

H.M.

16259 -60

6  
Pce -  
William

July 10  
1781

Copy

My dear William, You are now going for the first  
time to a foreign station, & consequently for a very con-  
siderable time to a distance from your Parents: I avoid  
taking a long leave, for it would only give us both pain  
& could avail nothing to your advantage: A long con-  
servation of Advice might strike you at the moment,  
but the Levity of Youth would probably by degrees de-  
stroy it's having the full effect that must be of uti-  
lity to you. I have therefore preferred putting down  
my thoughts on paper, & on the cover directing Major  
General de Bude to deliver it to you in the presence  
of Mr Majendie that you may read it before them  
both, which is also the clearest method of your as well  
as Mr Majendie clearly comprehending my Orders, it  
will also be the best method of your from time to  
time refreshing your memory as to my sentiments,  
& enable Mr Majendie more forcibly to convey any  
advice that he may think you require: It would be  
but time thrown away to mention his Zeal for your true  
-ing out to my comfort, to the credit of yourself, & to



the advantage of the Public; for you know my sentiments  
 on that head, & you have expressed yours to me as well.  
 I should not deal with the openness that I feel  
 my duty, did I not express how much I was pleased, the first  
 days of your return, with the Affection & Attention towards  
 me & the Queen that marked every step you took, & how  
 sensibly you talked on the improper conduct of some, who  
 is so dear to all of us; but since that, things have some  
 what changed. It has clearly appeared to both of us,  
 that you have been more desirous of getting out of the Room  
 & perhaps in some degree copying what seemed very  
 properly not to please you, when you first came back  
 to us. Had your stay been longer, I should have men-  
 tioned it, but, as I knew it could last but for few weeks  
 I thought it more advisable to wait if any change arose  
 from Yourself, or, at worst, to put it in this letter be-  
 fore your eyes, as an example how with the best inten-  
 tions evil example is catching. I shall say no more on  
 this subject, but leave it to your own reflections.

Of course you will feel that I expect an im-  
 plicit Obedience to his Directions you will receive from our  
 Admiral Digby, whose Care & Attention to those He has had  
 up are very conspicuous from the success reaped in Lord  
 & Captain Cornwallis: but it is impossible He can

attend to more than your improvements in your Profession  
 & your behaviour while in His presence: & I do therefore  
 therefore I depend for the prosecution of your Studies, for a  
 stilling those sentiments, which may make you a good  
 Christian & a Good Man, which comprehends every quality  
 that will make you happy in Yourself, a comfort to your  
 Family, & a credit to your Country. From Youth it has  
 sometimes dropped from you, as if you thought practical  
 knowledge was the whole expected from you; but you  
 forget that you are a Prince; that it is in the power of  
 Fate whether in futurity you may not be called to  
 the most arduous situation; you must therefore have  
 all the means of doing your Duty, if that event should  
 happen: Besides, if you behave as you ought, I shall  
 naturally wish to advance you in your Profession, & bring  
 you, by degrees, much earlier forward, than any private  
 person can; but that will require on your side not only  
 professional Ability, but a Steadiness & Propriety of conduct.  
 You must be free from Behaviour, from a detense, or fit for any  
 advancing you; or any Reflection would be conspicuous as  
 the expense of my Judgment & even Duty, which, you may  
 depend upon, never shall be the case: Till the World  
 sees you are to be trusted with Command, you shall not  
 have it.

As the Admiral may not always



be enabled to be so much at Sea, as He naturally had wish, &  
as a Port is not a good place for improvement, He has my leave  
to send You at times in Brigates for short Voyages, but never to  
retire Mr Injendie accompanying You: I shou'd not have the  
real Affection I have for You, if I neglected any means of having  
You guided in this perilous World: I trust Your conduct thro  
Mr Injendie will enable him to go through his attendance  
tho You are of an age to have his assistance less necessary,  
but shou'd that not happen, You may depend I shall use  
some other Power to take care of You; for I can't not answer  
it to my own conscience to let You proceed in Your Professions  
but under a conviction that You have the assistance of a Person  
on whose Morals as well as knowledge I can depend, that will  
advancing in one branch, You are not neglecting every  
other, & destroying those Principles, which alone can make  
You a good or useful Member of Society.

You mentioned to me the other day a desire that You  
might be permitted to write to me without communicating  
the draught to any one: I readily give that permission as  
far as relates to Your writing to the Queen or Me; but that  
of Your Brothers, or any other persons Mr Injendie must see  
them; for it is impossible any harm can arise from any  
confidence You may place in Your Parents; but in other per-  
sons the case is quite different: Therefore the same in-  
struction subsists, as did on former occasions, exclusive of the  
exceptions now made.

My dear William