Villa Real, April 8th 1808.

Sir,

Last night I received your letter of the 2nd. — The intelligence that has hitherto reached us causes us to doubt the facility of our Still marching, and our success against the enemy. And as your letter and general instructions both to the brigadiers and myself, evidently I clearly laid down that line of conduct, I am bound to an immediate explanation with him as to the measures to be adopted, should it be found that your approach respecting us were likely to be ascertained by the further progress of the victory. — The conversation was long, and I thought it necessary to state (without laying any own private interest) to the brigadier, that I was (by every argument in my power) what I conceived to be your first wish. — But it ended in the brigadier declaring that you could not be as well informed of the state of this province as himself; and that therefore you could not perfectly be as well aware of the inexplicable necessity of his remaining here at all hazards. And he affirmed that if he were to consult his officers, his long-continued hesitancy, his orders, their officers would have been, for some time past, and motions of these two provinces; now,
secondly they have their Houses & Families close to the enemy.


And whenever he shall be obliged to retreat,
And the day will be the case, whether it be before Derry or without it.
And therefore the means of making the most of his present services, is by staying here as long as he can.

And he concluded by recapitulating the arguments showed the danger of communicating in the letter of yesterday.


I am pleased to find by your note before me that you have on purpose to view the very same ideas; and with which your conduct yourself under the dispositions your lying already cut off from the South.

The Brigadier gets, fairly good information, and I think will take advantage of any circumstances that may offer; always keeping as close upon Drogo as the case.


Yesterday the sent out people in various directions for information.


To not recollect any thing else worth mentioning having stated explicitly the Brigadier's determination to remain with the French; — nothing the melancholy intelligence of a number of French Prisoners having been murdered some where between Largo and Cowden. The Brigadier has really done all in his power for those unfortunate People: but the Offices & Soldiers of the Scots are ashamed of giving in their duty. — I am told an Alarm was given as though the Enemy approached; and it reached as far as Inchkeith, the Alarm-Jars being rung.
About 20th Brigs. said last night it was decided the
French force at and depending on that to might amount
to 14 or 15 thousand men.

It may be as well for me to mention the date
of the latter; I have had the honor of writing you since
my arrival at Charles May 2nd 1807.

I have the honor to be with the greatest
Respect,

To Your most obedient
Humble Servant,

Rob. H. Patrick
Major.

Postscript.

I have just seen the Brigadier's letter to you. I
have been thinking that you, besides a himself
might properly cluck. And I take the liberty of suggesting
that you might transmit to my superiors a request
authority from you which I should render in case
of finding you incapable, and state sending with
the command of the whole — or in case of other such
request for the good of the service. And by which
you advise although out of his own district, would
be guarantied in the supreme command of his
own Corps. — And it might be as well to have a
second lieutenants instrument put up by the Brigadier.

The command