

My Dear William, You are now going for the first time to a foreign Station, and consequently for a very considerable time to a distance from your Parents; I avoid taking a long leave for it would only give us both pain and could avail nothing to your advantage; a long conversation of Advice might strike you at the moment but the levity of youth would probably by degrees destroy its having the full effect that must be of utility to you. I have therefore preferred putting down my thoughts on paper and on the cover directing Major General de Bude to deliver it to you in the presence of M^r. Majendie that you may read it before them both, which is also the clearest method of you as well as M^r. Majendie clearly comprehending my Orders, it will also ~~be the best method~~ be the best method of your from time to time refreshing your memory as to my sentiments, and enable M^r. Majendie more possibly to convey any advice that he may think you require; it would be but time thrown away to mention his zeal for your turning out to my comfort, to the credit of yourself, and to the advantage of the Public, for you know my sentiments on that head and you have expressed yours to me as well.

I should not deal with the openness that I feel my Duty, did I not express how much I was pleas'd, the first days of your return, with the Affection and Attention towards me and the Queen that marked every step you took, and how sensibly you talk'd on the improper conduct of one, who is dear to all of us; but since

since that things have somewhat changed, it has clearly appeared to both of Us that you have been more desirous of getting out of the room and perhaps in some degree copying what seemed very proper not to please you when you first came back to Us; had your stay been longer I should have mentioned it, but as I knew it could last but for few Weeks, I thought it more advisable to wait if any change arose from yourself, or at worst to put it in this letter before your eyes, as an example, how with the best intentions evil examples is catching; I shall say no more on this subject but leave it to your own reflections.

Of course you will feel that I expect an implicit obedience to the Directions you will receive from Rear Admiral Digby whose care and Attention to you, he has bred up is very conspicuous from the ~~success~~ ^{success} in Lord Long, Lord and Captain ~~Compton~~ but it is impossible He can attend to more than your improvement in your Profession and your behaviour whilst in his presence; on Mr. Mijendie therefore I depend for the prosecution of your Studies, for instilling those sentiments which may make you a good Christian and good Man; which comprehend every quality that will make you happy in yourself a comfort to your family, and a credit to your Country. From Youth it has sometimes dropped from you, as if you thought Nautical knowledge was the whole extent of you; but you forget that you are a Prince, that it is in the womb of fate whether in futurity you may not be called to the most arduous situation, you must therefore have all the means of doing your Duty

Duty if that ~~event~~ should happen; besides if you behave as
you ought I shall naturally wish to advance you in your
Profession, and bring you by degrees much earlier forward
than any private person can; but that will require on your
side not only professional ability but a steadiness and propriety
of Conduct; you must be free from behaviors from sedateness, fit
for my advancing you; or my Affection would be conspicuous
at the expense of my Judgement and even Duty, which you may
depend upon never shall be the case; till the word is as you
are to be trusted with command, you shall not have it.

As the Admiral may not always be enabled to be so much
at sea as he naturally would wish and a Port is not a good
place for improvement, he has my leave to send you at times
in frigates for short cruises, but never without Mr. Joynt
accompanying you. I should not have the real Affection
I have for you if I neglected any means of having you guided
through this perilous World; I trust your conduct towards
Mr. Joynt will enable him to go through his Attendance
till you are of an age to have his assisting help necessary,
but should that not happen you may depend I shall send some
other person to take care of you, you could not answer it
to my conscience to let you proceed in your Profession, but
under a conviction that you have the Assistance of a person
on whose Morals as well as knowledge I can depend that
whilst advancing in the Branch, you are not neglecting every
other and destroying those principles which alone can make you
a good or useful member of Society.

You

You mentioned to Me the other day a desire that You might be permitted to write to Me without communicating the draughts to any one, I readily give that permission as far as respects to Your writing to The Queen or Me, but to any of Your Brothers or any other person Mr. Majendie must see them for it is impossible any harm can arise from any confidences You may place in Your Parents, but in other persons the case is quite different; therefore the same injunction subsists as did on former Occasions exclusive of the exceptions now made.

My Dear William I now conclude my Epistle with wishing You every degree of Health and Prosperity, every good inclination to become what both Parents so eagerly implore the Divine Providence to effect, and above all You of the Affection of the Queen as well as of Mine who will ever wish to remain

Windsor
July 10th 1781.

My Dear William
Your most Affectionate Father
George III.