

Copy
Doster Inyendie to
Lord Hood
October 27. 1782

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(Copy)

New York, October 27th
1782.

My Lord,

In consequence of His Majesty's orders
communicated by Major General Bide, & the commu-
cation which passed between us a few days ago, I
have to collect my ideas, & to throw upon Paper all
such information & relations to His Royal Highness's
mode of life, His character, & turn of mind, as may
be serviceable to Your Lordship in discharging the
important trust you have undertaken.

I have been near seven Years since I was placed
about His Person, three years & a half of which I have spent
on board of Ships, since He entered into the Navy in a
manner the most confidential & intimate. The former

By
Dostor Myndie to
Lord Hood
Boston 27. 1702

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period of attendance enabled me to have His disposition
from His early Childhood in the latter made me seeing
to all the arrangements of His Education, whether
then were from Her Highness's express orders, or from
that Dignity's own ideas. Your Lordship will therefore
permit me to speak with some degree of confidence
on a subject with which I am so well acquainted.

His Majesty's leading Principle in the edu-
cation of His Son is certainly to make Him of service to
His Country by becoming a good Sea Officer. With this
view I must Him early to Sea, so that He might have
all the advantages which other young People enjoy
removed from Him the usual ceremony of Attendants
upon Princes, & as far as may directed that He should
mix with the other young Gentlemen of the Ship, He
not only contributed towards acquiring Propriety in his

knowledge but a free communication & comparison of
ideas with Persons of His own age, but gave Him that
insight into Character of which, before He could have
had no idea, & which must hereafter prove of infinite
service to Him.

When He first embarked, He was quite a Boy, full
of spirits, full of Curiosity. He was suffered to run about
in every part of the Ship. Company was displeasing,
for it restrained Him, it would have been improper,
for the King had forbidden it. He He in six weeks
space, more Decorum was reasonably expected, & more
freedom in the choice of Company: And, at length, I
believe in great measure from His own judgment, He
restricted Himself to the Quarter Deck & upper part
of the Ship.

I shall say nothing farther respecting His mode of
life on board: Other circumstances of this kind will

come before Your Lordships with the more propriety from the
Highness who, I presume, will Himself fully express the
Line of Conduct he has pursued.

It is on the particular respecting the Highness
Highness's private Character, the knowledge of which
is material to a Person entrusted with the Care & Con-
duct of Him.

The Royal Highness is
possessed of a considerable share of Understanding.
This has been cultivated with some care, but not
altogether to the perfection nor with the success I could
have wished, owing to an aversion from application
& a full flow of spirits. He has a great fund of good
nature & feels much pleasure in doing a civil act
but Your Lordships will have observed that, in some
instances at least, He has sometimes the appearance of
being in a bad humour. This is due to his laughing at them

Talking, indiscreetness are apt to escape Him, & when He
 will some times show conferences & serious remarks,
 which place Him for the time in an admirable light.
 This arises from the Inconsideration when points of
 Youth, and I scarcely ever remember an instance when
 the ill consequences of such discourse were pointed
 out to Him, that He did not admit the impropriety
 of it, & confess Himself sorry for it. Sometimes since, this
 defect was of little consequence. He was a King, & it
 was hardly fair to weigh His expressions too scrupulous-
 ly. But now Your Lordships will agree with me
 that it is time to be more cautious.

Large Company is, perhaps, of all other things,
 the most pernicious to young Persons, & the most fatal
 to a Prince. I must therefore, my Lord, to put You
 particularly on your guard on this head. A familiar
 use of Address & Conversation without much delicacy

as to the objects & a strong opinion for Dissolution we apt to
involve one in connections, which had better be avoided.
I hold to this, that young People naturally seek those societies
where there is the least restraint. Indeed close connections
or intimacies between His Royal Highness & any person what-
ever I have always thought it my duty to discourage.

There is a circumstance in His Royal
Highness's character which I have always considered as
a strong indication of His good sense. Had this in His
view from flattery & overstrained compliments
He had been open to addresses of this kind, which constitute
the usual language to Princes, many a designing cha-
racter would have prospered. His ears have inspired
Him with such sentiments of His Rank, as would
have rendered the Duties of His present subordinate
situation in the House painful & disagreeing to Him.
But this is so far from being the case, that the Person

who attempts this method will most probably succeed in
conciliating His esteem.

Your Lordship must not be surprised if at the
present subject His Royal Highness should endeavor
to elude your vigilance, either in the observation of
His Character, or the establishing a system for His
Education. He will probably by his young & gay
people are not fond of restraint, may perhaps, who
feel themselves quite disposed at the beginning to ac-
commodate himself to a new arrangement. In such
a circumstance I should recommend a person experienced
in this kind of business, to proceed with an advance
to such plans as Your Lordship shall have previously
determined on.

I have always found my advantage in avoiding
entering into edifying or satirical Remarks. An opposite
conduct would have led me into a thousand perplexities.

When the Bontas was ever innocent, I have always rather
to keep a log; but when it seemed to affect the character
of absent persons, I have never failed to discourage it
by all the means in my power. This style of discourse
is of itself sufficiently severe from any one; but it is
more attended to, & is more cutting from the mouth
of Prince William, who is mentioned that it would tend
to create his enemies in the service.

It is highly probable that Memorials,
Petitions, & letters on different subjects will be addressed
to His Royal Highness, which in Your Lordship's hands
Admiral Dighy would answer on these occasions the
the Prince received no applications of this nature; &
indeed if this line had not been early drawn, there
would have been no end to the trouble they would have occasioned
besides that, hitherto His Royal Highness's age & rank

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in the Service has secured to preclude Possibility of this
kind. But, as He is now more advanced in life, per-
haps it may be thought advisable not altogether to
shut his door against Petitioners in this case & their
Memorials should first pass under your Lordship's
eyes, & if thought deserving notice, be presented by
you, with such Reflections, as you may judge pro-
per & applicable. His Royal Highness's heart will
doubtless be enlarged & improved by a striking dispo-
sition, either in a pecuniary way, or otherwise, when a
proper Discrimination is made of the mode & degree
of relief judiciously pointed out.

By reason of importance that his Letters should
be conveyed to the Prince, or from Him to any other
Person (His own & mine excepted) without your Lordship's
privy & concurrence. This has been a Rule hitherto in

constantly observed, & I should think at this juncture
of life it is of more consequence than ever.

And now, my Lord, I conceive I have told
of all the material points in the Education of the
Princess. This will be my duty & my inclination to be
as explicit as possible. The charge is important for your
Lordship is interested to the Nation; & as in the
servant, who has the Prince's welfare especially at heart
I shall be happy if I have contributed any thing to
His good or to your Lordship's ease in discharging
so weighty a trust.

I beg leave to subscribe myself

Your Lordship's

Right Hon^{ble} your Lordship's obedient
Lord Good & very humble servant
Francis Admiral of the Blue. The Prætorian.