

Portsmouth.

Dec: 28: 1785

Dear Brother,

The short stay Doctor Blaine made in this part

of the world prevented me writing: & as amusements are pleasant to seamen when it is in their power to enjoy them, I make no doubt you will excuse my not writing when the ship is at Spithead. I always have my letters ready to send to the post as soon as we arrive. Therefore do not think if Mr. Martin has as yet received a letter from me, if he has I will own the

received by the next post.

In my last letter I mentioned to you my intentions about my future employment. I should wish to have a guard ship for many reasons: you know I cannot live with any comfort at home. I must therefore be employed: it is dull work cruising in a Frigate, particularly in winter time it would be far too expensive to have a station in the Mediterranean besides I never wish to leave England during the peace. The only thing that remains is a guard ship: I must own I have set my heart on one. They are the first ships sent abroad upon the breaking out of a war: I shall always prefer serving on foreign service to being unemployed in the channel during a

war. Was I not afraid of tiring you, I could give you many more reasons.

About money matters I am going to surprise you: the day before I sailed, one of my shipmates came to me in the greatest distress for money. I put

my hand into my purse & gave him two guineas, which was just all I was worth

thing I have in the world. I contrive some how or other to make it out pretty well. Do not suppose by this, I want money. I would not have asked

you last time, had it been for myself. my allowance is enough for my present wants. I have 125 quarters: in general I cannot spend it, but particular

business has obliged me to give away 90 guineas, which you will allow makes a great hole in that sum. Next quarter I shall go on with the same. The only

request I have to beg of you is that you will be kind enough to let my German servant live with you. I wish you would take him I can

recommend him as a sober honest man. I have an English servant so that there
is no need to me. If you do not think it better to take him, I will pay
him to stay where he is: in which case I may pay him his wages by Guinea
quarter of half a Guinea a week. It will be the same matter when we next
meet. I am afraid you are tired with this long dry letter. I will now be
done here & finish by subscribing myself,

P. S. I wish you would give this Yours sincerely
letter for a Delapoult to the

Ch. Chandler with my comple-
ments & bid him to send
it to Gibraltar.

W. R. M. M. D. R.
J. Lawrence
Dec: 20: 1785.