

Original The Construction and Resolution of the present Assembly, on the former resolution of the late Assembly respecting the powers intended to be vested in Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington to settle the Rank of our Line, will I fear occasion many resignations in the Regular and flying Camp Corps, many Officers in both now Complain and say they fully understood from the engagement and promisses of the late Assembly, that it was their intention and desire that justice should be done, and for that purpose engaged to convey full powers to the General, under that impression they agreed to remain in Service 'till their Rank was established, expecting as an Introduction to that, that the Regular or flying Camp Rank should be established, as a General, ruling Principle, to settle the relative Rank of Officers in the different Corps, and after that was Adjusted, each to rise regularly by an established and invariable Rule, from the Antecedent Rank respectively held, adding if that was not the Case, why had not the Assembly been more explicit, to what purpose was it to create a Confidence in them, that full powers were to be conveyed to the General to do Justice in such Instances, where undue promotions had been made, Particularly when Iun<sup>r</sup> Officers of the same degrees with Sen<sup>r</sup> were promoted above them a Grade higher than the Rank they respectively held in 1776 and their Seniors still remaining under the present establishment to this day in the Rank they held in 1776 tho' their Iun<sup>rs</sup> at that Time, have ever since stood and by the present Resolution must remain a degree higher, of which there are many Instances in the Relative Rank between Officers in the flying Camp Viz. Iun<sup>r</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> in 1776 Promoted over Senior to Majorities, the Sen<sup>r</sup> standing now in the same degree they then held, and Iun<sup>r</sup> Lieu<sup>ts</sup> over Sen<sup>rs</sup> to Captaincies, in like manner Iun<sup>r</sup> Ensigns over Sen<sup>r</sup> to Lieutenantcies and in one or more Instances to Captaincies over all the first & Second Lieut<sup>s</sup>

There are Similar cases in the regular Line, but the Instances there, are much less frequent than in the flying Camp. The injured Officers justly urge on each side of the Question, that the Establishment of the Regular or flying Camp Rank was not so much an Object of their apprehension and disgust, as the Partial and undue Promotions, which if the Assembly determined not to convey powers to alter, why did they not declare it as this was the principal objection, and the only one which the Officers would not wave as will appear from their Letter to the Assembly, and the Letter from the Senate to the Gen<sup>l</sup> clearly indicates that such powers were meant to be conveyed, if the late Assembly had explicitly declared otherwise, as they probably would and ought to have done if they meant it, they could not have expected to have retained one