

44873-4

The Duke of Clarence
26th July 1790

Perbay
of
Salant:
July 25th 1790.

Sir,

I have thus long deferred having
the honour of addressing Your Majesty, as the situation
liberty of the Salant has not afforded matter worthy
of Your Majesty's perusal. It would be ridiculous in
me to give an account of the fleet as Your Majesty must
receive the most authentic particulars from the com-
mander in chief: indeed the Salant has liberty
so entirely occupied my time that I could not. I am
at present satisfied and feeling prepared wait unai-

...ously for the arrival of Lord Howe. Admiral Barring-
ton ordered the fleet to cruise without regard to form:
but to perfect the men with the guns and sails: he has
now reported us fit for service: on board the Valiant, I
kept every body employed from five in the morning
till nine at night: I should have been remarkably well
served if I had ^{not} received a draft from the Sloop of
six and thirty men more properly to be called on to this
captaining the gunners and quarter masters. I have not a
man in the ship either as old as myself or has been as
long at sea: another extraordinary circumstance is that
none of the names have yet had the honor of serving
Your Majesty: the Landsmen are composed of volun-
teers raised at Richmond, Richampton, and in some
-wall: certainly I cannot say so much of the attention
of the Officers: but if the men had not of themselves

been well inclined, no discipline in this short time could
have effected the good order we are now in: at present they
are very healthy: they have been very sickly: but by work-
ing their health is re-established and I only lost one
man: as I expect three and thirty more from the Fort,
upon their arrival I shall need and then be very
well manned indeed: it is a very great satisfaction
we through the whole fleet the good humour and hap-
piness of the men: I must bid you. I trust think
as you should be declar'd that the fleet will prove their
attachment and fidelity and that among the number
the Talbot will do her duty: she is a charming ship
and I am more and more pleas'd with her and every
body on board of her: I am afraid I have trespass'd
too much on your Majesty's time.

44874

I refrain saying any thing of your Majesty's health
as by all accounts I hear of you. Majesty's perfect
engagement of spirits which is the strangest evincen-
-ce of what I together with all my fellow subjects
so ardently wish.

I beg leave to assure your Majesty
that I am,

Sir,

Your Majesty's most affectionate
and most dutiful M^{ost} and S^{ervant}

