

My dear General

Burfew Jamaica July 10th 1782

The arrival of the warrior & Flora last evening prevented the Paquet from sailing this morning, as they had on the 5th in the afternoon fallen in with the combined Fleet of France & Spain, just to seaward of the harbour of Cape Francois. but soon after the Proops of many of the Ships could be seen from the warrior's Deck towards Sun set, the weather became squally & thick so that the number of the Line could not be ascertained, and they were not in sight the next morning. However a Privateer belonging to this Island captured a small vessel, which sailed with the combined Fleet in the night, from which he had taken out one man, an American - Sir James Wallace spoke with the privateer on the 6th and took the American from her; who says, The Fleet left the Cape part on the 4th and part on the 5th consisting of 23 sail of the Line thirteen Spanish & ten French; the rest were American vessels under convoy - The Ships of the Line were full of Troops going to America - This man says also, which the master of the vessel corroborates, that a Dispatch

vessel

Vespet had arrived at Cape Francois from Congress and
General Washington, pressing for assistance, and saying, if
it was not immediately sent, to awe & intimidate the
accommodation with England would take place
This intelligence will I hope be the means of a squadron
of His Majesty's ships hastening as fast as possible, to the
Coast of America, superior to that of the enemy. The
Present hour is momentous; much good may arise
from dispatch, and much evil from delay.

Adieu my dear General

Word is this moment brought me that Admiral Boscawen
May is in sight; and near at hand, I have therefore
sent my Captain to congratulate my new Commander
in chief on his safe arrival, not being able to do it in
person. having but one foot, I can put to the ground

My Captain is now returned, with my private letters,
amongst which was the affectionate one you had
the goodness to write me on the 5th of May, which gave
me more pleasure, than words can express, not only

as it convinces me of your friendship and esteem, but of the
good opinion of our most gracious master, which is what
I am more ambitious after, and set a higher value on,
than any other earthly blessing. I have heard nothing from
General Mathews, since I left St. Lucia, whenever I see him
or write to him, I will not be unmindfull of your
Commands - I have received a very affectionate
letter from Admiral Digby, dated the 5th of May, brought
by the Jupiter from the windward Islands, where I find
General O'Hara, with some troops from New York are
arrived - As you doubtless hear frequently from
America, it is unnecessary to say a word of that
most amiable youth, His Royal Highness Prince William
but I cannot forbear observing, that every Tongue
Speaks in raptures of him - It is matter of great
Surprise to me, The Andromache was not arriv'd
before ~~the~~ Admiral sailed, (the 18th of May) I am all anxiety &
impatience to hear how that truly charming and
gallant young nobleman Lord Robert Manners does
and I trust from the knowledge I have of his high
spirit

Spirit, that the loss of his Leg, will not deprive the Navy
of his future services.

I expect the honor of a visit from Admiral Boscawen
every moment - and have a dish of 28 things of the
kind perfectly ready for sea, to put into his hands; and
if anything I can say, either to Sir George or him, can
avail, they shall all be at sea, as fast as the Pilots will
carry them out. Having a few lines to write to

many friends, can only add assurances of being
with most perfect attachment, my Dear General

your most faithful and
affectionate

Wm. Anson