

15th Street, Gustavus Road August 2 1751

My dear General

I had the pleasure and satisfaction of unbosoming
myself to you, in several letters lately, my last was
put on board a Paquet, at Antigua, but finding her
again here, gives me an opportunity of acknowledging
the very friendly letter you did me the honor to
write me the 9th of May, brought by the Fortance
The repeated kind Tokens of your remembrance
you have the goodness to give me, are very flattering
indeed! and every expression tending to shew that I
have the honor & happiness of standing fair in the
good opinion of my most gracious Sovereign
makes my heart bound with Joy, for there is nothing
I so much pant after in this world as opportunities
of proving myself worthy of His Royal notice, by
courage and good conduct, against His Majesty's
Enemies. I trust I have taken effectual care to procure
the wine you wish for, for His Royal Highness
Prince Frederick; and hope I shall be soon able

to

to tell you, that it is on board the Barfleur.

I left St. Johns road on the 26th of last month, with part of my Squadron for Montserrat to compleat our water, sending the remainder to St. Kitts for the same purpose - at that time my orders were, to go as far to Leeward, as Cape Teberoon, with the Jamaica Trade, and then make the best of my way to America. On the 29th I anchored in Bapeterre road St. Kitts seeing Sir George Rodney & Rear Admiral Drake there upon waiting upon Sir George. I was told, that La Motte Piquet, was arrived at Martinique, with six sail of the Line, and a pretty large Convoy. This occasioned Sir George to take two of my Squadron away to go with Mr. Drake to St. Lucia - I staid but a few hours at Bapeterre, and proceeded here; next morning Sir George Rodney followed me, and I found a total change had taken place - That Rear Admiral Drake was about to sail immediately with six sail, & that

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the Sandwich, Torbay, & Prince William were to have the
Charge of the Jamaica Convoy. This reduced my Squadron
to nine. A Frigate was immediately sent to reconnoitre
Fort Royal Bay & St. Piers, upon receiving the Intelligence
with respect to La Motte Pignat's arrival; I was therefore
very solicitous for her return before the Jamaica
Convoy, or Mr Drake proceeded, but could not prevail.
The Jamaica Ships sailed by here the 31st. ult^o. and
at the same time Mr. Drake sailed for St. Lucia. In
the afternoon of the 31st. I received a message from Sir
George Rodney, that he wished to see me, and upon my
going on board, he relinquished the command of
His Majesty's Fleet into my hands, saying he would
do no more business of any sort, and return to England.

The same evening a little vessel arrived from
St. Lucia, with an account from the Senior Captain
there, that two Frigates & two Cruisers with a Convoy
from Marseilles, were arrived at Fort Royal and

J^h.

S^t. Piers, which were the ships, that gave rise to the report, brought Sir George Rodney, of six sail of the Line under La Motte Piquet — at the same time another report was brought from Santa Cruz, which appeared to be well founded; that a French frigate was arrived at Cape Francois, with thirty Pilots for the Chesapeake & Delaware, which with a number of American vessels collected there, & waiting convoy to the number sixty, made it looked upon as certain that the French Fleet under De Grasse which was hourly expected at the Cape from Martinique / would proceed immediately to America — Sir George then advised me, to call the ships from S^t. Lucia as soon as possible, and wait their junction with me. How very unfortunate, they should be sent away, as no one ill consequence could have arisen from their being detained here, three or four days! how much may depend upon my getting to the Coast of America before the Enemy, which I shall labour to do; and to that end, have ordered M^r. Drake

to

to join me off St. John's Road Antigua, to which
place I shall proceed in an hour, as being to
windward, and a fairer situation for a quick
passage to America, than from hence, and I shall
hold the Squadron in readiness to get under sail
the moment Mr. Drake appears in sight.

The Business of America seems at the present moment
to be critical, I shall therefore take with me every
Ship I can, and reckon upon 14 of the Line

I have already dispatch'd a frigate to the Commanding
Admiral ~~upon that station~~; I would to god my
Friend Digby may be the man for many reasons /
to say, I am coming, that I shall first look into
the Chesapeake, afterwards proceed to the Capes of
the Delaware, and from thence to New York,
if I receive no intelligence to occasion a
deviation from my present intentions.

Sir George Rodney sailed yesterday in the Gibraltar
with the Triumph, Panther, Boreas frigate, & two
Bombes

Bombs; having under their convoy 200 sail
of merchant ships: God send the whole
may arrive safe, and that I may be able
to fill a page of good news to you before
I quit the Coast of America.

The Bonfleur is now under sail, I can
therefore add most unfeigned assurances
of being, with real truth & esteem

My dear General

Your ever faithful
& obliged humble servant

Saml. Hoop

Mr. Stillenbeck
is & behaves most exceedingly
well, and I believe he is
perfectly satisfied with his
situation

The Intelligence from Santa Cruz says further
that seven sail of Spanish men of war, were
arrived at the Cape from Pensacola, which
place had been taken by storm with great
loss - That the Spaniards afterwards attempted
Augustine but could not get their ships
over the Bar.