

My dear General

April 3^d.

Three of Admiral Graves Division having crippled
their masts, all are called in - which I very much
rejoice at, and hope we shall all be in excellent
order for service before De Grasse quits the Royal
what Sir George Rodney's plan is, I do not know,
but from what I hear from those, who have the
goodness to call upon me, for I have been confined
to my cabin for some days, but am getting better,
he seems undetermined what to do - He told Mr
Grave yesterday, he would go to windward,
and others almost in the same hour, that he would
push to Jamaica directly - well but Sir, says one
of his Captains - suppose De Grape should think
think the force already in the neighbourhood of
of Jamaica, equal to the conquest of the Island
assisted by a body of troops he may send, and
remains

remains at Fort Royal in force, what will become
of all these Islands? His answer was, in his accustomed
manner, Oh Damn these Islands, Jamaica is ten times
of more consequence, than all of them put together -
his talking is to be sure, extravagant & extraordinary,
in a great degree but without much meaning.
What appears to me, most advisable to be done
in the present untoward situation of things, is,
to send away the Reg^t. &c. to Jamaica, (and I wish
they had been sent the moment they came here)
with five sail of the Line, in addition to the Princess
Caroline - go with the rest off Fort Royal at the
same time, offer the enemy battle, and block them up,
if they do not feel sufficiently bold to come out
Sir George calls the force there, 36 of the Line, but
I reckon upon no more than 33. - But admitting
it to be 36 - I should be happy to meet the noble
Count; with a Line of Battle of 33, had I the honor
of

of commanding. I have had daily apologies from Sir George, for his not being able, to make me a visit on board the Barfleur, says he will come the first leisure half hour he has - and when he does, I will openly and candidly, express my Ideas to him, if he gives me an opportunity.

Sir George Rodney has been with me above two hours, and has this moment left me; I never found him more rational, and never was more pleased with him, respecting his future intentions and if he does not depart, from what he seems perfectly satisfied is right & proper to be done under our present circumstances; he will soon be off Port Royal, with 33 or 34 of the Line, and dispatch the rest at the same time to Jamaica as convoy to the Reg^t. Storeships, Victuallers & Trade bound to that Island; he proposes to send either the Zebra or Alert to England immediately

Ever & most affectionately yours

J. M. B. W.