

Cilbert

W Blane to.

lady⁹ Elizabeth Walgrave

October 20 1782

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Madam

I have been frequently inclin-
ed to testify the gratitude and respect I
owe to your Ladyship, by communicating
such occurrences in the service in which I
have been engaged as might prove entertain-
ing or interesting; but I have been restrai-
ned by the fear of intrusion and of trespas-
sing on your time and patience. I have been
present it is true at several momentous
events

Cilbert

St. Blane to.

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16305

events with which your Ladyship must be acquainted through other channels, but I have lately met with a most pleasing incident which tho' of a publick nature is not so generally known; and as it relates to the Royal Family in whose prosperity & honor I know your Ladyship to be deeply interested and sincerely attached, I make no apology for relating it. I have lately indeed been so charmed with the promising virtues & engaging qualities of His Royal Highness Prince William, that I cannot refrain from communicating the like pleasure to your Ladyship. He remembered me from the expedition to Gibraltar in 1780 and received me with the most flattering attention

attention, but it is not this that influences my opinion, for independent of any partiality to his exalted rank and affable manners, he is deserving of all the panegyric that can possibly be bestowed. His Royal Highness has not only a very uncommon share of good sense, vivacity and affability, joined to a propriety & dignity of manners and conduct suited to his rank, but gives evident tokens of the most amiable disposition and the best understanding. His mind has been cultivated to a high degree by education and as his conversation always turns upon useful subjects, to which his thirst of knowledge & the love of his profession leads him, he is hourly adding to his stock of information. It is impossible but the heart
of

of every good man and loyal subject must
be warmed and touched at the great qualities
and opening virtues which, if it please God,
will make him one day illustrious, and we
already look up to him as the pride and
ornament of our service. I have had the
honor of being frequently in company with
H. R. H. so that I speak from unerring ob-
-servation, and he did me the honor to con-
-verse with me a great deal particularly
relating to our late battles & Victory in the
West Indies. I could not but be delighted
with the publick zeal & manly sense that
appeared in all his questions & remarks, &
as I know well your love and attach-
-ment to the Royal Family I am sure this
will be equally pleasing to your Ladyship
- J

16306

I am in equal favor with Admiral Pigot as with my former friend and patron Lord Rodney, & I live as happily as a rough & busy life will allow me. Admiral Pigot is a good man & a skilful commander & I hope our affairs will prosper equally well in his hands.

I beg leave to assure your Ladyship that I shall ever remember and retain the highest sense of your former attentions and protection with which you were pleased to honor me & remain with the greatest respect

Madam
Formidable
at New-York
20th of October
1782
Your most obliged and
most obed^t humble servant
Gt. Blane

[Faint, illegible handwriting on a piece of paper pasted onto a larger sheet.]