

Lt. Col. Lake to P<sup>r</sup>ince of Wales

38053-4

My dearest P<sup>r</sup>ince

York Town, Virginia August 25 1781

By my last letter dated the 4<sup>th</sup> of April I find myself  
as usual under the necessity (contrary to your express commands)  
of returning my thanks to you for some fresh mark of favor, which I  
presume, near, is the high Honor Her Majesty was pleas'd to confer upon  
my family from being so extremely kind as to stand Godmother  
to my little boy with your P<sup>r</sup>ince Frederick; it is impossible  
for me to express how much I feel oblig'd to Her Majesty for this  
mark of kindness I owe to M<sup>r</sup> Lake at a time when she was so  
particular only circumstan<sup>c</sup>'d; may I beg your P<sup>r</sup>ince will take an  
opportunity of expressing the thorough sense <sup>of the</sup> obligation confer'd  
upon me, & how sincerely I wish it may be in my power to convince  
her as well as the rest of your family the sincerity with which I am  
attach'd, & how much I wish my future conduct <sup>will</sup> prove my sentiments  
as they have hitherto done, will ever induce me to do that which appears  
to me for the good of your interests, & I flatter myself your P<sup>r</sup>ince  
will do me the justice to acknowledge, that I have constantly  
endeavour'd to perform the duties of the very honorable & flattering  
situation His Majesty had so graciously & ~~un~~ expectedly plac'd

It is, to the best of my abilities ever wishing to establish the best and  
friendship of confidence so necessary to form an agreeable intercourse  
between Parents & their Children for the ease & happiness of a family,  
& surely is more more so than your Royal Highness, to which, the world  
will of course look up ~~for~~ for example from considering how immediately  
concern'd they are in your family living well together —

Ct. Conway who will in all probability deliver this letter to you  
is very well able to inform you of what is going on <sup>of the late bay plan</sup> on this part of the  
World, & I do assure you no one can give you a more exact account,  
or take the utmost pains, in which he has succeeded to be discovered  
anything was to be seen, & has prov'd himself to be a very cool, determin'd  
man of excellent Officer, he is, believe me, a most honorable & worthy  
man, I have liv'd much with him & shall very sorely feel the loss of  
his society. — He will tell you I command the light company which is  
still remarkably fine, notwithstanding the great loss of men they have  
sustain'd; I may without being accus'd of partiality, or fear have had  
no hand in making them what they are, he allow'd to say there is nothing  
superior to them in the world either for discipline, zeal or spirit. Capt  
Lardos of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regt. who was with them all through the Carolinas, comman-  
ded them from the time of Ct. Kells death, who fell when they so  
gloriously cross'd the Catawba, has prov'd himself a most incomparable  
Officer, he is a young man of the greatest merit in his profession, & I am  
certain no one is more convinc'd of it than Lt. Cornwallis, who ~~has~~ <sup>is</sup>

Lt. Col. Lake to Pce of Hales

38054  
upon seeing me posted with the company. I congratulate me upon  
being at the head of the best of forces in the world, at the same time  
expressing his great approbation of the conduct, skill & gallant  
behaviour of Capt Surdos upon every occasion - Genl. Hara  
who as the Gazette has already told you, has commended this  
Brigade most wonderfully well & established the best discipline  
& good order imaginable, has done me every attention possible  
& Surdos stands near to put the Grenadiers to my company  
& give me the command of both, this you may be certain makes me  
feel very happy & obliged, more especially so as he will do it in so  
handsome a manner - you will easily conceive I feel most  
exceedingly happy at being under Lord Cornwallis or Officers so  
distinguished for his abilities, & so universally admired by the Army  
which is not to be wondered at when one reflects upon his conduct  
being so uniformly mentioned of great in all his undertakings. I  
most sincerely wish his exertions may be crown'd with <sup>the</sup> success  
they so justly deserve, tho' I fear, from that cause I do not pretend  
to say, this war will never be finish'd in the way we have all  
so much reason to wish it should, as I have no doubt that every  
American is so entirely <sup>averse</sup> to a reconciliation with the Mother country  
so exasperated against us, at the same time so fertile in resources

That it is not possible this country ever can be conquered. The Idols preside  
England never was possessed of a more zealous, spirited or gallant  
army than is at present in this part of the world, & that nothing they can  
do will be wanting to render it glorious by — so much for Politics  
you will know how little I interest myself about them in general  
& felt half inclined to mention what I have, but thinking you might  
expect some intelligence I determin'd to give you the opinion of those  
people in this part of the world in the forest Woods I possess, & those I think  
strictly true, I have not the smallest idea of what the next campaign  
will be whether active or otherwise it is imagin'd we shall not be quite  
idle, we are at present throwing up works to protect our shipping which  
are to be here the winter as it is the finest bay of best calculated for their  
safety during the hard weather in all America —

I grow very impatient to hear how you are amusing yourself  
of long much to know if every thing turns out to your expectation, if it  
does so completely as I wish, you are by many degrees the happier  
than in this world, let me know, how you proceed, in a few lines from  
your own hand which will you may be certain add much to the  
comfort of him who wishes to know you at all times how much  
he is your  
Wish faithful Son!

Your sincere friend  
J. Lake

May I trouble you

to make my best respects to the Duke of

York & send him my love & to think of me occasionally in your letters