

Burthen Port Royal June 10th 1782

My dear General

Ten thousand thanks for your affectionate letter by the April Packet, which afforded me the most heart felt pleasure and satisfaction, as you most obligingly assured me, that our gracious master was pleased to approve my conduct nothing could be more flattering to me, for to be thought well of by His Majesty, is my highest ambition - Sir George Rodney, declining all kind of business from want of Health, has thrown a weight indeed upon my shoulders, as not only the refitting the fleet, but every thing belonging to it, is under my direction, the Rear-Admirals Knowley & Graves being at sea. This you must imagine employs every moment of my time. I am in the dock yard every morning, at dawn of day, and tarry some hours, and return
again

again after dinner - The Task is arduous in
the extreme, for scarce a single ship, had a lower
mast or bowsprit, but what was so wounded
as to require to be taken out, or fished as it stood
However I have the satisfaction to tell you all
are now in their places, and that every ship
will be ready for sea in ten days, in perfect
good order. The artificers have exerted themselves
nobly, and I believe more work was never done
in the time in any yard in England

This comes by the unicorn, which I dispatch with
a letter from the Admiral Knowley to Sir George
Rodney, giving an account, that a fleet of
merchant ships consisting of upwards of 100 sail
under convoy of eight ships of the line, left Cape
Francis on the 3^d Instant bound to Europe

God

God grant she may be in time to cause
the enemy to be intercepted!

I can now only add I but will write you
again soon by the Paquet / that I have had
the honor of receiving a most polite letter
indeed! from Lord Keppel, upon ~~the~~ His
Majesty being graciously pleased to place
him at the head of the Admiralty

I am my dear General
with great truth & affection

Your most faithful
and obedient

Jam: Roob

Barbours Port Royal Jamaica June 11th 1782

My dear General

I snatched a moment yesterday, (and I do the same now) to thank you for your affectionate letter by the April Packet, which afforded me pleasure not to be expressed, as it assured me, that our royal and most gracious master, was pleased to approve my conduct, for there is nothing I so ardently pant after, and am so ambitious of, as the high and distinguished honor, of being thought well of, by His Majesty.

Sir George Rodney has declined all business, finding his health unequal to the fatigue of refitting the Kings fleet &c. the whole weight therefore is thrown upon me, which is heavy and arduous in the extreme! for there was scarce a ship, but had her lower masts & yards & bowsprit, so wounded, as to be obliged to be taken out, or fished as they stood, However I have the satisfaction to say, all are now
in

in their proper places, and I hope & trust every ship
will be ready for sea, in most perfect good order,
in ten days. The artificers of the yard, as well as
those of the fleet, have exerted themselves in a most
wonderfull pleasant and cheerfull manner; I am
regularly in the yard every morning so soon as a
man can see to use a tool, where I tarry some hours,
and return again after dinner, till the day is
fairly closed, and I can venture to say, that more
work was never done in the time by the same
number of men, in any yard in England

A french fleet of merchant Vessels, under convoy
of eight ships of the Line, left Cape Francois for
Europe on the 3^d instant - The intelligence was brought
by the Action on the 9th. which I think right to give
notice of to the Admiralty, and to any Squadron or
Cruisers, we may have at sea near home: God grant
it may arrive in time, for intercepting the Enemy

The

The little vessel this goes by, carries the Duplicate of my
Letter to Mr. Stephens, I sent by the unicorn

I have only time to write more, than just to tell you
that I have received a very polite Letter from
Lord Keppel dated April 6th in which his Lordship
says I will believe, he is sincere & in earnest in
telling, that no endeavour on his part shall be
wanting to make my situation honorable and
pleasant to myself

I am in great haste, but
most affectionately
my dear General

Your very faithful and
obedient humble Servant

John: Boscawen