

My dear General

124 years 1000 royal. Zamoraca
Feb 4th 1783, begun
at Sea the latter end of Jan?

I give you many and sincere thanks for your very affectionate Letter of the 26th of June, which was brought me from Barbadoes about a week ago, with above one hundred others, amongst which was a duplicate of one you had the goodness to write me to New York.

From these Letters I was somewhat consoled for my ill luck in not having met with Vaudreuil as I have received but one short letter from any part of my family of a later date than the end of April. I do not yet despair of having an opportunity of paying my respects to the noble Marquis as I know he remained in Boston Harbour on the 19th of last month.

I want words my dear General how much I think myself obliged, for the very kind & salutary advice you had the goodness to give my dear Henry; I thank you again and again, and think I never can do it enough - you have saved
me

me from men, and I am sensible of it. Upon my
arrival at New York, I was accidentally told, that
I had been put in nomination for Westminster
but that my son, had wisely withdrawn my name
as a candidate - I wrote him a few lines of the
fullest approbation, not knowing at that time
how much I stood indebted to your friendship;
if I had, you would ere this have received my
most gratefull acknowledgements, which I now
beg you will be pleased to accept; for now
as I really am, I would sooner have given 500
pounds, than have stood a contest, even had I
been sure of succeeding for a tenth part of the
money - a seat in the House of Commons I have
no Ambition for, and will never offer myself
any where; if there is public spirit enough left
in any corporation in England, to choose me, its
representative from the free will of the electors, well,
if not, I shall be full as well satisfied. Believe
me my dear General, I shall studiously steer clear of
all

all suspicion of being a party man, for if once I shew
myself of that frame of mind, whether for or against
the minister, unbecoming a military servant of our
most gracious master, I from that moment lose all
consideration in the line of my profession, which to me
ever has been, and ever will be the first and greatest
object of my wishes. I revere my King, I have much
affection for my country, and the pride & glory of my
remaining days, will be to assist both, with my feeble
services to the utmost extent of my abilities; I have
vanity enough to think, that I am in some small
degree qualified by a knowledge of my duty, but much
more so from inclination, to fight the battles of my
King and country upon my own elements, but
confess myself totally unfit to fight the battles of
a minister, in either house of parliament, and even
if I had abilities equal to the task, I think it an
employment derogatory to the true character of a
sea officer, whose ambition, is to stand well, with his
sovereign & his country, in his professional line only
There

These are my sentiments, and I hope I shall have
fortitude sufficient to adhere to them; for even had
the voice of the people have carried my election
for Westminister, against all opposition, it would
have distressed me beyond measure, with such
a colleague; besides, the business of so large and
populous a place, would have been more intricate
and troublesome than I could have undertaken, and
have loaded me, with insupportable vexation

I am my dear friend in another strong instance
very highly indebted to your kind advice. I see the
propriety of it, and it will not be thrown away upon
me; but my opinion of the sad finish of the business
of the 12th of April, is well, & fully known to every officer
in the Fleet, and I have the vanity to think, it is by no
means singular, but pretty unanimously concurred in;
That gallant good officer Cap^t. Cornwallis can give
perhaps a better account of the transactions of that day,
than any other Captain, as his situation enabled him
to do so, being near the formidable - There are two
or three persons of whose friendship & attachment

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I have had such proof, that I thought myself bound confidentially to make them master of my sentiments, but still I see as forcibly as you can wish, the wholesomeness of your advice, which I shall in future attend to.

It is with infinite satisfaction I tell you that Prince William is perfectly well, and attends Captain Knight very closely for two hours every forenoon at the mathematics and drawing, and His Royal Highness begins to take delight in both.

The cold bath seems to have been of great service to the Prince's shoulder, in which His Royal Highness, has now no complaint.

I am grieved beyond expression to find, that notwithstanding the sacrifice the King has made by parting with His old faithful servants, cruel desolation still continues, which must sooner or later work our ruin — we have accounts of peace from various quarters; it is an event, I shall have reason to rejoice at with respect to myself, as my slender frame is very much shook, and it is with some difficulty I can keep upon my legs; but whether I shall have reason

to

to rejoice for my poor country, I very much doubt, being
strongly of opinion, formidable as the combination is
against us, we shall I fear never again be in so good
a condition to retrieve the Nations honor, as at this
present moment, nothing is wanting but unanimity
at home, to effect it, and without that all is over
and it matters not whether we have peace or war,
it is one and the same thing, with this only difference
that by peace the evil will be at some what a
greater distance, but equally sure & certain

If it shall please god to prolong my days to
another war, I shall look to the event of it with fear
and trembling, unless by ^{the} interference of divine
Providence, we become an united people —
After a few years peace, we shall have scarce any
Lieutenants, that will know their duty, at this hour
it is bad enough in that respect, then it will be
abundantly worse, as we have so many ignorant
Boys in that character, which from being any time
on shore, will become much more so — and the few
capable officers we now have, will then be part
retire

active service; In the night of the 11th I was joined by the
betoon, one of Rear Admiral Rowley's ships, which I
had stationed to look out for the enemy to the
northward of the Cayes Island, whose commander
informed me, he had on the 8th at noon, seen either
a french or a spanish fleet, steering for the Cayes
passage, having counted fifteen large ships, and
afterwards seen a frigate, with french or spanish colours
hoisted, bear down to two neutral vessels he had
spoken with in the morning - I immediately examined
how the winds had blown between the 8th & 11th and
finding no fleet could fetch Cape Francois, I concluded
the enemy would steer for Cape Nicola mole, or the Bite
of Leogane, and bore up for those places - though I
was pretty confident in my own mind, and told the
betoon's captain so, that the fleet seen was the transports
from Charles Town for Jamaica, but he was so very
positive it was either french or spanish, I was under
the necessity of attending to the information - very luckily
no ill consequence arose from it, as I got back to
windward of the cape on the 18th and found nothing
had arrived while I was away, but an american
frigate

frigate from Europe, which tarried only twelve hours
and then proceeded to the Havana.

I am my dear General, with great regard
and esteem,
Your most faithfully and
affectionate humble servant

J. C.

Hardy

The Fleet reported to me
to be an enemy's, proved the
Transports from Charles Town
under convoy of three frigates
as I suspected —