A. M. to Hd. Hood

16346-7

Queens House April 16th 1783.

Lord Hood Your letters of the 24th of December and of the 8th of February arrived on the 14th of this Month, by the first I find my Son's health continued good and that he shewed the ardour which I trust will never desert him, of wishing to meet one of the Fleets of the Powers then at War with us, Your dispositions seem to have been very judiciously made to have effected this desirable object, but Men cannot be disposers of Events, and still less on so unstable an Element as the Sea.

In the second You express Your satisfaction at the behaviour of my Son, which gives me the more pleasure as I am convinced You would not so positively assert it if You was not of opinion that it deserved Approbation. At the same time I cannot admire the warmth He has shewn in the disputes that have arisen between him and Captain Napier, of which his own account to Me bears the strongest marks.

William has ever been vigilant when controuled, I had hoped that by this time He would have been conscious of his own levity and that in his Station his conduct must be more studied than in that of Persons who from the privacy of their birth cannot be held out as examples for others to look up to. The advice

You

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You gave him when he opened his complaints against Capt. Napier was such as I should have expected from You, and which ought to have had more effect than by the sequel it seems to have had. Perhaps the Captain from a zealous anxiety to have William's conduct coincide with my wishes may have been too hasty, yet as that could only arise from so proper a motive, my son ought to have felt obligation, not indulge a degree of violence which has warped the whole tenour of his letter to Me on that subject.

The letters Captain Napier has written to Mr. Majendie testify his gratitude for the Countenance he has received from You since he came with my Son on board of the Barfleur; I totally have it to Your judgement whether he shall remain till You and my Son return to Europe which cannot be many months or whether he shall sooner quit Your Ship; I will speak to Lord Keppel that he may be made a Post Captain when he leaves You and that Orders for that effect may go in the Frigate which must soon be sent with Instructions for recalling at different periods the Fleets now in the West Indies, when Your Division receives orders to return You will bring William with

You

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and will give either Captain Knight or any other Officer you can depend upon Orders to ~~attend~~ accompany him when he is not with You and it would not be proper he should be left to the sole guidance of his volatile imagination.

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To Lord Rood

April 16. 1803