

New York September 21<sup>st</sup>

Sir

I am about making an application to Major Bumpford for the office of Assistant in the Ordnance department. If you should think me worthy of your favour I shall be very much obliged to you for your recommendation. The qualifications which the Major considers requisite in an applicant are - first a young man of tolerable Education, of sober steady habits, and a good moral character. And also whose Mechanical ~~genius~~ genius is such that he may be taught a proper knowledge of the making of gun carriages, guns, powder, &c. so as to enable him to superintend the manufacture of those articles. He does not expect to find applicants who have had experience in all the branches of the Ordnance department. If you should think that I possess the above qualifications or any of them, you will confer an obligation on me which I shall ever remember with gratitude. if you will favour me with your recommendation.

Should you deem it consistent with your honour to grant my prayer. perhaps the most proper method would be to write

a letter stating your opinion of the applicant  
Addressed to Major Burnford enclosed in one to  
me. However I am assuming the province of  
a dictator I must leave these things to your  
better judgment. trusting that if you think  
me worthy of your patronage. you <sup>will</sup> pursue  
the path most eligible to the attainment of the object

I should have made this application personally  
if I could possibly have left my employers shop  
as he has shouldered his musket in the  
service of his Country he is now in the Camp  
at the Narrows he has left his business to  
my charge therefore I could not be spared  
long enough to go to Peekskill

I shall be extremely gratefull for the honour  
of an answer from you; whether you think  
proper to favour me or not with your  
approbation I should be glad to hear as soon  
as convenient of the success of this my first  
application for the favours of men of talents and  
virtue Perhaps I may be thought presumptuous  
to make an application in this manner (and I  
am extremely sorry that I cannot make it in  
person) to a gentleman of such respectable  
standing in society as Col Van Cortlandt  
but my youth and inexperience must plead

my excuse. particularly when it is remembered  
that no person with whom I have the honour to  
be personally acquainted can do me so essential a  
service. I must conclude with begging that this  
hasty and incorrect scrawl (whatever may be its fate)  
may not subject its author to the displeasure of  
one ~~gentleman~~ whom he has so much esteemed

I am respected Sir your most obedient  
humble servant  
Pierre Van Cortlandt Esqr  
William Wade

P.S. If I am to be honoured with an answer  
I pray that it may be sent soon as I wish to  
apply to Major Burnford as soon as possible  
Please to direct to Wm Wade No 11 Nester Street  
New York and send by the Mail

I am Yours &c Wm Wade  
P. Van Cortlandt Esqr

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PAID

Pierre Van Cortlandt Esqr.

Peekskill



Wm. H. H. H.  
He Ordinance  
Refined must