

My dear Sir

Bastour at Sea May 3^d 1782

Private

By the Licorne on the 3^d instant, I had the honor of receiving your obliging letter of the 29th of last month and was happy to hear by Cap^t Cadogan, that he saw you safe anchored in Port Royal, soon after he left you.

The Petron & Ulysses joined me that night and next morning I dispatched both, with the Belligeneuse, under the command of Cap^t Cadogan to reconnoiter Cape Francois: and from a desire of having a clear & certain account of the number & force of the enemy there; I have ordered my schooner with him, and desired he would send her in, with prisoners to be exchanged for English ones; and gave him a letter for Vaudreuil the commander in chief.

By this conveyance I shall have the honor of sending you a copy of my letter to the French Admiral, and of my order to Cap^t Cadogan, which I hope you will approve. I have ordered the

Sir G. Rodney Bart. Lt. Col. &c.

Prince

Prince William to cruise between Cape Taberoun, and the
Isle A Vache, and will follow her by a frigate or
two, the moment any join me

I hope & trust Capt^m Rodney will be in no
danger, as I think the French Cruizers, will be very
cautious how they chace far to leeward, but most
certainly the reconnoitering Cape Francois is a
hazardous service for a small frigate singly

All thoughts of an attack upon Jamaica,
must I think now be at an end; it therefore
becomes necessary, other quarters should have
your attention: May not part of the French ships
and troops, return to the windward Islands, knowing
as they must, that we have no force there to
resist, any attempt they may make? And if the
Spaniards have left the Cape, (as is said) and are
gone with all their troops to Augustine; should not
a Squadron follow them, of such force, as may be
judged fully equal, not only for that service

but

but for intercepting any Squadron, the french may
send from the Cape, with their Trade, as they may
probably meet? It is reasonable to suppose a
very considerable number of the french ships must
go to Europe to be made serviceable, as there cannot
be the means of effectually repairing them, in this
Country: And admitting the Spaniards are certainly
gone from the Cape, I am perswaded the french
can be in no condition to attack Jamaica; the
continuance therefore at sea, under these circumstances
of so great a part of your fleet, while the enemy's
Ships are refitting, appears to me of no real use,
and that it would be abundantly more advisable
that everyone of your ships, should be put, as
soon as possible, ^{without interfering with one another} in a state for performing any distant
Service; as you may find yourself very greatly
distressed, by having that work to do, so absolutely
necessary, after the enemy move off; and as you
are acquainted with the wants of every ship, respecting
masts, yards, & sails, and can have water ready
for

for them, as I am told Post Royal abounds in small ^{ships}
that are laying idle, your fleet need not be in
Harbour many days, before it may be ready for
any services whatever

I trust you will forgive the liberty I take in suggesting
my thoughts, and that you will do me the justice
to believe (which is really & truly the case) that I am
led to do it, solely, from my Zeal & Love for my King
& country, and from my ardent wishes for your
prosperity & honor.

I am my dear Sir

most faithfully yours

Wm. Hoody