

H. H.
 A. Spitham
 Dec. 21: 1785.

Sir,

The last letter I had the honour of writing to you.

His Majesty was at sea during our last cruise, which lasted four teen days.

The weather was in general fine; particularly the last week. Upon our

coming in, it was necessary to examine the Port Guns, which we thought

spring. However the officers of the Gun judged it to be still fit for ser-

-vice. During the late incessant gales of wind our ship's ombre, prodi-

-gious length had worked so much as to weaken her bows, we were there-

fore obliged to sail to them & was held that broad Hook's. This detained us a
week: Monday arose from the severity of the weather; for last Saturday it
blew prodigious hard from the S. E. quarter, that even in the harbour the boats
broke adrift from a long side of the guardships. The Hebe was fitted
ready for sea by three in the afternoon Sunday last, & we were employed
from that time till one next morning unmooring the ship: The Monday we
sailed to the westward of Spitzbergen at noon to be the first morning we
saw since, I had the honour of arriving in the Hebe. There this
morning arrived at Spitzhead, without our prize & intended if possible to sail
tomorrow. Tho' I belong to this Frigate, I may with great truth
affirm that none of your Majesty's cruizers can be more active than
the Hebe is. It has been entirely owing to ill luck that we have

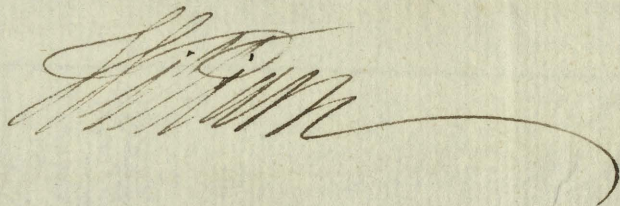
not before taken a prize.

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I am,

Sir,

Your Majesty's most affectionate
& obedient dutiful Son,



Prince William

November 24 1905