

Pegasus
 Cork Harbour
 3^d December 1787.

Sir,

By the packet that arrived at Halifax on
 the 8th of November I was honoured with Your Majesty's letter of
 the 1st of last August, and was rendered very happy with the ap-
 -probation Your Majesty bestows on my endeavours to set an
 example of punctual obedience and to establish discipline
 in the ship I have the honour to command: with respect to the
 irregularities Your Majesty has been most graciously pleased to
 signify in a private letter through my Lord Howe's Command
 but look on the matter as a great mark of condescension in Your
 Majesty, and which I shall ever consider one of the strongest
 inducements for me to pursue the service with zeal and constant
 application: I take the liberty of referring Your Majesty to my let-

ter in answer to Lord Howe concerning the requisite certificate for
Lieutenant Hope, in which as well as in all other points of service
I shall constantly exhibit my duty to his Majesty's
commands and the orders of my superiors: upon the receipt of
Your Majesty's letter I well examined and weighed my conduct to-
wards the two Lieutenants of the Pegasus, and must confess I
cannot find that my actions were dictated by heat or passion
but solely by zeal for Your Majesty's service: for the good advice
against warmth of temper, and the caution that is requisite
with the exercise of authority I beg leave to return my sincerest
thanks and shall endeavour by my future conduct to prove I
have gained experience in Your Majesty's service and I com-
mand over my violent temper by the unfortunate dis-
putes that existed on board the Pegasus.

By the same packet I received intimations

tion from Lord Howe that pursuant to Your Majesty's pleasure the
 board of Admiralty had sent out instructions to the Commander
 in Chief in North America for the *Tigress* immediately to re-
 turn to Europe: accordingly on the 11th of November I received se-
 veral orders from Commodore Langens to proceed without loss of
 time to Fort or Annapolis, and there to remain till further orders.
 I am always ready to serve wherever Your Majesty thinks pro-
 per for me to be employed; but if I was permitted to express
 a wish, the service abroad is far more desirable than at home,
 because officers pay closer and greater attention in them than
 in the other: another request I beg leave to make to Your Majesty
 which is that if consistent with the plan for my proposed des-
 tination I am to be honoured with the command of a ship
 of the line, I should feel myself particularly happy with the
 charge either of the *Touadrogant* or *Obolant*.

The custom of the service has been for Captains to apply for leave
during the time of their ships fitting, which I conceive to be
highly improper for the Captain is more particularly re-
quisite to be then on the spot: it is by no means my inten-
-tion to ask for leave of absence unless Your Majesty requires my
-presence at home; in which case, I trust Your Majesty will
be graciously pleased to give directions for me to apply for an
-absence either before or after the fitting the ship I am to have
the honour to command.

I am this instant arrived in Cork Harbour after a passage
of one and twenty days, during which nothing material
happened. I am, Sir,

Your Majesty's most affectionate
and most dutiful Son and Subject,
W. Pitt