

Pegasus
 English Harbour.
 February 8. 1787

Dear Brother,

The West India Company have a

disagreeable suit to me for a affair that has happened on board my

Ship. I have to request the utmost secrecy on your side in this busi-

ness, as it is of consequence to the naval service in general, and

must stamp my character as an officer. If I think you may

communicate the matter to, and I shall send you a narrative of the

business which I will explain to you: do not show this to any other

officer but him, as the correspondence & the particulars must first be made

known to the Commander in Chief in the war, so that I may know where
the affair can be settled by a Court Martial on the W. S. Indies or
be referred to the Admiralty. you must therefore see the necessity
of secrecy, and more particularly the propriety of not referring the
King and Lord Howe, till his Lordship receives it officially. By the
enclosed narrative you will be surpris'd to find Mr. Schaeberg to be
the man, who of all others ought most particularly to have been careful
in his conduct; after my having releas'd him from confinement, a crime
directly to fly in my face I cannot but consider as doing right
thing. I will not enter into the detail of the circumstances, or repeat
the articles of war; as I believe from his experience and knowledge
your advice will point them out. Suffice it to say, I feel Brother within
myself I am right. The Officer in his station approve of my conduct, particularly

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the commanding officer for the time being Captain Nelson, who though a young
man, has a sound judgment. I am sure Elphinstone will believe us if not
my behaviour on this disagreeable affair was officious, and from
all private papers.

My letter by the last Packet to Elphinstone you have, I doubt not: I
am obliged to live in a certain decent way and therefore my articles are so
dear in the West Indies and America that upon my present allow-
-ance I cannot continue abroad without running in debt, and there-
-fore I must soon resign the command of my ship, and place it ab-
-solutely for my subsistence.

Whatever turns up, I shall let you know as soon as possible. I
have reason to expect that Schomberg means to persecute me in
this case I must have recourse again to our ingenious friend and

pleader W. Erskine.

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Sam,

Dear Brother,

Your sincerely,

W. Erskine

Mr R. H. the Duke
of Clarence
July 20th 1787.