

My dear General

Barbours Haven Island Sept^r 25th 1781

I most sincerely congratulate you on the arrival of the Prince George, Canada & Lion at this Post yesterday afternoon. I had the honor of paying my compliments to His Royal Highness's Prince William & his good Admiral this forenoon, and the happiness of finding both in perfect health - The wind is adverse to their coming over the Bar, which I am extremely sorry for.

The French have now thirty six sail of the Line seen in, and at the mouth of the Chesapeake, the Squadron of De Barras got there, subsequently

to

to the 5th. Something must be attempted as soon as possible, or Lord Cornwallis, and his brave Troops, must fall. Desperate cases require bold remedies. I attended a summons from Sir Henry Clinton yesterday to a council of Generals & Admirals, and very openly & candidly gave my sentiments after hearing what Sir Henry had stated, respecting the critical situation of Lord Cornwallis, upon the only plan, that appeared to me of any use to be attempted.

Six thousand Troops are to be embarked in His Majesty's Squadron, with which, a trial of Skill, must be made to force a passage
through

through the enemy. Directly to York, or to land
Sir Henry Clinton & his gallant Army, in
James River. I have strongly recommended
some Frigates to be prepared, with which
I think we shall be able to arrange, &
throw the enemy's Line into some confusion
and we must then catch the critical moment,
to avail ourselves of it. But I have no
opinion of the ability of our commanding
officer, he may be a very good Theoretical
man, but I am sure he is not a good
practical one, his conduct on the 5th
most clearly proved to me, that he is
unequal to the command & management
of

Of a great Squadron in Battle.

would to God Admiral Digby had been here, when I arrived, had Mr Graves gone!

I write to you my dear General, without disguise in every respect; and I will do so again, by the lively Post, which I understand is to follow the Paquet, in two or three days.

I have the Honor to be my dear General with great regard & esteem

Your most Faithfull
& obedient humble servant

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I can with truth assure
you Mr Majandie is well
I think I never saw him
look better —

J. M. Hardy