

Finished June 22

Barbours Fort Royal Jamaica

June 21<sup>st</sup> 1782

My dear General

I had the honor to write you two short letters very lately, one by the Unicorn, the other by the Lion Schooner, the latter carried a duplicate of my letter to the Admiralty, by the former, to make known the sailing of a fleet of merchant ships from Cape Francois on the 3<sup>d</sup>. under convoy of eight ships of the Line. Sir George Rodney still continues on shore and leaves the refitting this Majesty's fleet to me, together with the other Duties of the Port, which has been a most heavy and arduous task indeed! but I thank God, I have pretty well got through it, and hope every ship will be ready for sea in three days from this date an accident to the Invisible in carrying her  
by

By her main mast giving way, has been a great  
clog to us, as we were obliged to make her almost  
an entire new one, which is now in, and she  
will leave her first side out tomorrow; so soon  
as she can be got from the wharf, the Ajax will  
take her place, and the Shrewsbury follows her,  
both must be careened, to have their Leakes stopped  
in order to enable them to proceed to England  
in safety. Sir George having expressed his wishes  
for a dozen sail of the Line to join Rear Admiral  
Rowley, I ordered Rear Admiral Drake to put  
to sea with that number on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

I had a very polite letter from Admiral Sheppel  
by the last packet dated the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, after he  
had taken his place at the head of the Admiralty  
herewith you have a copy of it.

Sir George I think is determined to go home, and  
probably

probably he may soon be relieved, by some old Vice  
Admiral, I reckon upon Sir Robt. Harland, or  
Admiral Pigott, but am perfectly indifferent who it  
is, with respect to myself; and shall not repine  
if I am relieved also; however be that as it  
may, I shall not murmur, but do my best most  
cheerfully, for the glory of my King & Country.

As things have been managed, and man'd, instead  
of being smooth & pleasant, as they might have been  
the Command at the Leeward Islands, must still  
continue, to be laborious, and rather hazardous  
to an Officers Character, unless His Majestys Fleet  
is always superior to that of the Enemy, and for  
this obvious reason, our Islands are in a defenceless  
state, and those of the French strong & regularly  
fortified; besides my mind as well as body has been  
hard worked lately; and having no charge upon  
my head, the task of obeying is no ways difficult

though

though I can never feel indifferent, where the honor  
and credit of our royal master's name, and that of  
my country is not properly attended to.  
word is just brought me that a Paquet, and the  
convoy from England are coming in, I shall therefore  
drop my Pen for the present, though tomorrow is  
fixed for the sailing of the Paquet.

June 22

Though I had no letter by the Paquet, I had  
several very pleasant ones, by the Preston, convoy  
to the Trade, and amongst which one most truly  
joyfull, and highly flattering to me; for to have  
the gracious approbation of our royal and  
best of masters, is what I wish for, & covet, above  
all other things in this life; and if my actions in  
shall have the good fortune, to entitle me, to a  
continuance of it, my highest ambition will be  
most

most fully gratified. I long for the contents  
of the May Packet to Barbadoes, as I trust I shall  
find in them the heart-felt pleasure of another  
of your very kind & cheering letters, written in  
that month; and I begin now daily to expect  
a private, in consequence of what happened on the  
12<sup>th</sup> of April

I most sincerely congratulate you on  
Admiral Boscawen's success, which is a most  
fortunate event

I believe I have mentioned to you, my desire of  
having a compliment sent to Le Marquis de Vadrenil  
by returning Mons<sup>r</sup>. Peroy, his nephew, who was  
captured by Capt<sup>n</sup>. Hood, a very near relation of  
mine on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April in the Mona passage  
he was captain of the Ceres; I made a very  
pointed

pointed request to Sir George by letter upon the subject  
so soon as the circumstance came to my knowledge  
and trusted it would have had weight, but on my  
arrival here I found Mous<sup>r</sup>. Peroy was embarked  
and sailed for Europe; and as Le Marquis de Badreuil  
had been proposing with me, to have his Nephew, with  
him, and I found the Convoy anchored at Bluefields  
I obtained leave to send a small frigate thither in  
hopes of recovering him and succeeded, and having  
sent the same frigate with him to the Cape, I had  
the letter from the Marquis, of which the enclosed  
is a copy. I flatter myself my dear General you  
will think I acted proper; when we can show  
civility & attention even to our enemies, it is my  
opinion we ought to do so; but another very strong  
reason weighed with me; for having an excuse  
for

for sending an able and judicious officer to Cape  
Francois, that we might have the best information  
possible of the state & condition of the enemy's fleet &c

I pitched upon Captain Merrick, very nearly connected  
with my friend Lord Westcote for this service; and I  
trust the clearness of the report, I have had from him  
which I now send you, will shew I did not make  
a wrong choice - Captain Merrick's account proves  
the one, we had before received, respecting the  
strength of the Convoy, which sailed from the Cape on  
the 3<sup>d</sup> to have been very erroneous

I have this moment heard that Admiral Boscawen  
may be hourly expected

I am my dear General, with much truth and

Affection, your very faithful, and  
obedient humble servant

Saml Wood