

Windsor Castle

February 4th 1783.

Sir,

The interest Your Royal Highness is pleased to take in what concerns me leads me to mention some of the particulars relative to my leaving America & my arrival in England. I sailed from New York 25th of December in the Warwick. We had a Convoy of 40 Sail, exclusive of the Charlestown, Cap^t Griffith, & the Savage, Cap^t Paget Bailey. We had scarcely left the Hook above two days, when a pretty smart Gale of Wind came on, which reduced our number to 26. After this, successive & violent Gales with such high & dangerous ^{seas} as I had never before seen separated us entirely from the whole Convoy. From the very bad weather it was imagined that many

must have foundered. Tho we have been arrived
now above a fortnight, numbers are still missing,
among which I am very sorry is poor Major Bagard
his whole family, who were coming to settle at Cap:
Sellers' house at Stoke, as Your Royal Highness
may remember to have heard. We made our passage
in 25 days, & I am confident might have done it,
had we been alone, in 17, the wind being favourable
the whole way. The poor Warwick was spoiled, the
dead lights stove in, & I found myself a float
above 2 feet water in the Cabin about 2^o Clock in
the morning. The Ship was excessively weak in
her upper works, so that for above a fortnight we
were almost constantly wet, & could never once sit
at table. She proved however tolerably tight in her
bottom, making only 3 feet in the very worst weather.

We found the Charlestown at Spithead before us, but
were apprehensive for the Savage, which, however, got
safe to Cork a few days after. The first news we heard
at St. Helen's was the rumour of an approaching Peace
& the death of Cap^t. Fielding: He has left his family
in very indifferent circumstances. I found Cap^t. Creyk
at Portsmouth, on the point of sailing as a passenger
on board the James (Cap^t. O'Hara) who carries ^{only} General,
the now Sir Charles Grey K. B. to succeed Sir Guy Carleton.
To my great astonishment I found Lord Keppel had
given Cap^t. Creyk orders to command Your Royal Highness's
Brigate L'Ange, notwithstanding Admiral Digby
had already given her to Cap^t. Books, & had made
a long string of changes in consequence. This will
be a thunderstroke to the poor Admiral, who, I believe,
according to the practice of the Navy, has clearly a

right to appoint to her. I am also much surpris'd to
find by the latest Navy List published at the end of
December that not one of the Admiral's ^{officers} is confin'd,
except Capt Geyk & Capt Cochrane. There must surely be
some mistake in this, for as the Admiral's power is
unquestionable, so almost all his promotions are what
we consider'd as sure vacancies. But your
Royal Highness need not be told that the late
first Lord of the Admiralty (for my Lord How has now
succeeded) never lost sight of the old grudge, &
it is indeed extremely obvious that the former Board
did every thing they could to harass Admiral Digby
& render his situation as disagreeable as possible.
His employment must however now be soon at an
end, & I should imagine that now the Preliminaries
are signed, he will wish leave to come home before the

evacuation of New York takes place. I cannot refrain
telling Your Royal Highness how handsomely & at
the same time delicately he has behaved to me by
directing Col: Digby to purchase & present me with
a very elegant piece of Plate, which he begs me
to accept as a testimony of his regard: Of this in-
tention I knew nothing till some time after I
arrived in England.

The reception His Majesty was pleased to give me
surpassed my warmest hopes; and I feel myself
not a little pleased that my duty has been discharge
ed not only to the satisfaction of the King, but
also agreeably to Your Royal Highness. I must return
You my best thanks, Sir, for the favourable ex-
pression You were pleased to use in Your letter
to the King, which I had the Honor to deliver.

All your Letters gave great pleasure, except that to Prince Edward, which hurt him very much & made him cry a good deal. Remember I advised you not to send that Letter - However, I explained it to him as a badinage, & when he saw it in this light, he was more easy - But it was agreed on all hands not to let the King & Queen see it -

Thinking it very unlikely that your Royal Highness should return to America, I determined to carry home all your Books, lest they should fall into the hands of negligent Servants. I hope you will approve of this Step. The Pearls I delivered to the Queen, who sets great store on them. The Belt of the Duc de Lauzun's sword is on its way to Hanover. Prince Frederic is extremely well, & going to the admiration of every body. Every thing in your Royal Highness's family seems to be going on as

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ronal: Both King & Queen in perfect health. The three
eldest Princes grow & improved beyond any idea
I could have formed. Miss Hamilton has retired & there
is a Madame La Fite come in her place. Their Majes-
ties stay at Windsor from Friday to Monday. The
King hunts a great deal & is also become very fond
of coursing. Prince Edward is grown a good deal
but does not appear proportionably improved, &
I am sorry to learn is as little a favourite as he
used to be. His education is surely on too contracted
a scale, & it is high time to throw him a little
into Public Life, otherwise his ideas will be so
narrowed, that he will never be able to cut a figure
hereafter. What an advantage your Royal High-
ness possess in this respect! And what expecta-
tions may not the World reasonably form of your con-
duct as a Prince, as an Officer, & as a Citizen!

I have said so much in praise of your Royal High-
ness, & have raised people's expectations so high,
that much is expected, & I am in a manner confident
that you will not fall short of the Public opinion.
If the King should think it right to continue Lord
Hood still abroad, notwithstanding the Peace, & your
Royal Highness ^{with him}, I am convinced you will readily
acquiesce, knowing that you cannot be in a more
useful situation both for yourself & the Nation.
I hope, Sir, that you find yourself easy & happy
in your present condition, & that we were not mistaken
in our ideas of Captain Dapier. The King is pleased
to approve of him, having heard a very good charac-
ter of him from all quarters. It is to be hoped
that there subsists a proper understanding between
him & Lord Hood, which is material to your Royal High-
ness's advantage, & ~~to~~ their comfort mutually—

I am extremely anxious to learn, Sir, how the West Indian Climate agrees with you. I hope to God you will avoid the usual sickness which happens to new comers, for tho' you are blessed with a very good constitution, I should be sorry it was put to the trial by one of those bad fevers. General Bude was very near killed by a dreadful fall as he was hunting with the King about two months ago. He is scarcely recovered even now. He still lives in your Royal Highness's Apartments, & is occasionally a good deal with the King, who appears to have a good deal of consideration & esteem for him. I find his ideas are somewhat altered with regard to his situation: He no longer considers himself as your Royal Highness's Governor: But should be here till your return to Europe, & the King continues him

in His service, he says he would wish to be looked upon
as Your Companion & Attendant, & in the same light
as Col. Grenville is with Prince Frederick. However all
this may perhaps be a very distant object, as perhaps
shou'd Your Royal Highness not continue in the
West Indies, His Majesty may rather chuse to order
You in a Frigate up the Mediterranean, that permit
You to return home. I speak with some degree of know-
ledge on this subject, tho' I am not permitted to
make any formal communication, & therefore chuse
rather to say perhaps, than certainly. Captain Philip
stone has been well received by The King. He meant
to ask for a 74 if the War had continued; but now
is making all the interest he can for a 60 Gun Frigate.
Law, by means of his Father's interest, has again got
upon the list, & has been fortunate enough to get Post.

upon Captain Curtis of the Brilliant, who behaved so well at
Gibraltar, is now Sir Roger Curtis B^t with an annuity of
£500 for life. Your Royal Highness will observe that
the Admiralty Board has undergone another change.
Lord Howe first Lord, & Cap^t Lawson Govern one of the
members. Sir John Jarvis has got into Parliament, but
for what place I do not recollect. I am confidently
opined that, at the resignation of Heppel, Ministers
would have offered the Presidency of that Board to
my Lord Hood, if he had been in the Kingdom.
There is a Print coming out of Stein by Sherwin from
a miniature in the possession of Lady Hood, which
promises to be very like. He is so much & so deserved
by a favourite of the Public, that the impression
will doubtless be eagerly bought up. The miniature
Your Royal Highness did me the Honor to give me for
my box is now in the hands of Myers, who is to paint

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the back ground, the drapery, & the hair afresh. It is a Picture that will be dear to me as long as I live.

In the first interview I had the honor to have with The King after my return, His Majesty was pleased to give me the fullest & most unrequir'd assurance of Pardon. The manner & degree of it, & the time when, I leave with the greatest confidence to him, knowing I am in the hands of the best of Masters. Your Royal Highness believe does not look upon me as a rapacious Character, & indeed I only wish for such an income as will permit me to marry & settle comfortably for life.

I finish this long unconnected Letter with assuring You, Sir, that I shall be happy at all times to obey Your Royal Highness's commands, & that I am with the greatest sincerity in the World

Com^d to Cap^t Dupier
who is confined.

Your Royal Highness's Dutiful
& very affectionate Serv^t
H. Majeur