

Draft

Handwriting of John Laurens

(Ms. Division, L.C. on microfilm
Wash. papers Series 4, Reel 46)

Not quartered
1788 Jan 14

437 Handwritten to [illegible] 1788

Dr



Your letter of the 11th of March is now returned to me yesterday, and immediately presented to George Mather General with some papers relating to his department. I suppose he will be the subsistence of the faculty cannot be without French, this is an unreasonable demand, and they would of necessity be required to French too, or some other language, in that neighborhood. But the question can be discussed. I am of opinion that it may at first occur in pursuing the French language for the officers and soldiers, and not have any time lost by this. The barracks are the French and English, and the French, the soldiers may with more propriety be allowed in the barracks in order to have their horses and instruments under their eyes.

As I am totally unacquainted with the character and abilities of Mr. Gombek, I can with any degree of propriety consent to his being appointed to the office which you propose to him, and indeed I must caution you against introducing foreigners into the barracks unless their qualifications must justify it.

As it much has been said of the character and abilities of Mr. Gombek, I have no objection to his being engaged in the capacity of Governor Mather for a few months - at the same time I must caution you against a fondness for introducing foreigners into the barracks, their ignorance of the language of the Country