

to the Income but by a Saving on the principal, & it being so small with ourselves renders it impossible. My earnest wish is therefore to fall upon some plan or method for a future subst^{ce} so as to be able to realize the principal for the Benefit of my family, as I assure you, the reflections for their situation, in case of accident to myself, are attended with unpleasing & melancholy sensations. I wrote to Capt Grant the latter end of last month and committed the Letter to Mr Todds care as also will this, when in London I saw him I then learned that our friends were well in Jan^{ry} last, as he had received letters to that purpose, to C.G. who communicated the Regt^l changes. Bennett goes, or is gone, for America what his schemes are I know not neither to what part he is gone. L^t G Armstrong was his successor, as is L^t Saumerez to C^t Clowes whom (with his Mickmak^e money) also has retired. I cannot help being envious, being also desirous of doing the same 2000 was the price of each.² I may therefore I think estimate mine at the same value.

30th The Reg^t took their departure from England in March last for Guernsey & Jersey where they will probably remain two Years and then to Ireland. Our absence from them is on ac^t of it being my tour for Recr^t S^r which Service probably we shall be on 'till next March. You will therefore please to direct as heretofore it being probable that we shall not be stationary in any one place, untill joining the Reg^t at Guernsey where my Company is, as for publick Intelligence there is scarcely any that is worth Communicating or that is Interesting. Notwithstanding the Commotions in other parts of Europe, England yet appears to have but little interference with them, a dissolution of parliament is shortly expected, the ministers popularity deservedly Continues, & it is generally believed he will be no less so in a future parliament than the present. A Melancholy ac^t is within these days brought of the loss of the Guardian a 44 Gun Ship bound to Botinay bay loaded with Stores provis-

2. This refers to the practice, then in vogue in the British army, of officers' buying (and selling) their commissions.