

3 March, 1786

36365

My dearest William. I have received Your letter & did not want the Prince of Wales to put <sup>me</sup> in mind of answering it by Your desire, it would have been done sooner had I been able to give You an answer that You could taste. I fear that will not be the case, & therefore to do all that lies in my Power I will answer every Article with all possible Sincerity.

To begin then with Your going to America to which You object. I must Confess, that ever since Your first entering the Navy, The King always has & continues to be of the same opinion that You never should go to the Mediterranean, & I am convinced that were the whole Board of Admiralty & the whole Navy to propose it at present He would not be moved. When quite a Child it would have been Hazardous, & at present Your very impudent behaviour when abroad in not loving good Company which You Yourself acknowledged, & the dislike of attending

to the advice of those who might have guided You has been  
 a means of Strengthening the King in this opinion, The  
 imprudent manner in which You attack every Officer  
 under whose Command You have been, & whose experience & conduct  
 in their Profession was known to all the World, is another  
 reason which works greatly upon the Kings Mind, & above  
 all, the great value You set upon Your own Knowledge  
 & Sense, makes the King look upon the Steps as more dan-  
 gerous. Lord How therefore whom You suspect can have  
 no Hand in this, & indeed my dear William You cannot  
 give a greater proof of Your vanity than in suspec-  
 ting every Body Your Enemy.

You  
 Your  
 have  
 & con  
 with  
 You  
 mind  
 own  
 to pr  
 & pai  
 there  
 for t  
 tell  
 conne  
 & by  
 elina  
 impro  
 & con

As to ~~the~~ what You say about the good or  
 bad Company which is to be kept according to the rank  
 being lower or higher in a Profession can as I told You  
 at Windsor never be an excuse to You. You was at  
 the Service as much Prince William & the Kings Son as

3 March, 1786

36366

You are now, & did You really set that value upon  
 Your Person that proceeds from judgment You would  
 have shewn proper Submission to Your Superiors in Office  
 & Condescension to inferiors, but not familiarized Yourself  
 with the latter. as a proof, I will put one question.  
 You was not on board a Ship in Germany, nor no more  
 Midshipman, there were no Navy Lieutenants, & yet You  
 own You kept <sup>your</sup> ~~your~~ Company? You was sent there in order  
 to prepare for appearing in the World, You disliked it  
 & pined for being at Sea from the moment You arrived  
 there, nay more You also told Hannover was not a fit place  
 for that? & yet it succeeded with Frederick? Upon Your Conscience  
 tell me now are You not even now & were then Your own  
 Enemy. Actions make a mans Character known, not words,  
 & by what I have said I am sorry to see that Your in-  
 clination & not Your situation is the real cause of Your  
 impudence & will be Your Eternal Disappointments in Life.  
 The Comfort there is left which I recommend strongly to

8835  
You & that is, it is never too late to improve. Pray believe me dear William I have been necessitated to tell You severe Truth; but I am also as ready to assist & comfort You whenever it lies in my power, & even in England Your love of low Company has been observed. If You choose to mend I must also ~~say~~ tell You, that it is not a Cold Civility or haughtiness of Manner that means good Breeding, no they will be construed in something worse which is pride. True good Breeding requires a steady & uniform Civility to every body according to their different Situations in Life which will of course assure it to Us again, upon that Subject a great many things more must be said which I shall do hereafter. at present there remains only one Article of Your Letter to be answered which relates to Your Father's name, I am very clear my dear William that the King is considering that in a proper way, & that You will most certainly have no reason to fear that He will forget it. The King is always ready to do what is

36367

On Your Side I hope You will be prudent by which means You will always be enabled to please Yourself in Charitable Actions of which You are so fond of.

One thing more remains, You suspect the American manners to be very Vicious. Alas where is not Vice to be found? I am so little acquainted with it in general, that ~~that~~ I cannot much enter upon that Subject, but it is certain that no man grows Vicious at once it is but ~~after~~ but by degrees that the Heart grows hardened. Therefore if You knew where Vice Inhabits, You will shun its abode.

Every Body at present is well, which You will be glad to hear, I write no News, as You are in so constant a Correspondence with the Prince of Wales You must know every thing that passes. I hope to hear You are well which will be pleasant News to

L. H.  
The 3<sup>d</sup> of March  
1786.

Your very affectionate Mother.  
Friend  
Charlotte

*[Faint, mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*

