

Rear Admiral Digby.  
New York, 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1782.

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Sir

I have receiv'd your Majesty's  
commands, in your letter of the 6.<sup>th</sup>  
of Aug; to place his M: H: with L: Hood,  
who is luckily still here and will, I make  
no doubt pay every attention, to Prince  
William possible; but I doubt whether  
his Lordship wou'd willingly pay quite  
so much attention to my instructions  
if he could separate them from those  
of your Majesty's as he w<sup>d</sup> have done  
before the great & merited credit he has  
got, particularly as we have differ'd  
in opinion about a matter too com-  
-mon to differ about (I mean Prize mo-  
-ney) But I have the greatest opinion of his  
abilities as an Officer and I think him a  
very amiable man in private life and  
very much attach'd to your Majesty—  
As I have wrote fully to Gen: Bude, it  
remains only to inform yr: Majesty

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that, upon considering Mr. Majendie's situation with Prince William, in every respect, I think it as well he should separate from his M. H. as now as that he should attend him to the West Indies, which quite corresponds with Mr. Majendie's Idea's but I should have judged Mr. Waddington might have been of some use a few months longer. However, I thought it much better to yield to Lord Hood's great aversion to receive him, particularly as I believe his Captain is a clever Mathematician. But I have positively insisted, (the much contrary to Lord Hood's inclination) upon Captain Rapier's attending his M. H. as I think it of great consequence that some person should be known to him, for some time at least, that had known him before, and I could not think of any Lieut. fit for the charge whose views of immediate preferment would not have made it difficult to reward him. Captain Rapier is out of employ, having been lately taken by a French Frigate, is a man of Family, a steady firm man and a man of honor, has lived much in my Family and is the fittest person I

know at present to attend Prince William and is not unpleasant to him, notwithstanding he will not give way too much. This I hope your Majesty will approve and can assure you Sir, I have no motive but his M. H.'s well doing, and nothing but my firm opinion that this step was of consequence to it, (particularly as your Majesty seems to intend he should return to me) would have made me take it, as I think it of no small consequence that Lord Hood should be satisfied, and I flatter myself a little, that when Captain Rapier is better known to him, he will be of my opinion. Tho' I must own I rather think he will not rest till he gets him removed, your Majesty may therefore think it prudent to anticipate his desire in which case I have only to hope that your Majesty will order Captain Rapier to be promoted to the Rank of a Post Captain, otherwise it might fix a stigma upon his character in the service as long as he lives. I have made no provision for Capt. Rapier being paid, but as he was appointed a Master & Commander I think that the natural provision whilst he remains at his M. H. I cannot conclude my letter without repeating to your Majesty how much I am oblig'd to Mr.

Majorandie for his unalterable attention  
as your Majesty will soon see him I shall  
leave it to him to represent his R. H. little  
Fables & dangers and indulge myself in  
assuring you, Sir, that He is at present a  
very fine young man, Fond of his Pro-  
fession to a degree and with more know-  
ledge in it than most Officers in the  
Service, of a Temper to make an Exce-  
lent Officer, and spirits to go thro any thing  
yet perfectly ready to comply w<sup>th</sup> any  
rules or advice I have ever given him  
tho in many instances not so prudent as  
I could wish; But I should be ungratefull  
I did not feel great obligation and affection  
for his R. Highness for his very constant atten-  
tion to me. I must still perhaps a little  
linger upon your Majesty's time in order to  
recommmend to your Majesty's favor, Captain  
Elphinston who will be the Bearer of my  
dispatches and with whom (as I have men-  
tioned in former letters) I thought proper to  
entrust Prince William, of which I have  
no reason to repent. Had I receiv'd no  
instructions from your Majesty relative  
to his Royal Highness before the winter set.

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in, I proposd to have sent him again under  
his care, and was fitting L'Aigle the Warwick  
Prize for that purpose and had appointed  
Captain Elphinston to her, intending  
that after cruizing some time with another  
-er Frigate. & a Sloop under his Command  
He shou'd have gone to the West Indies to  
water & refresh and to have return'd  
in April and if it shou'd be thought  
hereafter that it wou'd be an advantage  
to his Royal Highness to serve in a  
Frigate I know no Captain I shou'd so  
readily entrust with that Charge, Have  
therefore both in manning and app-  
ointing this Frigate, look'd forward  
to Captain Elphinston's returning to  
her. But Events of some kind or other  
may probably produce other views

I am Sir  
Your Majesty's  
Faithfull & very  
Dutyfull Servant  
J. P. Fitzby

