

Lucas House April. 16. 1783. (37)

Dear William, Your letters of the 22.^d of December, of the 31.^d of January and of the 2.^d of February, arrived together the 14.th of this month, the two first are relating to your Voyage, from New York to Tiburon, and therefore require only this acknowledgement of them.

The third shews too strongly a continuation of that unhappy disposition to resist controul, which has too much on former occasions appeared, and convinces me that your judgement does not ripen so fast as I could wish; to be fit to command, the knowledge of obedience must first have been obtained, without which self controul cannot be gained.

Had Cap: Rapier formed any sinister views he could only attain it by flattery, he on the contrary for your sake has wished to guard you against improprieties, perhaps his zeal may have on your resistance hurried him to some degree of warmth, ought not you on reflection to have felt this and then esteemed him for it, and by putting more phancy to his advice have rendered his conduct more pleasing, instead of which by your own letter you have so far forgot yourself as to tell him that he is your Attendant certainly not the proper term for an Officer placed to advise you, and to be answerable to Me for your conduct, therefore any heat he may have shewn on such an aspersion from you is perfectly natural.

It certainly is the general opinion that you have acquired as much
Nautical

Nautical knowledge as the time you have been at sea will allow;
but previous to this I had received from some of the best Naval Opinions
in this Island, that perhaps in the Seaman, You would loose the
ideas of the Officer and the Prince.

I shall not go into the various improprieties which appear in your
letter as I attribute them to momentary heat, and that you must have
been long before this ashamed of them.

Whether Cap^t. Papier leaves you, or remains till your return with
Lord Hood to Europe which cannot be many months, will depend on
that able Admiral's decision; but he will have my directions in any
case to have a proper Officer always to accompany you, who may be
answerable for your behaviour.

You seem to wish to copy Frederick, but there is one very
considerable difference, He though two years older is perfectly compliant
to every advice the Officers about him give him.

I shall certainly send you to the Continent as soon as you return
from sea that your manners and behaviour may be formed fit for
shore, and that you may be in time an Officer. Lord Howe who
certainly is a Scientific Officer assures me that he thinks in our service
the attention is carried along alone to Seamanship, that few Officers
are formed, and that a knowledge of the Military is necessary to open the
ideas to the directing large Fleets. believe me ever

Dear W. Ham
Yours most affectionate Father
George

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to

15th April 1783