

on this frontier, either in the closet, the camp, or the field; yet, I am proudly conscious of having done *all that was ever required of me*, and of having done it promptly and faithfully, according to the best of my poor abilities; and if my country has derived any benefit from my labors, I am content. I know how little the publications of those times have been calculated to give the people correct information of the character of the war and its operations. Their history has been made up too much of exaggerated achievements, and concealed or palliated defaults, of fulsome adulation, and gross and unmerited censure, to give the public a correct knowledge of the transactions; and had I have occupied a more conspicuous station, I think I should have felt as little ambitious of obtaining the frothy notices current at the time, as I am sure I do now. But what I desired, what I thought I had a right to expect, was when I had served my country to the utmost extent which my situation enabled me to do, at the expense of a season of labor and fatigue that few men under the circumstances would endure, the humble merit of having done my duty would be accorded to me, without the censure of having contributed to resist the operations of the Government.

"The rule which has been established by the Honorable Secretary for my special government in future, seems to me, with all due deference to the high authority from which it has proceeded, to be unequal and unjust in its discriminating character, and in its abridgment of my rights. I would respectfully ask, what are the reasons for establishing a principle by which I am directed to regulate my future actions, which, so far as I can perceive, does not apply to any other officer of the Department? And if the reason cannot be found, wherein consists the justice of the discrimination? I trust, Sir, that upon reflection, you will be sensible of the unpleasant sensations which the establishing of discriminating rules and individual applications of them, are justly calculated to excite in the mind of the public officer who is made the subject of their operation; and that you will be convinced, that they should be resorted to in extraordinary cases only. But, Sir, I