

My dear General Bisfleer Caribbe Bay Barbadoes Dec^r. 24 1781

I was exceedingly disappointed I did not find a letter from you on my return to this Island from North America the 5th Instant, which makes me very impatient for the arrival of the November packet, trusting I shall not fail of the pleasure of hearing from you by that conveyance

DeGrave left the Chesapeake on the 2nd of last month with 34 sail of the Line, the Experiment & several privateers, was arrived with the whole at Martinique on the 24th & 25th except four ships of the Line, which went to Cape Francois - He left behind him the Romulus, one privateer & the Sandwich armed ship which they captured on their passage to America Twenty five sail of the Line are now in Fort Royal Bay, and five in the Carenage - The Force under my command, which I brought from North America is 16 sail of the Line; The Royal Oak
and

and monarch, the latter came in yesterday, and
the other I expect every day, as the also do the Ropel
which I sent to Antigua to be hove down, having
most of her copper, off, and being very leaky, I also
expect the Prince William, which I was obliged
to leave at New York, for a new Rudder, and as I
have obtained the St. Albans, which was ordered
to Jamaica, I hope to have in a few days 21 Sort
of the Line fitt for service, with which I shall do
my best, and trust I shall not disgrace the Flag
of England. I had much conversation with my
friend Admiral Digby, concerning His Majesty's
affairs; and we seemed perfectly to think alike
I therefore flattered myself, he would have sent
with me all his Line of Battle Ships, but the opinion
of others made him alter his mind, and he sent
only four; but as I know you are his good
Friend as well as mine, I will give you the
copies

Copies of two letters I wrote him, with three Line
of Battle Ships, and two fifty's in addition to
what I have, which I think he could have
started with, without the least prejudice to the
Kings Service, what a noble Figure should I
make; but I yet do not despair of rendering
my King & Country, essential Service.

What a strange and unaccountable Business
is this St. Austatus event! Disgracefull in the
extreme! herewith I send you a very rabor-
-inary paper, I recd from General Christie
But what can be said for the two Commanders
in Chief in leaving so much money there,
contrary, as I am told to every remonstrance
As Mr. Forster the Commissary General
has informed me, and when I asked
him, how it came about, he said the Admiral
and General were never three days without
quarrelling

harrassing, and when they departed from St.
Custatius road, for England, were not upon
speaking terms, and that each wanted the money
in his own or Bankers hands; Thus my dear
General do we innocent Subalterns suffer;
how shamefull! You will perhaps think it
strange but it is no less true, neither Sir George
Rodney or General Vaughan, ever gave me the
least information, respecting the concerns of
that capture. After I sailed from the Island, nine
days after it was taken, and I really know no
more about amount of the capture than you do,
but I thank god, I enjoy my health, and am
happy in my mind

I have the honor to be
my dear General your most faithful and obedient
humble servant
J. M. Hardy

The Senior Captain here having sent
away a packet, the day before I arrived, though I might be
humbly expected, with an account of De Grapes arrival
which must alarm, I thought it right to make known my
return as soon as possible, and resolved to send away the first
small vessel I could get my finger on, & the Kaiser sails this
evening