

3<sup>rd</sup> Saul. Hood

July 15 1778

16146

Sire

In obedience to your Majesty's most gracious  
Comman<sup>ts</sup>, which I had the honor to receive last  
night, I herewith send a list of such Cloaths & other  
necessaries, proper in my humble opinion, for His  
Royal Highness to take on board. It ever has been, and  
ever will be my greatest pride & glory, to put  
forth upon all occasions, my utmost exertions, for the  
honor, and dignity of your Majesty's Crown & Government,  
and I want words to express, the happiness I feel, at  
your Majesty's most gracious approbation of my  
humble Services; I am well aware, how incumbent  
it is upon me, to endeavour to make up by diligence  
and attention, the want of more ability; and since  
your Majesty is ever ready to accept good intentions  
in place of superior merit, your Royal Navy can  
never want active officers.

His Royal Highness is undoubtedly in the best train  
possible, for becoming in Love with the profession, your  
Majesty



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Majesty has done the Navy, the very great honor, of pointing out to him, and I am of opinion he cannot do better, than attend to navigation as much as he can, without neglecting other material instruction, untill your Majesty shall see fitt to embark him.

When Capt<sup>r</sup> Digby is in port, The Dock yard must be amusing, as well as instructive; and your Majesty's House, which I have the honor to profess, is sufficiently large, to allow room for His Royal Highness, and Tutor, where he can without interruption pursue, such studies, as may be judged most proper for him, and His Hours of recreation, may be employ'd to advantage.

I shall not fail to hint to Capt<sup>r</sup> Digby, what I have in command from your Majesty, and endeavour to do it, in the mode & manner, your Majesty has done me the honor to suggest to me.

Your Majesty had never a finer Fleet at Sea, than the one, now under the command of Admiral Keppel, and I can speak from knowledge, not a ship, but is well man'd; I hope there will be a junction of the whole, before the French Fleet is met. The Line is tremendous

& strong, and I am confident under Providence, that France must yield to it. The only difficulty I can apprehend is the want of frigates; There France has a manifest advantage, for taking it for granted: the French Fleet is defeated, their frigates will probably be able to tow the crippled ships off. Had Admiral Keppel with him, a dozen of those stout frigates now in America, or half the number of 30 gun ships, he would I have not a doubt, give a glorious account of the Enemy, and make your Majesty's Harbours, shine triumphant.

The Lyon has been rigged some time, and wants men only to put her to sea in a few days; The Magnificent is rigging, and may also soon be fitt for service when men can be given to her. The repair of the Britannia goes on rapidly; she will be ready to be commissioned in five weeks, and be a good & serviceable ship for ten years.

The very great and distinguished honor, your Majesty has been pleased to do me, by your  
most



most gracious letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> encourages me to  
hope, I shall not appear too presumptive, in flattering  
myself with the additional honor, of receiving  
His Royal Highness, in the Dock yard, when he is  
about to embark. with the purest sentiments  
of gratitude & obedience, I have the honor to  
subscribe myself,

Your Majesty's  
most dutifull Servant

JAMES ARTHUR

Portsmouth  
Dock yard  
July 15<sup>th</sup> 1778

to James Arth.  
July 15. 1778