion, whilst others were advanced, whose military pretensions I was at a loss to discover, and influenced by the advice of my friends, I again addressed a letter to the Duke of York, and received the following answer.

Horse Guards, 25th June, 1806.

Sir,

I am directed by the Commander-in-chief to acquaint you, in reply to your letter of the 21st instant, that YOUR NAME REMAINS NOTED FOR PROMOTION, AND WILL BE DULY CONSIDERED AS FAVOURABLE OPPORTUNITIES OFFER.

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I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant,  
J. W. GORDON  
Capt. HOGAN, 32d Reg.

The very words distinguished by capital letters were in a few months afterwards repeated to me by his royal highness, at his levee.

On the 8th December, 1806, a circular letter was addressed by the Commander-in-chief to officers commanding second battalions, of which the following is an authentic copy.

Horse Guards, December 8, 1806.

Circumstances having rendered it of the highest importance, that every possible exertion shall be made in carrying on the recruiting service with the utmost energy of which it is capable, particularly as it is applicable to the second battalions of the regiments of the line, His Majesty has been pleased to direct, that all the officers belonging to the second battalion

of the regiment under your command, who can be spared from the necessary duty at head-quarters, shall be immediately employed on this service. From the zeal, which I know to exist in the 32d regiment, I confidently hope, that, in the course of six months from this period, a levy of 400 men, in addition to its present numbers, will be raised: and it is necessary that I should apprise you, that, if this expectation is disappointed, the reduction of the second battalion of the regiment will, in the estimation of government, become a measure indispensably due to a just consideration of public economy. I am persuaded your personal influence and exertions will not be wanting on this occasion: and I request you will communicate the contents of this letter to the regiment under your command: and that you call upon the officers, of all

ranks, to use their utmost endeavours to complete this levy, ASSURING THEM, THAT THEIR EXERTIONS ON THIS OCCASION WILL NOT FAIL TO RECOMMEND THEM TO HIS MAJESTY'S NOTICE; AND THAT IF THEY CAN CARRY THE STRENGTH OF THE LEVY BEYOND THE NUMBER I HAVE SPECIFIED, IT WILL BE A VERY ACCEPTABLE PROOF OF THEIR ZEALOUS DISCHARGE OF THIS IMPORTANT BRANCH OF THEIR DUTY. I shall direct the adjutant-general to transmit, for your information, and for the guidance of the officers, employed on the recruiting service, of the second battalion of the 32d regiment, the regulations and instructions, under which this levy is to be conducted.

(Signed) FREDERICK,

Commander-in-chief,

The zeal and energy of my com-

manding officer, Lieutenant-colonel Manly Power, was immediately called into action; and, within the period prescribed in the circular letter, our battalion raised, and passed at head-quarters, nearly FIVE HUNDRED recruits: of this number, I contributed 145 from my station at Birmingham, to which I was dispatched by Colonel Power: and I cannot in justice omit acknowledging the particular civility, the very active and liberal assistance, which I received throughout from the gentlemen and other inhabitants of that loyal and truly respectable town. Before the 1st of August following, I sent TEN more recruits to the regiment.

Here I cannot help recording my testimony to the zeal and activity of my brother officers, employed on this occasion, and doing justice to the excellent

system which rendered that zeal and activity so effective. Within thirteen months, no less than 726 recruits were raised and passed at the head-quarters of the second battalion of the 52d regiment, exclusive of militia volunteers; and all these were obtained under the influence of Mr. Windham's wise plan of limited service; as will appear by the annual inspection return, taken by Major-general Milner, and now at the War-office.

To the merit of that plan I shall never cease to bear testimony, having witnessed its operation. All the general reasoning employed by the illustrious author of it, has been fully verified from the beginning. Indeed, it was obvious to any man at all acquainted with human-nature, that such a system could not fail to succeed.

Experience, in fact, universally established its character amongst those who had any connection with the business of recruiting. It is clear, that men will be more forward to engage in a profession, which, after a trial, they will be at liberty to relinquish if they dislike it, than to enter into that, in which, if once engaged, they are bound for life. How easily intelligible, and how peculiarly strong, are all the arguments this wise system suggested, even to the plainest understanding! What a productive theme for the eloquence of the recruiting serjeant! How often have I heard him address the populace upon the opportunity this plan afforded of making a trial of the army, of quitting it after a time, if they pleased, or of continuing in it, with increased and increasing advantages! How often have I witnessed the electric influence of those

addresses, in the prompt enlistment of men, previously adverse to military life! Independently, indeed, of the gratification which every loyal man must feel in the success of a measure that promoted the strength of the country, every military officer who has any idea, but still more if he have had any experience, of the toils, the drudgery, and the humiliation, incident to the business of recruiting, must feel peculiarly grateful for the facilities which this system of limited service is calculated to afford.

But this is not the only obligation the officers of the army owe to Mr. Windham;—the increase of their pay, and the endeavours used to exempt them from the operation of the income tax, mark the political character of that gentleman, and entitle him to their highest gratitude.

That the amount of this increase, and the scale of its distribution, fall short of the demand of justice, and the expectation of the officers, is quite notorious; but it is equally notorious, that that increase is considerably below the original proposition of Mr. Windham. The present arrangement is not more inconsistent with the general hopes of the army, than with the understood wishes of that gentleman. But, according to the general system of administration, an individual minister, however elevated his ability, or however benevolent his intention, is under the necessity of submitting to compromise, and, unfortunately, too often with those who have neither ability nor benevolence. It is known that Mr. Windham had originally proposed to grant an increase of £.25 per cent on the pay of each rank; and to whom the reduction

is attributable is not unknown to the army. The failure of Mr. Windham's wishes, to exempt officers from the payment of the income tax, can scarcely furnish more occasion for the regret of those who suffer from it, than of surprise to all those who are rational amongst mankind. For, it is a singular fact, that, although this income tax is oppressive to the officers, it does not in any material degree benefit the public treasury, as the amount of their increase of pay is scarcely more than the amount of this tax; so that the increase is merely nominal, the Treasury paying with one hand what it exacts with the other. Thus a double imposture is practised—upon the officers, and upon the public—in the prospect of an increase of revenue, which is held out to both.

It may be said, that the increase of pay was effective towards the officers, as it enabled them, without any deduction from their former salaries, to defray the income tax. But, would it not have been as well to have exempted them originally from the operation of this tax? and then the charge of imposture would not have applied. If it be urged, that the officers will have an actual increase of pay upon the restoration of peace, the income tax being a mere *war measure*, I must say that it appears rather unjust, that, at the precise period when officers are called upon to encounter extraordinary difficulties and dangers, they should be obliged to submit to a reduction of their pay—that as their professional toils increase, their professional revenues should diminish.

Perhaps it was from these considerations that, under the late ministers, the officers were not called upon for any income tax. It is a fact, as far at least as my knowledge extended, and as far as I have heard, that no such demand was made.

But to return to the statement of my own case.—After having sent 155 recruits, in eight months, to the 32d. regiment; after having succeeded in promoting the object, and complying with the wish, expressed in the Duke of York's circular letter; I felt myself warranted in renewing my application for promotion; and I think it must be allowed, that the particular promises made to me, combined with the general assurances of reward contained in this letter, were sufficient to justify me in entertaining even

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a confident hope of success. I therefore, in a Memorial to his royal highness, repeated the ground of former applications, with the following additional paragraph.

“That memorialist has had the honour of being noted on your royal highness’s list for promotion since the 30th May, 1805, as appears from Colonel Gordon’s letters. That memorialist has enlisted 148 recruits for the second battalion of the 32d regiment; of which number 145 have been finally approved at head-quarters, since the 20th of December last. Memorialist, therefore, hopes that your royal highness will be graciously pleased to take his services into your favourable consideration, by promoting him as your royal highness may judge expedient, &c.

“Birmingham, June 27, 1807.”

This Memorial was forwarded by General Ogilvie, colonel of the 32d regiment; and I have the gratification to know, and I feel a pride in stating it, that my application was strongly recommended by that excellent officer and amiable man. It was also accompanied by the following most flattering letter from my lieutenant-colonel, of whose approbation every man must be proud, who agrees with Cicero, that *laudari à laudato viro* is an object of laudable ambition.

Worcester, June 28, 1807.

Sir,

I feel much pleasure, that it falls to my lot, to forward to you the inclosed Memorial, to be laid before his royal highness the commander-in-chief, as it gives me an opportunity of reporting

the merits of one of the most deserving officers, in his majesty's service. Since I had the honour of joining the second battalion, 32d regiment, I have ever found in Captain Hogan one of the most steady and zealous supporters of its discipline, and, in so young a corps, a most valuable acquisition. But I most particularly have to bear testimony to his zeal and abilities, for the last six months, on the recruiting service. I beg leave to confirm his statement as to the number of men he has raised during that period; and, indeed, it would have been impossible to complete the quota prescribed by the orders of the 8th December last, without his unwearied and arduous exertions. You are, sir, yourself already well acquainted with the merits of this officer; and through your hands, I trust, the Memorial I now have the honour

to send you will ensure to him the promotion to which he is on every account so justly entitled.

I have the honour to be,  
 sir,  
 your very obedient  
 humble servant,  
 MANLY POWER.  
 Lieutenant-col. 32d reg.

General JAMES OGILVIE,  
 32d regiment.

The following is a copy of Colonel Gordon's answer.

Horse Guards, 17th July, 1807.

Sir,

I have received the commander-in-chief's command to acquaint you, in reply to your letter of the 7th instant, with its inclosures, THAT THE

NAME OF CAPTAIN HOGAN HAS BEEN NOTED FOR PROMOTION, AND WILL BE DULY CONSIDERED AS FAVOURABLE OPPORTUNITIES OFFER.

*I have the honour to be,*

*sir,*

*your most obedient humble servant,*

J. W. GORDON.

General OGILVIE, &c. &c.

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Astonished beyond measure, and, I will confess, even indignant, at the common cant of this answer—at the delay and evasion which it betrays—I resolved to seek an interview with the Duke of York, in order to remonstrate with his royal highness.

This interview I obtained at his levee, about the 27th August, 1807, when I submitted to his royal highness's re-

collection, the long time I had been seeking for promotion, and begged him to take into his consideration the nature of the circumstances under which I was recommended to his notice; particularly pressing upon his attention, that, in the course of the time I had been "noted" on his royal highness's list, upwards of forty captains had been promoted without purchase, all of whom were junior to me in rank, and many of whom, indeed, were not in the army, when I was a captain. I added, almost literally, in these words:—  
"My applications for promotion have  
"been made in the manner prescribed by  
"the practice of the army and by the  
"king's regulations, unfortunately without  
"success.—Other ways, please your royal  
"highness, have been recommended to  
"me; and frequent propositions have

“ been made by those, who affected to  
 “ possess the means of securing that ob-  
 “ ject:—that for £.600 I could obtain a  
 “ majority without purchase, which is  
 “ little more than half the sum I had  
 “ lodged to purchase promotion in the  
 “ regular course.\* But I rejected such a  
 “ proposition;—for, even were such a  
 “ thing possible, I would feel it unworthy  
 “ of me, as a British officer, and as a man,  
 “ to owe the king’s commission to low  
 “ intrigue or petticoat influence.” I ex-  
 pected the instantaneous expression of his  
 royal highness’s gratitude for such a can-  
 did declaration: I looked for an im-  
 mediate demand for explanation; and  
 was prepared with ample evidence to

\* The money paid in the regular course goes into a public fund, which is not tangible by any public officer for private purposes, while the private *douceur* is wholly applicable to such purposes.

satisfy his highness, that such proceedings were going on daily as were disgraceful to the character of the army. But no question was put to me: his royal mind seemed astounded;—*vox faucibus hæsit*; and I retired.

Immediately after I left the Duke of York’s presence I repeated to several friends the observation I had made to his royal highness; and I was very much surprised to have it intimated to me, that I had given offence, and that it was likely I should never obtain promotion. Although this intimation came from some very well informed persons, I could not persuade myself to believe it; on the contrary, I expected, from day to day, that I should be called upon, by the Duke of York’s order, for some explanation;—that, in fact, an inquiry would be instituted. But no: I have

been disappointed. Perhaps my hint escaped his royal highness's recollection; or that the multiplicity of business which belongs to his office, and which is enough to fill even that great mind which qualified him to discard the idea of a military council, prevented him from attending to it;—or possibly his royal highness may have thought my hint unworthy of attention. Applying his acute and vigorous mind to an examination of the subject—viewing it philosophically—whatever his hostility to the practice, *he may be of opinion*, that no degree of vigilance or virtue can prevent a *general officer from being occasionally influenced by a courtisan*, or guard against the preference of her recommendation to all the claims of intrinsic merit. He may, therefore, conceive any attempt to inquire into, or provide against, such an evil quite preposterous. If his royal highness be of a

contrary opinion, I am still ready to substantiate my communication to him by the most irrefragable evidence. I have that evidence by me: indeed, I am in possession of such facts as it would be imprudent in me to write, and as no printer in England, perhaps, would venture to publish. But if any member of either house of Parliament should be disposed to take up the subject, I can furnish him with materials that would enable him to make such an *exposé*, as shall stagger even the credulity proverbially ascribed to this country.

Notwithstanding the discouraging intimation made to me after my interview with the Duke of York, I still looked for promotion. But, at length, finding all my hopes vain, and that the prediction of my friends was perfectly correct, I resolved to withdraw myself from that service in

which I had no reason to expect proper treatment.

Accordingly, I sent in my resignation, in the usual form, through General Ogilvie, in July last, upon which I received a letter, of which the following is a copy,

Horse Guards, 30th July, 1808.

Sir,

Having laid before the Commander-in-chief your letter of the 16th instant, transmitting the resignation of Brevet-major Hogan, of the 32d regiment, and recommending Lieutenant Molloy as his successor, by purchase, I am commanded to acquaint you, that Brevet-major Hogan, on retiring from the service, can only be allowed to receive the sum which his commissions have cost him, and which appears, by the following statement, to amount to £.750: viz.

	£.	£.
Lieutenancy of infantry . . . .	150	
Difference between captain-lieutenancy of ditto and a troop	2250	2400
Difference he received on exchanging from the cavalry to the 32d regiment . . . .		1650
		750

I have the honour to be,

sir,

your most obedient

humble servant,

J. W. GORDON.

General OGILVIE,

&c. &c.

I read this letter with extreme surprise, as it omitted the sums I had paid for my ensigncy and captain-lieutenancy. I inquired into the cause of those omissions, and found that, as my purchase of the commissions alluded to was not men-

tioned in the records of the War-office, I could not, according to the Duke of York's order, be allowed any compensation for them. Conscious of having made a *bona fide* payment for both, I thought it very extraordinary, that any officer, and particularly on his first introduction into the army, should be liable to suffer by inattention to forms, of which he could not reasonably be presumed to have any knowledge. I was utterly ignorant, on purchasing the commissions alluded to, that all purchases should be recorded at the War-office: but as the rigid maxim of *ignorantia legis non excusat* seems extended to the army, it will be very advisable for officers to be on their guard upon those subjects. I calculated, that the production of an order as to my actual payment would satisfy the commander-in-chief, and procure me some

justice in this respect. I therefore applied at the office of Mr. Lawrie, from whom I bought my ensigncy, and he gave me a certificate which proved my having purchased that commission. I transmitted that document to the Horse Guards, and was, in consequence, allowed the amount, as appears from the following letter, in which, it will be observed, that the sum proposed to be granted me is £.1100; although, in the letter of the same writer, dated but a few days before, I was to be allowed only £.750.—Let the reader mark the ingenuousness with which the cause of this change is suppressed.

Horse Guards,  
6th August, 1808.

Sir,

*I have had the honour of laying before the Commander-in-chief*

*your letter of the 4th instant, with its inclosures; and am directed to acquaint you, in reply, that, as it appears by the books of this office Brevet-major Hogan was appointed to his captain-lieutenancy in the 99th regiment without purchase, his Royal Highness can only allow him to receive, on retiring from the service, the sum his commissions have actually cost him, viz. £.1100; and will submit Lieutenant Molloy's name to his Majesty for the purchase of the company, agreeably to your recommendation.*

*I am,*

*sir,*

*your most obedient*

*humble servant,*

*J. W. GORDON.*

*General OGILVIE, &c. &c.*

*Still the sum of £.400 is withheld*

from me, because it does not appear, by the War-office books, that I purchased my captain-lieutenancy: and had Mr. Lawrie ceased to exist, or had any accident happened to his books, I should have lost the money I paid for my ensigncy also, because I had not conformed to a regulation of the existence of which I had no idea whatever.

After the detail of facts I have presented to the reader, I think it impossible that, if he feel any disposition towards general justice, or any solicitude for the interest of the army, he can hesitate to pronounce my complaint well founded. For upwards of seventeen years I have served my king and country, during which time I have had to submit to every description of drudgery incident to a military life, in every variety of station,

circumstance, and climate. In the West Indies I was afflicted three times with the yellow fever, which has given a wound to my constitution from which it is never likely to recover. Nothing have I ever omitted that could advance the interest of my country, obtain the approbation of my commanders, conciliate the esteem of my brother officers, or promote the comforts of the soldiery. Of the correctness of my conduct, and the nature of my character, the Duke of York has had the highest testimonials. For who can pretend to be higher than the officers referred to in the outset of this publication? The character of these officers is well known to the country. Most of them must be peculiarly well known to the Duke of York. He cannot be ignorant of the talents of Generals Floyd, Hall, Wharton, and Hay, or indeed

of those which belong to the several officers to whom I have referred: but his royal highness must be particularly well acquainted with the character of that distinguished favourite of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, General Donald Macdonald; for this officer was the companion in arms of his royal highness on the continent. In both his expeditions General Macdonald followed his royal highness:—'would to God, he had led him! if he had, the army would most probably have taken a different direction. But the two officers in whose testimony to my conduct and character I must feel the utmost gratification, are General Ogilvie, who is so emphatically and justly called the father of his regiment, and Lieutenant-colonel Power, who is not more distinguished for conciliating manners, than for professional

skill and general knowledge; because that conduct and character were peculiarly within the sphere of their observation, having served under them for several years in the 32d regiment.

With such encouragements and recommendations, and with the recognition of the justice of my claims, which appears in the frequent promises of the Duke of York, I submit to the candour of any man, whether I was not warranted in feeling disappointment and disgust from the treatment I have experienced; more particularly when with the other circumstances are combined the promising assurances contained in the Duke of York's circular letter of 1806, and the number of men I raised in consequence of that letter; which number would nearly have been sufficient,

when officers were recruiting for rank, to entitle me to a lieutenant-colonel's commission.

Here let me, in passing, particularly beg the attention of the public and the army to the consequence of such a proceeding, as that of declining to justify the hopes and reward the exertions, which the strong terms of the Duke of York's circular letter were calculated to excite among the officers employed on the recruiting service.

It may be observed, that there are many officers who have much stronger grounds of discontent, who are in a much worse situation than I am. This may be the fact: but, does that deprive me of the right to complain? and is it not rather an aggravation of the case to

which my complaint applies? If it be true, that there are in the army several lieutenants of above ten years' standing, who have devoted their lives and their minds to the service, who have preserved unsullied reputations, who have fought and bled for their country; while there are mere boys, without military experience or military merit, at the head of troops and companies:—if it be true, that thirty or forty officers resign every month through disgust:—if it be true, that the inclinations of capricious regard are preferred to the claims of solid merit:—if it be true; that some officers, who obtained their commissions without purchase, are, without any professional services, permitted, through favour, to sell out; while others (as in my own case) are rigidly confined to the sum recorded to have been originally paid:—if it be true, that

favourites are preferred to generals, that ignorance, cowardice and even superannuation, if recommended by wealth and rank, and accompanied by sycophancy and meanness, are more likely to succeed than intelligence, courage, and vigour, if introduced only by their merit and value, and accompanied by manliness and independence:—if it be true, that the glory of our arms, and the fate of our army, may be risked to provide distinction for a blockhead, to gratify the vanity of a coxcomb, or to reward the attentions of a parasite:—if it be true, that parliamentary, personal or family influence, is allowed to supersede the highest pretensions of professional excellence; or, that the allurements of Venus are suffered, in any respect, to interfere with the interests of Mars;—I must, in common with every man of feeling, integrity and

common sense, express the most sincere regret. But if the existence of such abuses be adduced to silence my complaint, I would answer in the words of my motto.

For upwards of three years I have been seeking for promotion; and within that period above EIGHTY majors have been appointed, nearly FORTY of whom were junior to me in rank, and could not owe their advancement to any military experience or pretension.

I would not be understood, from these observations, to be any advocate for a pertinacious adherence to the principle of promotion by the rule of seniority; on the contrary, I feel that when merit is discovered, its claim to notice should be immediately recognised, and no rule of practice or result of accident

should be allowed for a moment to stand in the way of its advancement. Such was the opinion upon which those men acted, who have raised so many eminent generals in the modern history of Europe. But where that opinion is not the motive to action—where merit is not discoverable—where, in fact, it does not exist—the rule of seniority ought not to be departed from; because seniority is at least presumptive evidence of merit: where stronger evidence does not offer, it ought to be preferred.

From what I have said—in which at least it will be confessed that I have made my attack openly and directly, as became a soldier—it must be inferred, that I am not disposed to ascribe merit to the manner in which the army is now managed. The friends of the present system, who see this, may assert,

as I have often heard, that many salutary regulations have been introduced into the army of late years. What such regulations are I know not; unless they refer to fur caps, whiskers and mustachios; which seem to arise out of an opinion, that men cannot be soldiers unless they look like savages. But I do know of a most exceptionable arrangement which has been recently introduced.—Formerly, an officer could not be detained in arrest more than eight days, before he was brought to trial. But now, under his royal highness the Duke of York, the length of time an officer shall remain in arrest, before he is brought to trial, depends upon the discretion of the officer who has the power of ordering his arrest. Let the probable use—let the nature and tendency, of this new arrangement be considered by the people of

England, who are so tenacious of the principle of their *Habeas Corpus Act*.

It has been often observed to me by *connoisseurs*, that I should have had no reason to complain, if I had proceeded in the *proper way* to seek promotion. But what is meant by the *proper way*? I applied to the Duke of York, because he was commander-in-chief. To his royal highness I was directed by the king's orders to apply; and with these orders alone I felt it consistent with my duty as an officer, and my honour as a gentleman, to comply. But if any other person had been the substitute of the Duke of York, I should have made my application to that person. If a *Cooke*, a *Creswell*, a *Clarke*, a *Sinclair*, or a *Carey*, or any other name, had been invested by his majesty with the office of

commander-in-chief, to that person I should have applied: nay, if it had pleased his majesty to confer upon a female the *direct command* of the army, I should have done my duty, in applying to the legal depository of power; but to none other should I condescend to apply; for I scorn undue influence, and feel incapable of enjoying any object, however intrinsically valuable, that should be procured by such means.

If it should be thought by any one that I have, in the course of this publication, adverted with too much severity to his royal highness the Duke of York, let it be recollected that I have only commented on his public conduct; and if the son of the king accept a responsible situation, he must be prepared for the consequences. No judicious friend

to the royal family would maintain a contrary doctrine; because, if it had any weight, it must furnish an argument against the appointment of any of the princes to a responsible situation in this country. For if the person exercising power were exempt from censure, that person's power would be arbitrary; and no such power is reconcileable with the constitution of England: the only individual whom that constitution recognises as inviolable is the king. No other man in this country can have any security against censure, but not to deserve it. Therefore, the conduct of the Duke of York is as fair a subject for discussion, as that of any other public officer under the crown; and he who entertains and acts upon a different notion, evinces both his ignorance and his pusillanimity.

Having gone through all the observations that have occurred to me upon the present occasion, I have now to bid my farewell to the army—to that meritorious body, whose society I have always enjoyed, whose character I have uniformly admired, whose interest shall ever be the principal object of my solicitude. How often have I reflected with pain and mortification upon the neglect—upon the ill treatment, experienced by the many brave, skilful and diligent officers, whom I have known among you! If the publication of my case, and the trouble to which I have submitted, can but serve in any degree to alleviate your wrongs, I shall feel a sufficient recompence.

It may be said, and it has been told me, that I shall do no good by this

publication;—that I shall procure no redress either for myself or others. For myself I have nothing now to expect; but for the sake of others, in whose fate my interest is augmented by the treatment I have myself experienced, I shall leave no effort untried.

As some proof that I am known to possess materials that are calculated to excite alarm amongst those who must recollect their own acts, and, if they are at all sensible, must be fully conscious of their objectionable character, I have to state the following extraordinary fact.—About dusk on the evening of the first day my advertisement appeared, a lady in a dashing barouche, with two footmen, called at the newspaper office for my address. She must be, no doubt, one of the vulnerable corps, or their

agent; as upon the following evening, at my lodgings, the waiter delivered me a letter, which I opened in the presence of four gentlemen, whose attestation to the fact appears below. The following is a copy of the letter.

" Sir,

" The inclosed will answer for the deficit of which you complain, and which was not allowed you through mere oversight. I hope this will prevent the publication of your intended pamphlet; and if it does, you may rely on a better situation than the one you had. When I find that you have given up all idea of opening your secrets to public view, which would hurt you with all the royal family, I shall make myself known to you, and shall be happy in your future acquaint-

" ance and friendship; by which, I promise you, you will reap much benefit. If you will recall the advertisement, you shall hear from me, and your claims shall be rewarded as they deserve.

" Saturday, 27th August, 1808."

" Major HOGAN."

" We, the undersigned, do hereby certify, that we were present when Major Hogan opened this letter, and inclosure, containing four bank notes, to the amount of four hundred pounds.

- " JOHN DANIEL, late capt. 17th light drag.
" IRENEAS MOE.
" HENRY WHEAT, lieut. 32d regiment.
" LEWIS GASQUET, late lieut. 20th light dr.

" Franks's coffee-house."

" I do hereby certify, that this letter was delivered to me at the door by a lady, who particularly desired me to be careful to give it to Major Hogan, and instantly went away: it was dusk at the time: I returned into the coffee-room, and delivered the letter.

" GEORGE FOZED, waiter,
Franks's coffee-house."

But such expedients shall have no effect upon the resolutions of

D. HOGAN.

FRANKS'S Hotel,

3, Brook-street,

Sept. 2, 1808.

P. S. The person who inclosed the £. 400 not having left any address, I cannot ascertain to whom I am to return that sum: but if the numbers of the notes received are sent to N<sup>o</sup> 14, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street, the money will be returned.—D. H.

With regard to the final letter, the Publisher thinks it not amiss to observe, that that letter has no connection with the case of Major Hogan. The case, in fact, closes before this letter is presented; and it does not bear in any degree upon the grounds of that meritorious officer's complaint; which complaint rests entirely upon documents the authenticity of which is quite unquestionable—namely, the letters of the Duke of York and Colonel Gordon. In these letters, indeed, consists the gravamen of the Major's complaint.

"The demand for this Pamphlet continues to be such as might naturally be expected from the extraordinary nature of the case. It appears from the advertisement to the fifth edition, that no less than 5000 copies have been already disposed of. What an evidence of the public feeling, and of the interest which this production is calculated to excite! Several attacks have been published against Major Hogan, in consequence of his vigorous Appeal. But those attacks appear totally unworthy of attention; and it would be inconsistent with that gentleman's character and judgment, to notice what cannot make the slightest impression upon any man of common candour or common sense."—Cobbett's Pol. Reg. Nov. 6.

THE END.

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