

Lord Hood

Sir 16415 - 6

Exeter August 18<sup>th</sup> 1783

I beg to offer to your Majesty my most humble  
congratulations on Prince Williams safe arrival  
in the Elbe, and in a more particular manner  
on His Royal Highnesses providential escape  
from the dangers he was exposed to, from the  
ignorance of the Pilot

Encouraged by your Majestys most gracious  
goodness to me, I take the liberty of informing  
your Majesty, of the very flattering reception  
I have met with at this place, in my way  
to some friends, in the neighbourhood of  
Plymouth; I left my Brothers house on Saturday  
morning, and when I came within three  
miles of this city, I was met by a deputed  
small body of seamen, who regnainted me  
with



here

with much decency, and good humour, that  
a very great number, were waiting about a  
mile on, to testify their respect to me, and  
to precede & draw my coach, into the city  
with Flays & Musick, and begged me to drive  
slow, that they might join their friends, about  
fifteen minutes after, my horses were taken  
off, and the prepared Ropes fixed, for drawing  
the coach; about half a mile from the city I was  
mett by some thousands of the inhabitants, and as  
many of them were of respectable character,  
headed by the Alderman, who was the chief  
magistrate, when a minute was made two  
years ago, for my being elected a freeman,  
I quitted my coach and walked with them  
The Seamen then ran the coach full speed  
with my wife and Mr. Hoop, to the house they  
were going; Two men being upon the Box  
one



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one upon the coach, and one behind, each carrying a flag, and having carefully taken off the baggage from the coach, and deposited it in the house, they returned to me about 300 yards before I reached the city gates, which I entered amidst the acclamations, of full 10,000 persons, so great a number was never known to be assembled here before, and not a window in any house in the streets through which I passed, but was filled with Ladies and gentlemen, waving their handkerchiefs Fans & Hats, as I passed - After being within the city gates, the people stopped three or four times, silence proclaimed, and the song which I have the honor to enclose, with that of God save the King, were sung, by a dozen excellent voices, chosen for the purpose; I did not imagine Sir, it was possible for so much

Secrecy



Decency and order, could have been preserved  
by so great a body of men, not the least  
unpleasant circumstance arose, nor was a  
man seen drunk, and at sun sett the Seamen  
came to take away the flags, they had fix'd  
at the House, I took my quarters up, and  
having given three hearty cheers, they all  
retired most peaceably

I am going in an hour to meet the Mayor and  
Chamber, to receive my freedom in form, in  
an afternoon to dine with his worship,

I return to my brother at cricket Lodge near  
Chard, on the 25<sup>th</sup> I vary with him a week, and  
take Lady Chatham, & Mr. Grenville in my  
way to Bath, where I propose being towards  
the latter end of next month.

You will I hope Sir forgive my thus troubling your  
Majesty. I am with the utmost gratitude

Sir your Majesty's most dutifull and  
devoted servant

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