

Secret Bosphorus at Sea Oct. 31. 1781

My dear Admiral Digby

As a vast deal may probably depend on my going from this coast, as strong as possible, and if I can but get away before De Grape leaves the Chesapeake, I shall have a good prospect of intercepting, whatever part of his fleet, he may take, or detach to Martinique, by cruising a short time to the eastward, & in the Gulf of Descada.

And to prove I have no view of reaping any kind of emolument from the Ships of your Squadron, or depriving you of any, and that my only motive for wishing all your Line of Battle Ships to accompany me to the West Indies, — during the winter months, is the good of our Royal Masters Service — I am ready to sign articles equally to share in prize money with you

from

from the day I leave the coast of New York, untill  
the first of next April, or untill the ships of your  
Squadron, return, & make, some part of the  
Coast of North America in the Spring, as you may  
most approve. I think it right in me to make  
this proposition, and it rests with you to  
accept or reject it, and if what I suggest meets  
your approbation, will it not be right to give out  
that your Squadron, is going to cruise off  
Rhode Island?

I am ever with great regard & esteem  
my dear Admiral Digby's

most sincere and  
faithfull humble servant

Copy

Jas. Roddy