

Ld. Hood

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Sir

Barbours Post-Royal Jamaica April 16th 1783

I had the honor to receive on the 13th instant the very kind letter your majesty condescended to write me on the 2^d of Jan^y. I have the very great happiness to assure your majesty that Prince William enjoys most perfect health, and that he readily and in the pleasantest manner conforms to my wishes. His Royal Highness commits me in every thing, and wishes not to hide anything from me. I from the first moment endeavoured to begot His Royal Highnesses confidence, and succeeded; in all our conversations, we are as open and candid, as two people of the same age & way of thinking could be, in my apartments; but upon the quarter deck, I am the old Admiral, and His Royal Highness, the young & spirited midshipman. I do assure your majesty, I am charmed with His Royal Highness, and hope and trust when the day of his arrival in England comes, your majesty will be pleased with him, and not think anything has been wanting in me, for His Royal Highnesses advantage.

What has given me most heart-felt satisfaction, is to hear him speak of Admiral Digby & Mr. Majendie in the most affectionate manner upon all occasions, which in my
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judgement manifests much goodness of heart. His Royal Highness is of a volatile turn of mind, which subjects him now & then, to be run away with by his vast flow of spirits, but he is easily restrained, and listens to me with the greatest attention, for though I never fail pointing out, any little thing I do not quite approve; my manner of doing it, is well taken, and I cannot more fully express myself, to give joy & satisfaction to your Majesty, and my most gracious Queen, than by assuring your Majesty, that when I have had company, more than ordinary in the Bayleur, or been with His Royal Highness on shore, at Admiral Rowley's or the Governours, which are the only two houses we visit at, he has come to me afterwards and said, "well my Lord, did you observe anything improper in my conduct? he has never once expressed a wish to go on shore, but with me, and that has been, and will be, very seldom."

I thought it very proper to avail myself of an opportunity that offered of letting His Royal Highness see, Cape Francois the first city the French have in the west Indies I stood in close to the Harbours mouth, with the Squadron on the 8th instant, I sent a small vessel with Prince William attended by Captain Merrick, the Lieut. he always watches with, and another officer; the former I had sent to the Cape last year

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And as he was known to Mouns Bellecombe & Don Galvez, and a young man of a very pure mind, with high notions of honor, and has seen a good deal of the world, I was well assured the Prince could not be entrusted to a more fitt person. His Royal Highness was received with every mark of respect, politeness & attention and returned to the Barfler highly delighted.

I arrived here on the 12th and am now waiting orders from my commander in chief, and whether I go immediately home from hence, or am called to windward by Admiral Poyot, to visit the different Islands ceded by the Peace, I propose going through the gulph, that His Royal Highness may see the Havana

If the mode & manner, in which I treat Prince William should fortunately be approved by your majesty, it will be most exceedingly flattering to me, for my first wish, and highest ambition is, and ever will be to the latest hour of my life, to prove myself upon all occasions, with the utmost gratitude

Sir

Your majestys
most dutifull and
devoted servant

Booby

Lord Hood
April 16th 1793