

Pegasus

Dorset
April 23. 1789.

Dear Brother,

I may have let to Col. Finston you will have seen the

reason of my not then writing to you at that time, and the continuation of this
unaccountable and extraordinary conduct of Schomberg; I have now more time

late: the evening before I sail from English Harbour I wrote to Captain Mel.
now saying that as the preparations indicate the Pegasus's intentioning to

Antigua, and from his seeing daily reports being made to me of his being under
confinement by Captain Nelson the Commanding Officer of the King's Squadron,

and from his long and close confinement, he could wish to be furnished with the
change or charges Captain Mel. meant to exhibit against him, besides Schomberg

in his letter mentioned that he could not conceive himself under any ground that
he had wrote appealing for a Court Martial as it was the only way prescribed

by the articles of war and general spirit instructions for an officer accused unjustly
to clear his character. Captain Mel. in my humble opinion answered this exactly

very letter in a very proper style he assured Mr. Schomberg that he complied with his request

that Captain Nelson, might not be afterwards taxed by his former having granted him a
Court Martial: that the order he had given on the 2^d January, a copy of which I send
you, respecting Officers writing to the Commander in Chief for a Court Martial, is in-
convenient at a time there are never Officers enough to bring them to immediate trial
thereby depriving His Majesty of their services at a time they never can be replaced on
account of his letter requesting a Court Martial, and to prevent the like here: In the
evening after I had taken leave of Captain Nelson, to my utter surprize and to
astonishment an Officer came on board, with a message from Captain Nelson: that upon
his return to the Coast he found another letter from Mr. Schomberg which ap-
peared to me more ridiculous than the first; but that the content was that he had been
being Mr. Schomberg informed that every evening he had of his writing for issuing
that order on the 2^d January could not be received possible as if it had been
between Schomberg's writing and Nelson's giving out that order: that he had no danger
- however of some such importance for the service to write for a Court Martial, and
although the twenty first article of war and the fourth article concerning Courts
Martial authorized Officers in certain situations to apply in their names, this
order wholly prevented any such application: Schomberg in his letter said several
number of things which showed that he gave no order with the view of preventing
and preventing Nelson's return, which he ought to perform to our own profit, and Officers like

he began by saying he thought he had complied with Mr. Schomberg's request, as Mr. Schomberg, had he not wished to be present at my command, would not have come to the Court Martial, till there were ships enough for him to be tried on one. Captain Nelson's official conduct was likewise charged, with a message to Schomberg, which was to be previously delivered to me, that Captain Nelson had put his own conduct on record as sanctioned by the tenor of his letter, requesting the Court Martial that he considered himself bound by my conduct as his captain in the official conduct. Hence the letter and this message, sent to me, in presence of Schomberg's presence. That when he wrote the letter, concerning his application to be tried, he had been informed that Captain Nelson from his former acquaintance would not have complied with his request till Nelson's consent was given with him: that as matters now stood that he Schomberg was confident he would not add to his character and honor before a Court Martial, as he would do the spirit of the service when Captain Nelson and himself were both free. What can be Schomberg's motive for making this extraordinary assertion, is to me inexplicable after thirty years, when he was put under arrest the last time that as I must necessarily be a witness on his Court Martial, that I would not have appeared had he obeyed my orders, long as he may live. Percy M. Schomberg will find very great difficulty to prove that I complied with my commands: I shall be obliged to give you from this date in propriety and fully I despair here.

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We sailed from English Harbour the 19, and arrived the same evening at St. Vincent
Departed Bay Dominique, and sailed again for Antigua on the 23 and arrived
there on the 23, upon my anchoring I was informed that Captain Johnson, who
commanded the *Rattlesnake*, was dead: upon this Mr. H. has applied
me to be appointed second Lieutenant of the *Rome* in the room of Mr.
Wallace, who is to be the command of the *Sloop*: I have accordingly
written to Captain Nelson to request this wish of Mr. H. He may be some
-times with. I am not but expressing my satisfaction at Mr. H. leaving the
ship: we are to sail tomorrow for Grenada: adieu, dear Brother, give
my best compliments to Martha, and ever believe me,

Yours sincerely,

J. H. Williams

H. R. H. Mr. Duke

St. Vincent

April 23. 1787.