

Prince William  
December 2. 1779

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Prince George. Spithead.  
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Sir,

I have received this morning Your Majesty's two letters, which were brought by General de Bude. I have taken the opportunity of the General's return to send back this Answer. Your Majesty's letter alone would have done me real pleasure; but the arrival of the General greatly added to it.

While I was on shore yesterday, I heard that the Prince George was ordered to prepare for foreign service immediately; a thing very little suspected. When I heard it, I thought Your Majesty would send for me home; yet it was my desire to go where



ever the ship was sent; however. I would have returned home with  
pleasure, if it had been Your Majesty's will to send for me. I can  
not but say that I am heartily glad to hear of my going to sea on  
the Ship. During the cruise I will do my best towards discharg-  
ing my duty, & will use my endeavours to improve in the in-  
struction given me.

The General has acquainted me with the arrangement, Your  
Majesty has thought proper to appoint for me, when I come on  
shore, for which I am very thankful both to Your Majesty & the  
Queen; & ever be assured, that

I am,

Sir,

Your Majesty's most dutiful,  
& affectionate Son,  
William.