

Sir

Dover Street Nov: 28th 1783

It being necessary I should become a freeman of some company, previous to my being admitted to the freedom of the City of London, and to my receiving the Gold Box voted me; I was desired when here in July, to be of that of the Ironmongers and while at Bath, I had an invitation sent me to dine with the company, by the Master & Wardens and upon my accepting it, it was unanimously resolved at a general Court, in compliment & attention to me, that no guest should be admitted but such Officers, as I should name, who had served with me on the 12th of April; and yesterday I had the honor of dining at Ironmongers hall accompanied by the following Gentlemen
Sir T. L. Drake, who came to Town on purpose from the West-Country - Captains, Cornish, Goodall, Reynolds, Gardner, Cornwallis, Luisee, Inglefield, Southerland, Knatchbull, Charrington, Domett

A.

B. Hoody, & Maude. The dinner was the most superbe
 & elegant, ever given in the city, and the politeness
 and attention of the Company, surprised every
 one, and it is not possible for me to express to
 your Royal Highness, the very great satisfaction
 and pleasure the whole received - The Table was
 in shape of a T, at the upper end sat the Guest
 only, except the master & wardens, and Mr. Alderman
 also, the father of the City, and of the Company, &
 my son & secretary / on which were placed
 the Britannia & Neptune in their Cars, and the
Marsieur & ville de Paris, full rigged, both had
 all their sails bent, those of the former were
 full & swelling, as if in chase, standing after the
 latter, whose sails appeared becalmed, each
 had the exact number of Guns she carried
 with men upon her decks, in the Shrouds, and
 upon the Top gallant yards, in the act of furling
 the sails - They were allowed, by Sir F. Drake
 and

and every curtain, to be as perfect & complete models as ever were seen, and your Royal Highness will be surprised when I tell you, that every part was eatable, being made of almond paste where the long table joined to the other, was fixed a triumphal arch, with very curious and emblematic devices, and in the center my arms were hung - The numbers at dinner, exceeded one hundred, and yet every thing was conducted with that order & regularity, that one could not help imagining oneself at a nobleman's house with a party of a dozen only.

Your Royal Highness has honored me with such flattering proofs, how much you interest yourself in what concerns me, that I trust to your forgiveness Sir, for the little detail I now trouble you with. Mr. & Mrs. Wood, who came to town a few days ago, beg to offer their most respectful compliments, with a thousand thanks for your
Royal

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Royal Highnesses very obliging remembrance
of them. I have the honor to be, with the
purest sentiments of respect & esteem

Sir

your Royal Highnesses
most faithful and
affectionate humble servants
Ardy

unrecd.

Done Ardy
to Prince William
Nov 28. 1783.