

Ld. Hood

16338-9

Sir

Barfleur Post Royal Jamaica Feb^y 28. 1783

I think it my indispensable duty to write to your Majesty by every packet, as well as other opportunities that offer, while I have the honor of Prince William's company on board the Barfleur; and I am very sorry to acquaint your Majesty, that His Royal Highness and Captain Napier, cannot bring themselves to live upon sociable and friendly terms

The Captain came to me this morning to say, he had taken his resolution to go home in the packet about to sail, as he found his situation not as he expected it to be, with Prince William; I desired him to remember, that his going was his own spontaneous act, which I should not oppose, that I was much concerned to find His Royal Highness was so dissatisfied with him, but that I could not wonder at it, from what I had heard of their disputes, from indifferent people, within the hearing of them. He said his instructions

instructions from Admiral Digby, appointed him a
 Director to His Royal Highness, that they were secret
 or he would shew them to me, and as he perceived
 he had no authority over the Prince, he would remain
 no longer with him - to which with some degree of
 astonishment I replied, secret Sir, is it possible for me
 to think, that Admiral Digby could give you instructions
 improper for me to know? but whether they are secret
 or otherwise, I have not a wish to see them; and I beg
 to ask you, whether you have ever in one instance, made
 me acquainted, with any part of Prince William's conduct
 you thought wrong - he answered no, - why then I
 must ask another question; admitting you have seen
 anything improper, do you think you have done
 your duty, by His Royal Highness, or me, in not having
 reported it? His answer was, their disputes were of
 too trifling a nature, to trouble me with them - This Sir
 was the whole of our conversation, except my telling him
 that I had neither seen or heard anything, that was in
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any manner amiss in Prince William

I have not only been attentive to Captain Napier as far as I was able, but have been guarded against having a cross word with him - but I am free to own that though I have not a doubt of his being a man of honor, I never before met with one, so thoroughly disagreeable, and unpleasant, in his manner & behaviour he has been remarked upon, as such, not only by the Captains of the Squadron, with whom I live in intimacy but even by people on shore, with whom we spent ten or twelve days, in order to shew His Royal Highness, a little of this valuable Island.

We went to the Governor at Spanish Town on the 11th from whence we made some little excursions, in the first of which, Prince William had the misfortune to strain his ankle, as he was walking arm in arm with General Rooke - Doctor Hunter was immediately sent for, and by keeping his leg up three days, His Royal Highness entirely gott the better of it, and is now in every respect perfectly well.

I have not words to express

express the very high Joy Prince William gave to all ranks
and degrees of the people, addresses replete with duty and
loyalty to your Majesty, and affection to Prince William
were presented, which will be transmitted by His Royal
Highness, by this conveyance, and I shall be happy to know
that your Majesty approves the answers to them.

A subscription was on foot, for the distressed inhabitants
driven from Honduras, and for the Loyalists of that
Description lately arrived from North America; I thought
these unhappy suffering people were proper objects of His
Royal Highnesses attention, and he gave to each fifty
pounds currency. A Troop of militia light horse, came
many miles from the country of their own accord,
to attend Prince William on his landing, and in his
excursions, in order to manifest their duty to your
Majesty, and respect to His Royal Highness; and as
they were all men of more or less property, I consulted
General Campbell, how His Royal Highness could
notice their attention to him, in the most acceptable
way, and it was agreed a Standard would be
highly

highly gratifying to them, which the general had the goodness to undertake to gett made - it will cost about forty pounds currency, which with the two fifty pounds subscriptions, will be about 100 pounds sterling - If what I have recommended Prince William to do, should meet your majestys approbation, I shall feel myself most exceedingly happy.

Your majestys Squadron under my command will in every respect be ready for sea the latter end of next week, I now wait only for the Medford & Alcide, one wanting a main mast, and the other a foremast, but I hope to be at sea tomorrow evening, and mean then to sail, if I hear nothing from England, or Admiral Pigot - I have preped much for orders, what to do, but am left to act upon my own judgement

I propose going off Cape Francois, from thence off ^{S. Johns} Portorico, and then through the Mona channel off Curacaoe - but my motions must be guided, by what

I hear of those of Solano, and Vandrenil, for though I have reason to believe, / if reports are to be credited / that the latter has taken shelter at Curacao, it is by no means certain, nor can I learn that the former has left the Havana - A Frigate and small vessel are gone to reconnoiter each port, which I hope will be back before I put to sea, if not, I shall keep a vigilant look for them, as I work to windward. I do assure your Majesty nothing could give Prince William higher or more substantial pleasure, than our falling in, with either the french or spanish Squadron.

A small schooner is just arrived in six days from the Island of St. Thomas ~~in six days~~ - The Spanish Squadron from the Havana was not then arrived at Portorico This vessel left St. Kitts on the 16th. The master of which says, three english line of battle ships, came down there, after a french fifty gun ship & a frigate, which shiped their cables; He saw the Frigate / the Iphigene / taken, but
the

the frigate
also
Squadron

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the fifty gun^{Ship} took shelter at S^t. Eustatius - This man
also says, that he heard at S^t. Kitts, that Vandrenil's
Squadron was at Curacaoe

I am with the utmost gratitude

Your Majesty's
most dutifull and
Devoted servant

Hardy

Lord Hood
February 20. 1703