

proper manner, the quarter Master is to receive Orders from the Doctor for everything he is to furnish in his handwriting and have his Acc^{ts} again acknowledgd & signed before he can settle his Affairs. Original

As the Doctor prescribes the Diet according to the Nature of the Disorder some will receive full Diet, others half Diet, some one thing some another and as a Diet is not always pleasing to obstrepulous Soldiers they will make Complaints, if then the Comānder is so weak as to listen to their Complaints as valid, and so hasty as to conclude without proper Inquiry, he will do great mischief I mention this as an Example which has happend, when some sugar was orderd on particular occasion, & which being withdrawn when that was over it being so disagreeable to be deprived of so sweet a Thing, that they grumbled and preferrd general Complaints, as if they were stinted, whereupon the quarter Master was ready to give what they wanted rather than to be exclaimd ag^t untill I thought it requisite to give him positive Orders to the Contrary. Nevertheless such things will gradually breed bickerings and at last open Complaints, for want only of proper limits in every one's Department.

I must humbly beg Your Excellencys Pardon for being to prolix. but as the Major has been so eager to procure Your Sanction, for his proceeding, it seems to me as if he has some Design, more to gratify his obstinacy than to have the real good of the Service at heart, even at any Risque, and I think it requisite to expose one of his assertions in his Letter (viz) that the Soldiers for so long a Time previous had been so healthy at the Fort, though in greater number, which must discover a great Irregularity in his Returne since, I have had often a much greater Number in the hospital. The Truth of the Matter however is, that when Smallwoods Battalion was erected we had the Hospital we had a fixt hospital from May to the 1st of Decembr, after which I had them attended at the Fort and no State hospital was kept till in Sept^r following when the Council sat in this Town, when the number of Sick besides those of the Sailors requird an absolute Hospital then another hospital was opend which lasted till March following when it was again dissolvd and attendance given at the Fort, and it must be noted that all this was done without the Majors in the least intermedling, and which shows that what he now has cravd Your Excellencys Approbation for is no new thing I hereby Subjoin a Return made in that very month, which will justify my assertion.

All I will beg will be that Your Excell. will please if I merit a Confidence to be entrusted with the Management of the Sick, to direct the Major to consult me in Cases of Sickness