

Pegasus

Lewis Road.

May 10. 1787.

Sir,

According to the Letter I had the honour of writing
 to Your Majesty, I proceeded on the 29th of April with Captain Salway of the
 Sole Bay to Prince Rupert Bay, Dominiqua, where we arrived the same eve-
 ning, and considering that the distance is forty leagues, and that we were obli-
 ged to go under the lee of Guadaloupe, where a calm or prevail, it was a most
 extraordinary passage: at the Cape of Guadaloupe we were pass'd
 by, we saw the *Chopata* a French Frigate of 18 Guns and eight or nine
 guns well known to our officers by having been Monsieur de Suffren's Flag
 Ship in the East Indies during the late being engag'd. She is a most suc-
 cessful, and I hope in other wars to have the honour of seeing Your Majesty's
 Colours flying on board her: a guard boat from the *Chopata* came along side my

ship to enquire the usual questions, and followed the French Lieutenant
to proceed as far as the gangway, but not upon the master Deck: a French
Councillor was likewise a Capt. Some. I am happy to be able to inform Your
Majesty that the new ordinance in the French Navy has by no means as
yet effected any reform in their service; for the Fleet is without excep-
tion the most unwieldy, and most unnecessary in the world.

I remained in Prince Rupert Bay from the 9th to the 23rd working water-
ing, and sounding, and then proceeded to Rosau's Whight intended for
the works under Major Francis's present command, and there was employ-
ed.

The alacrity and briskness with which the works is carried on is the
Major's great credit: however, he is an officer of such character and merit that

I am confident he will have the honour of being known to Your Majesty at
Rosau, we hear of the death of Captain William Collingwood command-
er of the 1st Battalion of Marines, in which Your Majesty has lost a faithful, soli-
d, and zealous officer, he died of a sudden inflammation in his bowels.

Captain Moon the senior officer on this station has appointed his first Lieutenant

W. Wallis to the command of the Rattlesnake, and has had the civility to appoint one
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of the gentlemen of the Pegasus who has been eight years with me; into the com-
mand of the Rattlesnake. On the 25th April we continued from Rome, and in
the afternoon got close in with Martinique, so as to have a clear and dis-
tinct view of the town of St. Pierre, which is the principal French man-
-the fort in the West Indies: the town appears large, a great number of
trading ships in the roads head, and a French Frigate, which we could
not distinctly see as we were three or four leagues off. There was another Fri-
-gate too, called the turning into le Port Royal, in which we saw the Bri-
-ste of the King and another ship, which we mistook for the le Port Royal
without standing in close, and we were at least five leagues off, and could
not get see the broad Pendant at the Mast head: the French have the
policy to have one town for their arsenal and fortification, and another for
their commerce. St. Martinique the Port Royal is their military repository,
and St. Pierre their trading town: St. Guadeloupe was formerly fortified and the

have passed in barracks there. The trade is carried on at Point St. Pierre. On the 2^d we arrived at St. Vincent, and sailed the 28th and reached Grenada the same day.

During my passage to St. Vincent, I regretted the rheumatic complaint in the right side and thigh; it increased every day more and more till the 1st of the pain was so violent that I could not stand and it was attended with

some fever: this illness prevented me from visiting the Island of Grenada and has likewise prevented me from making observations, and of course from

informing Your Majesty of what I should have remarked. The Island is the largest and most fertile of the British Windward Possessions, as the average crop in every kind is reckoned to amount to the value of 30000

hogheads of sugar: this staple commodity is of course raised though a prodigious quantity of other goods there. I could by no means learn the number of inhabitants: the trade is immense for in the one port of St. George

in the Lamerage there were 100000 lbs of sugar, besides many others in the different harbours and bays of the island: the Lamerage is when once a fine

shelter for a few ships in a hurricane, but the passage is small and the water

is very shallow not more than 3 feet: the road is bad, the ground being soft,
and a very heavy well timbered in. The 45 Regiment of foot commanded by
Major Daily arrived on the 15th inst. they have been very unhealthy, but
are now much better. There are all young men, and in excellent good
order. Daily is a good officer, and has experienced one for several months
but was present 11th 15th 1783, without ever going home, and was three times men-
tioned: two Companies of the Royal Artillery are likewise on the island
under the command of that respectable and brave man, Major Rich-
ardson, who has the honour to be known by Your Majesty's letters
from hence and Major Daily incurred the greatest probability, as did
indeed from every body else collectively in a body and individually.
The preparations for our passage thence to the other islands, and the
public entertainments to be conducted with great regularity. My
indisposition prevented me from attending in public, I wished to have done, and
the ship did not start out of the ship after 7th May, it increased so much the following day
that I did not think it prudent for me to return to English Harbour. I wish

now endeavour to give Your Majesty an account of this illness: however as a perfect
I must ^{say} that I found it a violent kind of fever, and most perfectly recovered.
On the coast of Newfoundland there and fog gave me a rheumatic pain in
my right side, which Your Majesty may remember: ever since I have had at
times flying complaints in both legs, thighs, feet and back, particularly in the
West Indies: for though no man can avoid all these evils, yet I have
felt more of them than I can: the perspiration that must necessarily be
profuse on all persons in hot climates is very apt to be stopp'd suddenly and
checked from the violent draught of wind in the houses from all the doors and
windows being open: so I caught in that manner: must have always attended with
more or less fever: this was the original cause of my complaint, which being a
fever with a severe, withing I got somewhat stinck before my illness thro' the
all the precautions I was good could suggest of bathing my feet in warm
water and throwing myself into a perspiration, was ready on the first occa-
sion: but: accordingly when I had left English Harbour I arrived
in the night in Prince Rupert Bay, and was not off the deck for five or six
mornings till the next night: next day I began to find a pain in my right side

by no means settled, sometimes in the hip and back, then in the thigh and thence
 leading from thence to the stomach, and frequently in the leg and foot: it in-
 creased every day and caused by the discoloration of the skin to be mislead-
 ed to settle in that part of the body, where your Majesty may remember I was
 severely attacked in the year seventy eight: it was then determined to be a
 pleurisy: the part became hard and inflamed: I lost my appetite, spirit and
 rest: I ridged my legs, in which I have the greatest confidence, not only
 from his knowledge and experience, but from his great care and attention
 to all his patients, had seen the rise and progress of them to be: he told me it
 was a rheumatic complaint, and in that part from its weakness fallen
 led with a symptomatic fever: he gave me great evacuations and carnia-
 tive to take the feverish heat off, and to bleed the part affected with an in-
 strument: in short the method, now I mind that though in ten days I had
 by his aid and good, my strength was very little impaired, not more so
 than was to be expected: the pain and inflammation went down gradu-
 ally, and I was restored to my natural spirit of sleep: I had recovered my
 appetite: from the time I was laid up to the 8, and was now thoroughly recovered, but

still think it prudent to be cautious.

On the 4th of May we sailed for English Harbour, in company with the *Albatross*
and on the 6th were off Pt. Royal Martinique where our last distress however my
situation prevented me from making my remarks on the 6th at noon I was alone
with Capt. Penn Quadaloupe, and saw through the ship's rigging going in line
under the top sails, and saw under the French flag a vessel from the *Indes*
from us last war, and a large vessel from the 7th vessel into English
Harbour, where I have been employed fitting the ship for North America.

I am,
Sir,

Your Majesty's most obedient
and affectionate servant,
J. P. Williams

J. P. Williams
May 20 1797.