H. R. H. Pce. William

Lucens House April 16th 1783.

Dear William, Your letters of the 22d of December, of the 31st of January and of the 2d of February arrived together on the 14th of this month, the two first are relative to your Voyage from New York to Tiberon, and therefore require only this acknowledgement of them.

The third shews too strongly a continuation of that unhappy disposition to ~~dislike of~~ resist controul, which has too much on former occasions appeared, and convinces me that your judgement does not ripen so fast as I could wish, to be fit to command, the knowledge of Obedience must first have been obtained, without which self controul cannot be gained.

Had Capt. Napier ~~had~~ forbear any sinister view he could only attain it by flattery, we on the contrary for your sake has wished to guard you against improprieties, perhaps his zeal may have on your resistance ~~then~~ hurried him to some degree of warmth, ought not you on reflection to have felt this and then esteemed him for it, and by putting more plainly to his advice, have rendered his conduct more pleasing, instead of which by your own letter you have so far forgot yourself as to tell him that, he is your Attendant certainly not the proper term for an Officer placed to advise you, and to be answerable to Me for your conduct, therefore any heat he may have shewn

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on such an question from You is perfectly natural.

It certainly is the general opinion that You have acquired as much Nautical knowledge as the time You have been at sea will allow; but previous to this I had received from some of the best Naval Opinions in this Island, that perhaps in the Seaman You would lose the ideas of the Officer and the Prince.

I shall not go into the various improprieties which appear in Your letter as I attribute them to momentary heat and that You must have been long before this ashamed of them.

Whether Captain Napier leaves You now or remains till Your return with Lord Hood to Europe which cannot be many months, will depend upon that able Admiral's decision; but he will have my directions in any case to have a proper Officer always to accompany You who may be answerable for Your behaviour.

You seem to wish to copy Frederick but there is one very considerable difference, tho though two Years older is perfectly compliant to every advice the Officers about him give him.

I shall certainly send You to the Continent as soon as You return from Sea that Your manners and behaviour may be formed fit for the Land and that You may be in time an Officer and Gentleman who certainly is a Scientific Officer a pure one that

Sir

H.R.H. Pce. William

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thinks in our Service the Attention is carried so long alone to Seamanship that few Officers are formed, and that a knowledge of the Military is necessary to open the idea & know how to conduct large fleets.

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To Prince William

April 16 . 1703