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His Royal Highness's answer to Captain Nelson, the Senior
Officer of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels on the Leeward
Islands Station, concerning the Pegasus's going to Jamaica, to try
Lieutenant Schomberg, &c.

Pegasus, English Harbour, Antigua, ¹² 11. May 1787.

Sir,

I was yesterday honoured with the receipt of
your Letter, dated the 8.th May at Nevis, brought to me by Captain
Wallis of His Majesty's Sloop Rattler, and the Commission
appointing Mr. Stephen George Church third Lieutenant
of His Majesty's Ship under my command, for which
appointment, I beg leave to return you many thanks.

It is highly requisite for His Majesty's
Service that Lieutenant Isaac Schomberg of His Majesty's
Ship under my command, should be brought to trial,
particularly after having been under suspension rather than
confinement for One hundred and seven days. — Justice calls
forth loudly for a man so long in his situation, to be as soon
delivered from his captivity as possible, the only means to effect that,
must be a Court Martial; you Sir, are thoroughly acquainted
with all the proceedings, and know the uneasiness of mind I have
suffered, and the vast desire I must have to see the affair of this
unhappy and deluded men settled, and as you have mentioned
to me in your Letter that His Majesty's Ship Maidstone is gone
down to the Bahama Islands in search of that Piratical Vessel,
and as no official accounts are yet come out, concerning the
approaching arrival of a Commanding Officer to His Majesty's
Ships and Vessels on this Station, and as the time is now almost

come

come for His Majesty's Ship under my Command to return to the coast of North America, where it is likely that there will not be during the ensuing Summer a sufficient number of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels to try the said Lieutenant Schomberg; I entirely coincide in opinion with you Sir, that it is not only for the advantage of His Majesty's Service, but that justice requires that His Majesty's Ship Pegasus should proceed in Her way to North America to Jamaica, and to prevent farther delay, that His Majesty's Sloop Rattler should likewise proceed to Jamaica, for fear there should not be Ships enough to assemble a Court Martial upon our arrival, for which purpose I am using the utmost dispatch, and am confident I shall have the honour of paying my respects to you at Nevis in person on the 20th instant at farthest, my Health being so perfectly reinstated, that I am able to conduct the duty of His Majesty's Ship under my Command.

Enclosed is the State and Condition of the Ship, and am

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant
William.

Horatio Nelson Esq.

A Copy of His Royal Highness's Letter to the Admiralty, concerning Mr Hope, third Lieutenant of the Pegasus, refusing the Certificate. He, as Captain of the Pegasus thought fit to give him.

Pegasus, English Harbour Antigua, 17. May 1787.

Sir,

My reason for addressing you is to represent to their Lordships the Conduct of Mr Hope, late third Lieutenant of His Majesty's Ship Pegasus under my Command, in refusing to

to take a Certificate signed by me for him. - the matter is briefly thus. I had every reason to be dissatisfied with Mr. Hope's conduct as an Officer in carrying on the duty of the Ship, and as their Lordships must be sensible that it is not in the power of every Captain, to bring every Officer before a Court-Martial who deserve it, either for want of Evidence or from other motives, such as Humanity, particularly to people so young and inexperienced in His Majesty's Service as Mr. Hope. I did not think proper to push the matter to an extremity, but Mr. Hope perceiving from my conduct that I was dissatisfied with His, and as He either would not or could not pay more attention to his duty, He very wisely thought proper to apply to be appointed into the vacancy of second Lieutenant on board His Majesty's Ship Boreas, occasioned by the death of Captain Collingwood of His Majesty's Sloop Rattler, which Captain Nelson the Senior Officer on this Station thought proper to comply with, from his knowledge of the circumstances. - Mr. Hope upon the receipt of His Commission for His Majesty's Ship Boreas, desired me to sign his certificate, I accordingly signed the following one, "These are to certify the principal Officers and Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy, that Mr. William Hope served as third Lieutenant on board His Majesty's Ship under my Command, from the 15th April 1786, until the date hereof, and was never six weeks absent from the Ship. Given under my Hand on board His Majesty's Ship Pegasus, in English Harbour Antigua the 10th May 1787." - He objected to it, because I had not inserted his complying with the General Printed Instructions, I told him he must be sensible he had not complied with these Instructions, and as I considered my affixing my Name to any thing, was acknowledging it to be true, that I

could

could not assert he did, when I was conscious in my own mind
he had not; upon which he refused to take the certificate.

I beg leave to observe that it was not my intention
to have made known to their Lordships Mr. Hope's misconduct
during the time he served as Lieutenant on board the Ship I have
the honour to command, but upon his refusing the certificate, I thought
it incumbent on me to inform their Lordships of my motives for not
giving Mr. Hope the usual certificate. I am

Sir

Your most obedient servant.

Philip Stephens Esq.

William

Lt. Schomburg

H. R. H. Mr Duke
of Hannover
11th May 1707.