

H.M. to L^d North

3362

Queens House May 07 1779.

Having last Night acquainted my third son that I intend to
send him under the direction of Rear Admiral Digby to
sea, I take this method of letting ~~you~~ know it, as from
the regard I have always had for him I do not chuse he
should hear anything that relates to my family but from
myself; all the sea Officers I have ever consulted as to
the proper age of sending young people to sea have
concurred in the opinion that fourteen is as late as ~~so~~
early a profession can be embraced with the smallest
chance of success, he wants but three months of that
age. The boy has behaved with that spirit on this
occasion that makes me flatter myself he will turn
out well, and I should be ashamed to place my sons
in any line where they did not most correctly perform
all the duties of the Station.

[Faint, illegible handwritten text in cursive script, likely a letter or document fragment.]