

J. Fidge to Capt. Hon Geo. Keil Elphinstone

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Plymouth, Feb: 13: 1768.

Sir,

Your Favour of the eighth which I was honoured with, requesting my Opinion of the general state of Health, of His Royal Highness Prince William Henry, particularly during His continuance in the W. Indies, and how far His return to that Country, is a prudent measure; I considered as a very important Task, requiring Time, and reflection; which I hope will apologise for my Letter of the 10<sup>th</sup>. I shall now according to the best of my Judgment give you my Opinion, promising, that I had no Information respecting what His Royal Highness's Constitution was when very young but from an Account he gave me of an Inflammation in His Side, several Years since, which I suppose Pleuritic, and must have been



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very severe, from the cracks remaining of the  
means made use of to remove it: and to this Day  
He frequently feels pain in the part — He has  
also at times a Cough, for which (before I had  
the Honour to attend His Royal Highness,) He  
wore a Plaster upon His Breast, and I have  
thought it requisite it should be continued.

His Royal Highness' General Constitution,  
I consider inclined to a Loose Fibre, consequently  
prone to Inflammatory Attacks — The first I saw  
of this Nature happened soon after leaving the  
Channel, on the Passage to Newfoundland — It was  
an Acute Rheumatic Fever, contracted by Cold, &  
Fatigue, in keeping the Deck — The principal  
Seat of the Complaint was near to the part before  
spoke of in the Pleuritic Case, and had an affinity  
to it — After His Royal Highness had recovered  
from this,



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His Health continued good till the arrival of the Ship  
in the W. Indies, where He was repeatedly seized with  
sudden Attacks of Fever, always happily removed,  
by early Application, & render'd efficacious, by a  
strict Conformity to the Aid of Medicine —

The Illness produced by the W. Indies,  
did not leave His Royal Highness, till His leaving  
returned some time to America, where it went off,  
in a severe Fever — I may add that we lost  
some of the strongest Men in the Ship, who Died  
in the W. Indies from the same cause.

You will plainly see from what  
I have related that I cannot recommend it for  
His Royal Highness to return where He has suffered  
so materially; and that if He does go, His stay  
should be as short as possible — He has been  
hitherto so fortunate as to have but little appearance  
of Bile,



yet I can venture to pronounce that any long  
stay in a Hot Climate, must undoubtedly  
produce it in His Constitution.

I am with great Respect,  
Sir,

Your very Obedient,  
Very Humble Servant

J. G. Gage

J. G. Gage  
Feb 13. 1700

Letter to Cap<sup>l</sup>. Ephraim  
Stone on the state  
of Princes between health

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> G. M. Ephraimston