

Barbours Carlisle Bay Barbadoes  
May 26<sup>th</sup> 1781

My dear General

When I left St. Eustatius I flattered myself every thing  
was settled & arranged so perfectly to the satisfaction  
of His Majesty's two Corps, that all would have  
gone quite smooth & pleasant, but alas how apt  
are we to deceive ourselves! I was prevailed  
upon contrary to my inclinations, by application  
in the name of General Vaughan & Sir George Rodney  
to give them as they were pleased to express, my  
kind advice and assistance, towards settling the  
business of our great conquest; and though I had  
excused myself to Sir George, and desired to be  
looked upon as a subaltern only, yet upon  
receiving the letter above alluded to, I thought  
myself bound to go on shore, and did my best  
in

in making an arrangement, in conjunction with  
the two Commanders in Chief, the Quarter Master  
Adjutant & Commissary Generals, and other officers  
of the Army & Navy; and after matters were adjusted  
and reduced to some System for proceeding to  
Business; Captain Young of the Sandwich produced  
a paper, on the part of a M<sup>r</sup>. Akers, of the Island of  
St. Kitts, claiming a debt of near 30,000 from  
several people at St. Eustatius - This surprised  
every one, and after silence had been observed  
some time, I said to M<sup>r</sup>. Akers, that I was extremely  
concerned to find any British Subject so very  
unfortunately circumstanced, as I conceived it  
was not in the power of the Commanders in Chief  
to give him relief, but if any gentleman thought  
otherwise, I entreated he would speak. Everyone  
present concurred in that opinion; and I in  
George

George Rodney immediately retired to another room  
and sent for me; upon my going to him, he was  
pleas'd to address me thus; Sir Samuel, this is a  
very extraordinary demand Mr. Bakers has made  
he must by no means, have anything to do, with  
our concerns here; I shall send on shore my  
Captain & Secretary, shall be oblig'd if you  
will send your Captain & Secretary also, that you  
will assemble the Captains of the Fleet, explain  
things to them, and desire they will chuse two  
from amongst themselves, to act with our Captains  
and Secretaries, and such officers as General  
Vanphan shall appoint on the part of the Army  
by which all things will go smoothly on, which I  
know is your wish, equally as much as mine  
I accordingly assembled the Captains; when they  
most

most unanimously acceded to Sir George Rodney's propositions, and signed an agreement, on the part of themselves officers & ships Companies, to appoint the six persons I have named to take Cognizance of every thing, and to act as their agents with such persons, as General Vaughan should be pleased to appoint

After this there was every reason to hope, that nothing could arise to break in upon so just & equitable a plan; but I am sorry to say, in a very few days after I sailed; every thing was oversett, by a fresh power of Agency, signed by the two Commanders in Chief, derogatory to the Act of Parliament, and to the exclusion of the Navy Gentlemen, except Captain Young / Sir George ~~Captain~~ / and appointing as a principal agent

M<sup>r</sup>.

Mr. Skers, the very man Sir George Rodney had pointed out to his Captains, as a very improper person to be trusted; and he has been the receiver of the money at the sales, and suffered whole cargoes to be carried off without payment, making himself responsible for the money

This threw things into great confusion, the orders given one day were contradicted the next, by which, they were doing & undoing, without getting forward, and was three months about, in a very confused, and irregular manner, <sup>what</sup> might have been executed in an effectual & perfectly satisfactory manner to each Corps, had the first plan been strictly adhered to, and at this hour things remain in a very puzzled state.

However it affords me very great satisfaction that though the Naval gentlemen were reduced  
to

to so humiliating a situation, they were determined  
not to impede. was I <sup>to</sup> tell you one half of what  
has come to my knowledge, as facts, not to be  
contradicted, you would be astonished, and I  
shall certainly astonish you, if ever I have the  
honor & happiness of seeing you again

But I must intreat you will not infer from what  
I have said, that there is the least disagreement,  
between the Army & Navy, the contrary is the truth  
for the former have eagerly looked up to the  
latter as their best friends & guardians; one Reg<sup>t</sup>  
was sent off the Island, because the officers had  
talked a little peevy that way, & manifested their  
approbation of the integrity & upright behaviour  
of the officers of the Navy, and another Reg<sup>t</sup> brought  
from St. Kitts, which had no concern in the capture

By

by which stores were broken open & plundered in a most extraordinary manner, every night, a Captain three Subalterns, and the whole of the Guard were detected in stealing goods to a very great amount; and the Officers were put under an arrest, but bribed the Centinels and decamped from the Island.

What I have taken the liberty to state, is the naked Truth, and as I am informed, there are not Twenty Army officers concerned in the capture, but what feel themselves injured, by the Navy officers being excluded, taking that Cognizance of things they were fully authorized to do, by those, & those only, to whom the Act of Parliament gives the power of appointing Agents; and it is pretty clear to my mind, that both the General & Admiral are conscious of having stretched their powers

and

and thereby drawn themselves into more difficulties  
than they were aware of

I have not opened my Lips to either of the Commanders  
in Chief, upon the <sup>except</sup> S<sup>t</sup>. Eustatius business, upon our  
arrival here, <sup>when</sup> Sir George Rodney proposed the making  
a Division of the money brought from S<sup>t</sup>. Eustatius  
I said it would be a good thing, provided a full  
proportion of it was given amongst the Soldiers &  
Seamen; but it seems it is now put on shore  
at Barbadoes; though I know not in whose Charge  
or care, nor do I find, any one knows the Sum.  
I am well perswaded the capture will not turn  
out nearly one half of what General Vaughan  
told the Secretary of State in the letter published  
in the Gazette, but it certainly might have been  
abundantly more, with proper & regular management



I feel vastly comfortable, at my being absent from  
S<sup>r</sup>. Eustatius, while these matters were in hand.  
and it is generally understood that the stings  
of conscience hurried Cap<sup>t</sup>. Young out of the world  
for so soon as he died. Things were altered,  
and the two Commanders in Chief, after the great  
mischief was done, desired they might revert  
to the first mode settled, and Sir George Rodney  
has given it under his hand, that he put his  
name, to the power of Agency, with Gen<sup>l</sup>. Vaughan  
inadvertently, and without knowing the purport  
of it, what inconsistent conduct! but strange as  
it may appear it is no less true, that Cap<sup>t</sup>. Young  
had some how or other, got such an ascendancy  
over

over Sir George, that he could get his name to  
any paper he had a mind to carry to him.

On our anchoring here Sir George Rodney made  
Admiral Drake's and my signal, with the signal  
for all the Captains, to come on board the Sandwich  
when he read the Kings Sign manual wherein  
His Majesty has been most graciously pleased  
to relinquish His right to the Booty of St. Eustatius  
to His Land & Sea forces, employed upon that  
Service, and afterwards desired they would  
attend the next morning on board the Barfleur  
to consider propositions I should then shew them,  
which propositions he then gave, and when  
of some of the Captains, I asked in the presence of Admiral Drake, an  
explanation of them; he said they were not

sent

sent to him, but to General Vaughan, and upon  
my saying it was necessary I should be able to say  
from whom & whence they came; he took up his  
Belt, and went out of the ship. Herewith I have  
the honor to send you a copy of above mentioned  
propositions, which I communicated to the Captains  
as also, a copy of my letter to Sir George Rodney  
with the full approbation & consent of the whole  
and I can with the greatest truth assure you  
my dear General, that there is not an officer  
in the Kings Fleet, but what most humbly &  
cheerfully submits to His Majesty's pleasure  
It is lucky for Capt. Young he is no more, for had  
he lived he must have been despised by all  
mankind, as a sordid mean, unprincipled  
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man, and to him, and his influence has  
been owing every thing irregular, & improper  
that has happened.

I have the honor to be  
my dear General  
Your most faithfull and  
Obliged humble servant

Wm. Byrd

Duplicate

Battle of Carlisle Bay Barbadoes

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General Vaughan, and upon my saying it was  
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out of the ship, herewith I have the honor to send you  
a copy of the above mentioned propositions, which I  
communicated to Mr Drake & the Captains, as also,  
a copy of my letter to Sir George Rodney, with the full  
approbation & consent of the whole; and I can with  
the greatest truth assure you, my dear General  
that there is not an officer in the Kings Fleet, that  
does not most humbly & cheerfully submit to His  
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J. M. H. Brody