

Prince George's At Spithead  
October 18<sup>th</sup> 1779

Sir,

A. M. Majendie had told me, that he was writing to the General, I was desirous that a letter of mine to Your Majesty might accompany his.

I am afraid, that in a former letter, Your Majesty did not receive the best accounts of my behaviour. In the course of the day, I was very sorry for what I had done, & hope that I never shall be in such a temper again. The Admiral & A. M. Majendie gave me a great deal of good advice, which I hope I have followed; but that will be best known by the letter, which mine accompanies.



1032  
I have lived very pleasantly during the time we have been in Port: his  
& particularly since I wrote last to Edward. We have been to the  
Isle of Wight several times, & twice up Beaulieu River; near the  
Duke of Mountagu's seat, where the Adm: shot two brace of  
pheasants; the first time we went without knowing there was  
game. In our second visit, we went to the game keeper's house  
& he attended us with his dogs. We had to deal with brambles &  
thorns, & at last got into a swamp. When we returned on board  
the Cutter, we had a fire lighted, & I pulled off my shoes &  
stockings to dry. As I was sitting by the fire side, a cinder  
fell out & burnt my foot. This has turned to a sore, which  
is troublesome, & makes me limp a little.

There have been several Courts Marti-  
al upon deserters & mutinous people, most of whom  
have been condemned to be flogged. I attended one lately, held  
on board the Britannia, upon Captain Crosby, of the Heart of  
Oak, armed ship, on the impress service. The charge is very hei-  
nous; he is accused of having discharged good men & rated  
boys as able seamen, sold the stores, detained the men's liquor for



his own use, & committed other crimes contrary to the good of Your Majesty's service: if these be proved against him, he will be certainly broke.

I have received a letter from my brother Edward, in which he tells me, that the family have lived very happily at Windsor. But, above all things, I am pleased to find, that Your Majesties have received more satisfaction from him this summer, than you have at any time. I am glad that this has been the case, on another account, for it must have given the General pleasure.

We do not hear the accounts, that I wish, from the West Indies, nor even from North America. However we must hope for better fortune, & depend upon the sovereign disposer of all things. We know that fortune is variable; & it would be very unbecoming to despond. The fatal end of Captain Farmer shocked me very much; for I had dined with him the day before he set off: he expressed to me the greatest joy upon going, & the expectations of being successful, but unfortunately met with a melancholy end.

In the present state of affairs, Your Majesty has great comfort



in your Family, who, I hope, do all in their <sup>power</sup> to contribute to  
Your Majesty's ease. I am sure at least they ought if they do not.  
As for myself, it is & will be my constant endeavour ever to please  
You.

May I trouble Your Majesty to present my duty to the  
Queen, & my love to my brothers & sisters, &c. Be assured, that

I am,

Sir,

Your Majesty's  
most Obedient,

& Affectionate Son,

William.

Prince William

October 10. 1779