

To
 Legatus

In Name of

December 29th 1787.

Sir,

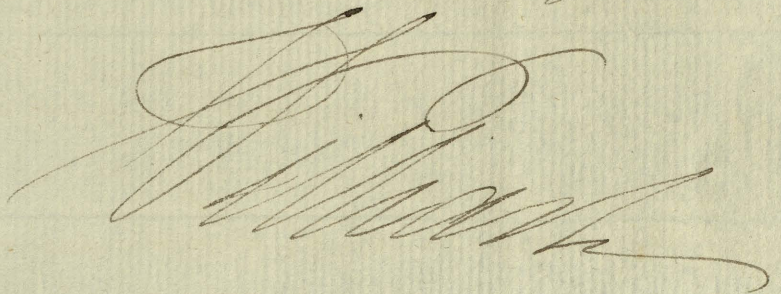
I was totally out of my
 power to have the honour of writing yesterday to Your Ma-
 -jesty, and I now embrace the very first moment of lei-
 -sure to inform Your Majesty of my safe arrival in the
 Legation and likewise of her getting the same evening in
 to the harbour; she is now shipping and will in the
 course of the week be ready for dock, where she must ne-
 -cessarily remain for some time after having been so
 much at sea and after having weathered so many gales
 of wind.

Upon the late armament Your Majesty thought it requi-
site to order me home on account of the danger that
would have attended my remaining in the Pegasus and
if I may be bold enough to represent the same will, ^{happen}
again abroad in case of any rupture or even in time of peace
should any foreign ship be impertinent; Your Majesty
I beg may suffer and please my character owing to all
the frigates both French and Spanish being of greater
force than the Pegasus; even in case of any rupture had
I the honour of commanding one of the large frigates,
with what confidence I should return across the Atlan-
tic Ocean; being well aware that Parma make for
every thing on one deck; besides every likely hood seems to
prognosticate a war in a short time will again take

place: Should Your Majesty be graciously pleased to grant
my request, the *Phelampus* is the ship I should feel a great
honour in commanding: in which case if Your Ma-
jesty approves of my returning to a foreign station for
three years longer, I shall go with the greatest wish
on, and even in the *Pegasus* I am ready to pursue
for the same term my nautical knowledge in the
British Colonies.

I am,
Sir,

Your Majesty's most dutiful
and affectionate Son and Subject,



44809

Prince William

29th Dec: 1797