

R Adm. Robt. Digby

Sep. 12 1779

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Sir

If I had had any doubts of
Your Majesty's confidence in me, Your
Maj. letter of the 4.th of Sept: would have
removed them all, and if I have an
uneasiness left with respect to my very
great charge, it is lest I should, from an
error in judgement misuse that confi-
=dence, which it is my greatest desire to
=merit. As yet I am not sensible of
any alterations, in Prince William's
manners, for y.^t worse, and I have no
apprehension of his morals being cor-
=rupted, but the dangerous time of life

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is not yet come, He seems perfectly sensible of right from wrong and to have a strong bias to the former, and to be pleas'd & thankfull for any little indulgences I have had it in my power to shew him. Since the Fleet has been at Spithead, I have twice taken him out in a boat, and to walk in the Isle of White, which I shou'd have left to Prince William to have given an acc: of to your Maj:; But that yesterday, as we walk'd thro' Newport to Carisbrook Castle, some soldiers knew the Prince, tho' in his jacket & trousers, which on our return, occasion'd a crowd of the inhabitants of Newport to admire him — and the Mayor & Corporation to wait on me, to desire to present him w:th the freedom of the Cor-

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poration, which I immediately w:th civility declin'd; as a President of that kind would have made it impossible to have moved any where with him without great inconvenience, and if I judge right, would have been contrary to your Maj: wishes — But I promis'd to make their Offer & Loyalty known. As our stay in this Port will probably not be long, I don't propose to shew Prince William, either Portsmouth, or the Dock Yard at present — But wish to receive your Maj: instructions on my return, whether I shou'd carry him to the Commanding Off: of the Port & the Governor of Portsmouth —

Your Maj: very faithful
& dutifull Serv:.

Robt. Digby

Prince George
Spithead Sept. 12.
1779

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[Faint, illegible handwritten text in cursive script, likely a letter or document fragment.]

12 Sept. 1779