Major Thomas Stockton

Camp Irving - near
Philadelphia

Sergeant Ponton

Cherubastee 26 May 1815.

Dear Stockton,

I have observed in the Register the station assigned you in the Army and altho' I could have wished it a grade higher, yet still I think you ought deliberately to weigh the matter before you determine to reject the command tendered you:— I remark that every Major retained except one or two in the Artillery is a Brevet Lt. Colonel, and it appears to have been decided that Brevets should be preferred over those of the same rank who had not the good fortune to attain that distinction; there is certainly a great deal of justice in this as a general rule, and yet to every general rule exceptions very properly may be made;— The system of Razeing is a tender matter I know in the opinion of the Officers, and yet an Officer who is thus reduced is certainly not to consider it as a matter of disrespect or derogatory to his military Character, but on the contrary as an evidence of their conviction of his military capacity and their desire to retain his services altho' they cannot from particular circumstances or from a general rule they may have established, retain him in the command he had been advanced to:— I see you are the Senior Captain in your Regt: and have four Captains under you who are also brevetted; if promotion takes place [illegible]

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I trust we shall see you in Delaware before you march your troops to Carlisle. In what quarter do you expect the 6th Regt. will be stationed?—

I enclose you Frazier's receipts— he states the horses have been with him four months & that the Contract was at $22 per month:— I have given a certificate to him that the receipts were given without the money being paid—

The Grey horse has been for 8 or 10 days at grass and improves— he will do better on grass than in the stable I am satisfied.—

If practicable visit us before you move

I am your friend

J. R. Black

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