

Dear Sir

You cannot find me more agreeable Employment than to serve or oblige you, & I wish with all my heart that my inclination & abilities were of equal force. I do not recollect what it was I recommended to Mr. Cornwallis's nephew, it might be Comte de Turpin's Book, which is certainly worth looking into, as it contains a good deal of plain Practice.

Your Brother, no doubt, is a Master of the Latin & French Languages & has some knowledge of the Mathematicks; without this last he can never become acquainted with one considerable Branch of our Business, the construction of Fortifications & the attack & defense of places; and I would advise him by all means to give up a year or two of his time now while [he] is young (if has not already done it) to the study of Mathematicks, because it will greatly facilitate his progress in military matters. As to the Books that are fittest for this purpose, he may begin with the K. of Prussia's Regulations for his horse & foot; where the oeconomy & good order of an army in the lower Branches is extremely well established.

Then there are the Memoires of the Marquis de Santa Cruz, Feuquiere & Montecuculi, Folard's Commentaries on Polybius, the Projêt de Tactique, ou la Phalange coupée & doublée, l'attaque & la defense des Places par le Maréchal de Vauban, les Memoires

de Goulon, L'Engineer de Campagne. St Remi for all that concerns artillery: -- Of the ancients, Vegetius, Caesar, Thucydides, Xenophon's life of Cyrus & the retreat of the 10,000 Greeks. I do not mention Polybius because the Commentaries & History naturally go together. Of later days, Davila, Guiciardini, Strada & the Memoires of the Duc de Sully. There is abundance of military knowledge to be picked out in the lives of Gustavus Adolphus & Charles the 12<sup>th</sup> of Sweden; & of Zisca the Bohemian; & if a tolerable account could be got of the exploits of Scanderbeg it would be inestimable; for he excels all the officers ancient & modern in the conduct of a small defensive Army; I met with him in the Turkish history but no where else.

The life of Seutonius too contains many fine things in this way. There is a book lately published that I have heard commended, Art de Guerre Practique; I suppose it is collected from all the best authors that treat of war; & there is a little Volume entitled Traité de la Petite Guerre that your Brother should take in his Pocket when he goes on Outduties & Detachments.

The Marechal de Puysegur's Book too is in Esteem. I believe Mr. Townshend will think this Catalogue long enough, & if he has patience to read & desire to apply (as I am persuaded he has) the Knowledge contained in them; there is wherewithal to make him a very considerable Person in his Profession & of course very useful and serviceable to his Country.

In general the Lives of all great Commanders & all good Histories of Warlike nations will be very instructive & lead him naturally to endeavour to imitate what he must necessarily approve of.

In these days of scarcity & in these unlucky Times it were much to be wished that all our young soldiers of Birth & Education would follow your Brother's steps & [as] they will have their Turn to command, that they would try to make themselves fit for that important Trust: without it we must sink under the superior ability & indefatigable Industry of our restless neighbour. You have drawn a longer letter upon yourself than perhaps you expected: but I could hardly make it shorter without doing wrong to a good author.

In what a strange manner have we conducted our affairs in the Mediterranean? Quelle belle occasion manquée.

I am, with perfect esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient &  
most Humble Servant,

Jam : Wolfe

Devises Sunday

18<sup>th</sup> July

1756.