

My dear General

Basseterre to the eastward of the Island  
Navassa March 20<sup>th</sup> 1783

I had the pleasure of writing you very fully  
by a packet which sailed from Jamaica the  
beginning of this month, which leaves me  
little to say now. I put to sea on the 12<sup>th</sup> having  
seen the greater part of the Squadron out before  
me: on the 17<sup>th</sup> off the east end of the Island I  
received from a ship which sailed from England  
the 14<sup>th</sup> of last month, the preliminary articles of  
peace between Great Britain, France, N<sup>o</sup>. America  
& Spain: and yesterday evening I met with a  
little flag of truce from Cape Francois, having  
on board Brigad<sup>er</sup> General De Rouvray, going  
to Jamaica, to announce the signing of the  
preliminary peace articles, and to make a  
strange proposition for an immediate cessation  
of hostilities in these seas, as the French are  
heartily

heartily tired of having their ships so long pent up  
in their ports, and desirous of setting them at  
liberty to sail with safety, this is a matter beyond  
the power of commanding officers to settle, as  
I conceive they must be bound to a literal observance  
of the preliminary articles - These credentials were  
through mistake addressed to me, by M<sup>r</sup>.  
Bellicombe the governor, as he imagined I was  
the commander in chief at Jamaica. I soon  
set the Marquis the french general right in that  
respect, and redelivered to him M<sup>r</sup>. Bellicombes  
Letter and other original papers, with a letter  
to Rear Admiral Rowley, and ordered the Badger  
Sloop to accompany the Flag of Truce to Jamaica  
and as the Marquis was most miserably accom-  
modated in a very paltry little vessel; The Captain  
of the Badger took him on board under his protection

Prince

Prince William is in the dumps about peace, as his  
heart was sett upon seeing service in this country;  
and probably does not feel for himself alone, but  
thinks a little longer continuance of the war, would  
have been advantageous to great Britain; I dare  
say His Royal Highness is not singular in that Idea,  
but I have most strongly recommended to him  
that whatever his thoughts are, to keep them to  
himself, except in our private conversations  
with respect to myself, peace is an event, I ought  
to rejoice at, not having constitution left for  
much further service, particularly in this climate  
but whether I shall have good reason to rejoice  
at it, on the score of my country, I am not  
without my doubts I understand immense  
preparations were made for an attack upon  
Jamaica Le Marquis De Moussey, says the  
united

united sea force, would have been sixty six or sixty eight  
ships of the line, and 38,000 troops bearing arms —  
notwithstanding all this, I should have been in  
no fear for the Islands safety, as I am confident  
the enemy would not have found it easy, to have  
combined their forces, unless we had gone to sleep.

I did not mean to have taken up so much of your  
time, but whenever I take up my pen to write  
to you, I know not when to lay it down, I will  
however only add now, that I am with unalterable  
respect and esteem

My dear General

Your very affectionate and  
Obedient humble servant

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P.S. Prince William feels uneasy at  
not hearing from home, he has  
received no letter of a later date  
than September —