

The Duke of Clarence

44789.90

4 July 1787

Dear Brother,

My last from Jamaica was very short  
owing to that business, which I gave a very full account of to the King.  
I am now to inform you of another subject equally important to my-  
self, but in which no other person is concerned: I was very weak:  
my letter from the windward islands in May mentioned that I was  
just recovered from an rheumatic fever, and from a venereal complaint,  
which shew'd itself in a bubble, and at that time was skinning  
over after the operation: I was almost going down to Jamaica dur-  
ing which time my strength returned every day, so that when I  
arriv'd at Port Royal, I was as well as usual. I was perfectly recover'd.  
I remain'd a fortnight at Jamaica, during which time the feverishness  
troubled me somewhat, so that I was not very sleeping: this complaint is pre-  
sient to the West. Indies every year, and is very destructive to the health, and is always most



Could not leave for so long as it remains on the skin it keeps off all  
-vers: it appears upon the skin as a very small eruption, indeed the  
smallest I have seen when I was at Jamaica last year. I never had it upon  
in the inward is land it was sometimes to be perceived upon my  
skin: but during this time I remained at Port Royal it increased  
every day and particularly in the head so that I had large blisters  
-most as big as a shilling instead of being scarce perceptible at that  
without violent heat and itching as to prevent most effectually my  
sleeping: upon my going to sea I was int. sup that the violence of  
the complaint would go off. I went to the Northward instead of  
which the feverish heat went off, and a great number of inflamed  
and large boils came upon my head and neck attended with smart  
fever and rheumatic pains and a total loss of sleep and appetite:  
my surgeon gave me for three days antiseptic medicinal medicines, but to  
no purpose: the symptoms increased all except the fever, which gave  
way: these boils broke from whence came a very great discharge: strong



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purgative did a great deal of good and I am now quite recovered. I regret  
 ever for being so much averse to coming over, so much I have feared  
 that my health  
 and not to be alarmed at any ill reports: it is not any fear I have  
 present, but for my being in the main way when in the autumn I re-  
 -turn to Jamaica: the symptoms I have had were so violent that  
 had this complaint attacked me at Port Royal, I probably be-  
 -lieve they would have proved fatal: with this sentiment you  
 may easily conceive I do not look forward with any pleasure  
 to return to the West Indies: I never thought many things to be  
 considered: suppose I was to write to go home there are two very  
 strong objections I have: the one because I think it to be the duty of  
 every officer to remain abroad so long as his ship is kept in a  
 foreign station: the other from the uncertainty of the situation  
 I am now in, nothing to depend on but what my father has to do  
 in carrying my half pay which is a hundred a year: so I have to go  
 to go down, I suppose I live with the King when I was last at



home, he told me he had no pleasant prospect: that was I in your service  
- on to live with you, we both well know how little that would  
- wished: another singular circumstance I never receive an answer  
- or letter from the King: it is now eight months since I last  
- saw him, I have had one letter dated the 4<sup>th</sup> March 1786: I am  
- totally in the dark whether my conduct is approved or not: and  
- my bills I know are unpaid: how to proceed I do not know in  
- this situation it would be improper for me to wish to return  
- I mean to pay the strictest attention to my health and maintenance  
- the West Indies: how different the two brothers Frederick and  
- self: he is the favourite, and in a situation not to require a  
- vice, receives three times as much as I do: myself in a profession  
- not character liable to the censure of all the world in a free  
- country like England, and we were acknowledged by the King  
- able to govern myself, I never receive any such assistance  
- unpleasant situation made me really quite melancholy:



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You will receive this letter from Ridge my surgeon, who has followed  
is quite worn out in the King's service and had been invalided home to  
whom I have given this letter as an introduction to you: pray be kind  
to Mr Woodman for I really have a great regard for him: I have more  
nothing more to add than that I received a letter from Mr Spalding  
in Scotland who says he is by this time a benedict: whom you'd  
have thought it: tomorrow we sail for Antwerp where our  
mind is fair; from whence I shall write. Adieu.

H. Adfas  
July 4<sup>th</sup> 1787

I am  
always yours

J. P. Woodman



