

24 Jan. 1791

Sir

On a suggestion from General Melville, that
 a course of Lectures on the Science and Practice of
 ancient war trace from the earliest times to the invention
 of Gun powder, might be very useful, not only to Militia
 and Gentlemen but to all persons of liberal Education,
 I have accordingly for some time past been employed in
 collecting materials from the ancient and modern writers
 together with the great lights thrown on these subjects by
 the General. - As my other avocations prevent me at
 present from entering on every branch of this most extensive
 and interesting subject, I have by the advice of the Genl.
 and other Officers of experience begun with Lectures on the
 subjects contained in the inclosed Syllabus as seemingly
 the most necessary. - I take the liberty also of informing
 you that General Melville having some time ago made
 a communication of my intentions to the Master General

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the proposed course of Lectures on the Science and Practice of ancient war trace from the earliest times to the invention of Gun powder, &c. &c. I have accordingly for some time past been employed in collecting materials from the ancient and modern writers together with the great lights thrown on these subjects by the General. - As my other avocations prevent me at present from entering on every branch of this most extensive and interesting subject, I have by the advice of the Genl. and other Officers of experience begun with Lectures on the subjects contained in the inclosed Syllabus as seemingly the most necessary. - I take the liberty also of informing you that General Melville having some time ago made a communication of my intentions to the Master General

of the Ordinance his Grace was pleased to give a very
favourable answer in regard to the plan proposed, but
to signify at the same time that no part of the time
and attention of the Gentlemen Cadets could be spared from
the necessary business of the Academy, but that the ancient
was might be an object of private study. - It is on this
foundation that I presume to trouble you with the
inclosed. - You will please observe that to accommodate
the Gentlemen Cadets the Lectures are fixed for Saturday
and Monday the 29th and 31st January -

London
24 January
1798

I am Sir
Your most O^bl^t Serv^t

J. W. Pennington