

Rev. Henry H. Mafardie to ? M. Gen. Bude

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Admiral's House New York

March 27<sup>th</sup> 1782

Dear Sir,

I enclose you a line enclosing a Letter from  
Prince William to the Prince of Royal dated 14 Jan<sup>r</sup>  
& another dated 25<sup>th</sup> of same month. They were both  
entrusted into the care of Capt. Douglas of the Navy who  
sailed for England in the Greyhound Packet.

Our mode of life has continued much as when we  
first came to live on shore, except that lately the  
City & its Inhabitants have become more gay. There is  
a Play, a Subscription Concert, & an Assembly every week.  
His Royal Highness has been with Sr H. Clinton &  
the Admiral three or four times to the Play, which is  
performed by Gentlemen of the Army. But as to the  
two other amusements, it is judged better he should not  
partake of them yet, as the Company is a very mixed



Rev. Henry H. Kajiadie to ? M. Gen. Budd

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one of both sexes. He loves very little by not going  
to the Concerts, as he generally hears a very good one  
every Friday night at the Commandant's in Chief's hall  
what with little card parties & music meetings at home,  
he has sufficient amusement & of a nature which  
cannot be prejudicial to him, whereas, if the law were  
to be let loose so as to suffer him to mix promiscuously  
in public meetings, it is difficult to say to what it  
would lead. I am very happy to observe to you that owing  
to his cautious & family plan of life, the winter  
has been spent in a Garrison full of idle & dissipated  
people without His Royal Highness having received  
the least hint whatever, which is the prospect candidly  
more than I expected.

Mentioned in a former letter the desire the Army  
had expressed to draw the Prince into Assemblies &  
Dancing Parties, & the Admiral's prudent conduct respect-  
ing this matter. On Her Majesty's Birth Day, however,  
as a public entertainment was given at Sir H. Clinton's

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& a Ball at night, it would have seemed too rigorous  
& strict had he had been present & had not been  
suffered to dance. The Admiral determined, for fear  
of connections, that he should only dance with married  
Ladies; & upon this resolution he was to have opened the  
Ball with the Officer's Lady of the highest rank in the  
Garrison: but as unluckily there was not one Lady of  
the Army of an Age or Rank fit for the purpose, he  
was obliged to dance with Mr. Douglas lately, married  
to Capt. Douglas of the Navy. He danced with her one  
minute & four Country Dances & with no other persons.  
He acquitted himself highly to the satisfaction of every  
body & behaved with the greatest propriety imaginable.  
Indeed I must say, & say it with infinite pleasure,  
that his general deportment in Public is so becoming  
his Age & Rank, & his Affability & Good Nature so well  
ed, that he seems to have won the hearts of all  
people in this place, & is become extremely popular,  
without purchasing that popularity at an improper price.



This amusements in the morning after 12 Clock were done  
the Winter generally walking, shooting or skating of which  
he is partly fond; and, since the Spring has been come  
on, riding, or driving in a Phaeton. The Admiral by his  
age & indisposition (for he was sometime confined to his  
room) was very seldom able to attend him. I wish he  
had been with him more; but it was impossible. Gen  
Birch, however, is a man extremely attentive to propriety  
implicitly following what the Admiral thinks proper  
& in short a character the Prince may be easily sur-  
-ed with. Add to this that the presence of his old  
officer (now Captain) treats always carries with it a degree  
of prudent restraint. They never go into any house  
whatever, or stop to speak to people in the streets, unless  
they be General Officers, or persons of a certain rank &  
estimation. - From the circumstances I have mention'd  
in this Letter, as well as those in my former. I believe  
His Majesty will be able to form a just idea of His Highness



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Hughes's mode of life in this place.

Some time since in a letter by the Duke (I think) Capt Child, I informed you that our application & regular course of reading had been on the decline. I explained at the same time the causes of it, & the reason why I did not think it prudent to throw all my influence into that scale. Prince William's aversion to Latin, which was always pretty much marked, has become unconquerable; & I have thought it, at his age, better to give up the point, without telling him so, than by persevering with little or no profit, to see him discontented day after day. The violent dislike young people conceive for Latin is generally owing to their having been over-fatigued with it when children. Too much stress is usually laid upon this acquisition, which I think I may venture to say has been the case with His Royal Highness, who soon discovered, after he came to Sea, that this could by no means form the main point in his education, & by a propensity natural to young people, ran into the opposite extreme, & refused to



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give it a moment's attention. As I had long foreseen & ex-  
pected this, I was not surpris'd at it, & comforted myself  
that it could not have happened at a better time. When we  
arriv'd in this Country, therefore, & sat down to pass the Winter  
in New York, I determin'd to employ his mind in a differ-  
ent way. I consider'd that being now on the field of action  
in the War, it did not become him to be ignorant of affairs  
relative to this Country. He is of an age when Curiosity  
is all alive, when the most lasting impressions may be  
giv'n, & when the character & manners of different peo-  
ple strike the observation strongly. I conceived this was  
the season for information, which must open his under-  
standing & lay the foundation for a future knowledge  
of mankind; a knowledge of infinite consequence to  
a young Prince, who must hereafter deal with a variety  
of characters & who should be able to judge for himself.

With this Idea, I set about collecting information relative  
to this Continent, almost as soon as we were settled on shore.  
Mr Elliot (the Lieutenant Governor of this Province) Governour

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him, some of the most respectable Refugees, & the best  
informed People both in the Civil & Military, furnish'd me  
with a great many materials, which, when methodiz'd &  
reduced into a simple & consistent plan, I should hope  
would give His Royal Highness a very full knowledge  
of American affairs, if he will give it the necessary atten-  
tion. The whole will consist of little else but simple details  
on certain subjects, or plain matters of fact. He will have  
it in a book for that purpose, to which he may here-  
after refer as he sees proper. It will perhaps appear diffi-  
cult in this business to avoid Politics & Party matters; but  
I shall make it my business not to touch upon these points  
for very obvious reasons. I hope the King will not disap-  
prove this Plan, which really appears to me the most rational  
& best adapt'd in these circumstances, & which I flatter my-  
self will be attended with success.

Since writing the above, I have had some conver-  
sation with Admiral Digby relative to sending Prince  
William to Sea - I can tell you nothing yet determinately,  
except, that, upon weighing the different characters of all



The Captains serving at this Station, none seemed so proper  
as Captain Montagu of the Pearl, & Captain Elphinstone  
of the Warwick (50 Gun Ship) brother of a Scotch Peer of  
that name. The former is in so bad a state of health  
that it is thought he must go home; so the latter will  
probably be the person. We shall be sent out soon; but  
know no other particulars, because none are yet deter-  
min'd, only that, for more security, there will be two or three  
frigates in company — I tremble for the change that  
will probably make in the Prince's conduct, when re-  
moved from the subordination & influence of the Admirals  
& fear I shall only be witness to improprieties, which  
shall then, unsupported, want influence to prevent  
but I will not anticipate uneasiness — It is absolutely  
necessary he should go to sea; & I must make the best  
of it I can — I shall only detain you a little longer to  
mention that of the sum received from you by His Majesty's  
order for the use of Prince William, there remain now  
but eighty Guineas. Since he left home he has grown so



fact, that it was necessary to have all his Cloathing, except  
Linnen, made a fresh. Every thing is exorbitantly dear in  
this place. Washing, Hair-dressing, (for he has now returned)  
cleaning Cloaths &c &c. make his weekly expences seldom  
less than three Guineas, often more, besides Pocket money.  
His accounts are extremely regular; for he does not spend  
a shilling, that is not set down in a Book for that pur-  
pose; and the sum Received would have lasted him  
a long time, had his life been as it was before we  
came to this Country. But living on shore at New York  
makes a considerable difference. I beg therefore to be  
informed how I am to procure money from time to time  
for His Royal Highness's use. I should imagine the  
best way would be for me to procure Cash from Messrs  
Gordon & Co Bankers & Paymasters for Government in  
this City, by a draught upon such a Banker in London  
as may be thought proper, after having first received  
notice from you of His Majesty's concurrence, & the sum



the King shall think proper. In that case the Bank  
in London will be directed to accept my Draughts for  
such Sum, or Sums as shall have been determined,  
& of which I will advise you by the first opportunity.  
Perhaps a better mode may strike you; for I do not  
much understand these matters.

I have nothing further to add but that His  
Royal Highness continues to enjoy very good health  
& spirits; & purposes to write by this opportunity to  
both Their Majesties.

I am,

Dear Sir,

with great sincerity,

Your obliged,

Very humble Servant

J. Majordie.

Doctor Majordie

March 27. 1702