

Liber J. R.
& U. S.

Your Excellency was pleased to direct a Return of such as refused to march to be made to a Magistrate, it has already been industriously reported that I am solely to blame in this Matter, and that if I make a Return of those refusing that I shall be the Cause of the Calamities of such who for their Disobedience are punished, or Words tending that way. If your Excellency should be pleased to direct one of the Field Officers to attend one meeting of the Company, and if any disobedient and refuse to go, that the Field Officer may make such Return as your Excellency may think proper and direct it would in a very great Degree free me from the heavy Charge against me just mentioned.

After begging your Excellency's Favour in the Matter just named shall await your farther Orders which shall be cheerfully obeyed by

Your Excellency's most obedient and very humble Serv^t
Jan: 18: 1758 Peregrine Brown

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[Lloyd to Sharpe.]

Sir

According to your Excellency's Directions I gave Captain Peregrine Brown his Orders with the necessary Warrants for pressing Carriages and provisions the 26. of Dec^r I went immediately after to Wye, upon his Return from Annapolis he told me he had brought as far as Dockery's a Packet from your Excellency for me but that by Mistake he had sent it to Col: Tilghman instead of one directed for him, if he had any such Packet I can't conceive what is become of it as it is not yet come to my Hands. I then advised immediately to call his Men together and either proceed to the Fort immediately or make Returns of those Men that refused to go, he met them the 16: Instant when he informs me Every Man refused to march. I this Day in the most pressing Manner called upon him to tell me positively whether he could return Certificates or not but can't get any answer.

The Doctrine here is that the Law put in Execution will absolutely ruin the Country that there is no Penalty on the Captain if he refuses to return Certificates, that the Men by that Means escape Punishment. Captain Brown has lately embarked in the popular Way and has I am told received Threats in Case he does any thing that will distress the People, suppose this has some Influence on him. Captain Browne shewed me a Letter from Mr. Hands to him in which he lets him know your Excellency directs that he shall give him a positive Answer immediately, whether he will march or not, and when. I am with the greatest Respect your most obed^t humble Servant
January 18: 1758

Richard Lloyd