

Barfleur off Monti Christi Dec<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1782

My dear General

As I am about to send the Alarm frigate to Jamaica to complete her water & provisions, I give you a few lines by her, in order to take the conveyance of the first Paquet from that Island, and the papers I herewith trouble you, will inform you of the measures I have taken for intercepting the enemy God grant they may be productive of success to the Arms of His Majesty! It is with infinite pleasure I can assure you, that Prince William enjoys most perfect health, and keeps a keen look out, for the French & Spanish Squadrons; His Royal Highness writes by this opportunity, and will I am perswaded give, from under His hand

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a very pleasing account of himself

I have desired His Royal Highness will not attempt to go aloft, it is indeed quite unnecessary and in order to give strength to his arm, and shoulder, He bathes two mornings out of three, though He feels no ill effects from the accident, but I think cold bathing must be of service, and it can do no harm at least, unless practiced to excess. We have been informed by a Spanish Cartel from Cowes, which carried the Providence Garrison to England, that the Kings fleet, under the command of Lord Viscount Howe, has defeated the combined one, without the straits month, and taken and destroyed Twelve capital Ships; I joy much joy to you on this glorious occasion, it is  
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the greater to me, as I trust my brother had his full share of the honor.

Our informant said, The Santissima Trinidad with Don Cordova on board, was lost, and every soul perished, in attempting her safety by flight; may all the Kings enemies be so panic struck by the Terror of His majestys Arms!

I am my dear General, with great truth & esteem

your very affectionate and  
faithfull humble Servant

Hoody

P.S. The Captain of the London, appears to me to have been mistaken, in yawing the ship, to fire a few guns; he must otherwise have taken the Scipion, before sunset.