

Ld. Hood

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Sir

Barbours at Sea Lat<sup>n</sup> 33:20 N. Long<sup>w</sup> 77:15 W.  
May 18<sup>th</sup> 1783

I have the singular happiness to inform your Majesty that Prince William enjoys most charming health, and I hope & trust His Royal Highness will arrive in the same State in England about the 20<sup>th</sup> of next month

In the afternoon of the 22<sup>d</sup> past I received orders from my commander in chief to proceed to Europe with your Majesty's Squadron under my command, which I instantly made known to Rear Admiral Rowley, that no time might be lost in carrying my orders into execution, and next morning early waited upon the Rear Admiral at his Pen, to shew him my instructions, being directed by Admiral Pigot, to leave such ships, as he should think your Majesty's Service required to remain at Jamaica; he desired two Sixty fours, I accordingly gave their Captains directions to put themselves under his command

Six Ships of the Line attempted to sail on the 24<sup>th</sup>. but the sea breeze setting in unusually early, they were obliged to re-anchor, however we all got safe out the next morning

From Port Royal to the west end of Cuba, our passage was very tedious, not less than 14 days, having light airs of  
wind



wind, with frequent calms the whole way

Being very solicitous that Prince William should visit the Havana, I ordered La Fortune, as I drew near, to precede the Squadron, with His Royal Highness, under the charge and care of Captain Merrick, attended by other officers, as it might not have been convenient for me, to have waited off the Port, as the current runs so very strong, that ships are often carried in a calm, thirty leagues in 24 hours

The Prince returned to the Bosphorus on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> most exceedingly delighted, with the respect & attention that were shewn him by Don Solano, &c &c &c, the particulars of which, I suppose His Royal Highness, will reserve to relate untill he has the honor and happiness to pay His duty to your majesty in person.

The Spanish Squadron (with the Troops) arrived at the Havana on the 8<sup>th</sup> instant from Cape Francis, where it anchored immediately upon the cessation of hostilities, and Don Solano proceeds to Europe with it, in about a fortnight, leaving two of the Line to follow with the Gallies, some time hence. The French Ships under the command of Le Marquis de Vandreuil, sailed for Europe from the Cape in three divisions, on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>d</sup>, & 3<sup>d</sup> of this month, in a sickly

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and very crazy state; both have had a most miraculous escape, as their Commanders acknowledge, and I have been certainly out of luck not to have had one or the other, under my escort

Being now to the northward of Bermuda, and fairly on my passage, I dispatch La Fortunee to announce my near approach to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. She is ordered to Spithead, where I imagine the Barfleur will be in four or five days after her.

I am Sir

with the utmost gratitude

Your Majestys

most dutifull and

Devoted Servant

Arthy



*[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged paper, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the document.]*

*Lord Hood*

*Aug 10. 1703*