

10 written between Descade & Anhyua Jan: 20. 1782

When you know my situation my dear General
I am sure you will pity me - on the 25th of Nov^r
the Count De Grape returned to Martinique with 30
sail of the Line, the Experiment, & several frigates, since
which, the Sagittaire and two frigates have joined from
Boston. four sail of the Line of De Grapes Squadron
went to the Cape - on the 5th of last month, I
arrived at Barbadoes, with 16 of the Line, the Royal
Oak & monarch parted company: I found the Pelicans
in Carlisle Bay, which I thought my duty to detain
and take under my orders - The monarch joined
me the 12th of last month, and La Nymphe on the 24th
by whose commander I learnt, that he left the Royal Oak
in a most wretched condition at St. Kitts - She is now
in English harbour, without a lower mast, and must be
hoop down - The contractors agent for victualling His
Majestys Navy at Barbadoes, was without Bread, Pease
or Flour, I have borrowed of the Army, the two last
articles

articles, as far as General Christie would lend, but not
a pound of bread was to be got, of which the Squadron
has been at half allowance for several weeks, and
has now but 14 days, and flour only in that
proportion - If the contractor, or his agent, if the fault
does not lay with the former, is not made a public
example of, if possible, it is much to be lamented, I
do not know anything of the contractor, but I have no
good opinion of his Barbadoes agent.

The French Fleet appeared off St. Lucia on the 17th of
last month, endeavouring to get to windward, and having
carried away, many Topmasts & yards, in struggling
against very squally weather & a lee current, returned
to Fort Royal Bay on the 23rd in the evening; and on the
29th came out again, with upwards of forty transports,
manœuvring as before, and without making an attempt
to land, but striving to get to windward - on the 2^d
instant it quitted St. Lucia, and steered towards Fort
Royal - Captain Harvey, (a very diligent & good officer) who

who commanded at St. Lucia, had my orders, daily
to watch Count de Grapes motions most attentively, and to
send two frigates on that service, one to follow him,
and the other to come to me, — on the 8th the Lizard
joined me, with information, that the whole French fleet
sailed to seaward on the 5th at noon, except one ship,
and that the Triton was following them — I sent away
the Lizard immediately, the only frigate I had left for
sea, to go to Antigua & St. Kitts, to gain further
intelligence, and to assure the commanding officers
both civil & military at each Island, that I would
hasten to their relief, inferior as I was, the moment
I knew they were attacked — I sent the same message
to General St. Leger, upon the enemy's appearing off St.
Lucia — on the 12th I received information from
Capt. Harvey, that the Triton was returned having
sprung her foremast very badly off Dominica, and
without any account of the enemy, and on that day

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a vessel came in from St. Kitts, by which I was
informed the enemy's fleet had not appeared there
on the 9th. — Commodore Apleck in the Bedford
arrived also on the 12th. from New York, the President
sailed with him but parted company — on the 14th
I received a letter from Governor Shirley by a
dispatch vessel, dated St. Kitts the 10th. informing
me, a very large fleet, of men of war & transports
had that day been seen from the Hills of Lewis.
I immediately put to sea, and next morning
the Thetis luckily joined me, she was at St.
Kitts, with the Whitby armed ship, when the
account was received of the enemy's fleet,
having been seen — Cap^t. Stanhope put to sea
that night, but has seen nothing of the Whitby
since, in which are the stores for the Squadron
very much wanted — The Thetis and
Storeship left English Harbour the first time, on
the 13th. of last month and returned with her
mainmast

main mast & foremast badly sprung on the 21st
afterwards broke her moorings, tailed on the
shore, and beat her Bunder & false keel off
her mainmast, having been shifted, & her fore-
mast fished, she sailed a second time, with the
Whitby on the 2^d instant, and by one accident
and another, was carried to St. Kitts. How very
unlucky all this! On the 16th the Lizard joined me
with an account, that the enemy had invested
St. Kitts, that the President was at English harbour
to repair damages, and that the Robust & Janus
had put in there in the greatest distress, it
being with much labour & fatigue, either could
be kept from sinking — Nothing but flattering
winds, and sudden squalls, from NBE to SEBE
ever since I have been out, with a great swell
and

and an ugly sea at times - never was such weather known in this country as for some weeks past, every frigate I have had at sea has come in a perfect wreck.

The Monarch & Rupert has each lost a main-topsail yard, and yesterday afternoon when I bid fair for leading round Descada the Threshbury carried away her main & mizen topmasts & main topsail yard - I have sent two frigates on before to make known our greatest wants to Com^{rs}. Loforey, which I dare say will be ready, the moment I appear - off when the Prudent joins I shall be 22 strong with which, I will seek, and give battle to the
Count

Count Delgrève, be his numbers as they may.
I am now got round Descada, and hope to
get good sight of Antigua, and be seen before
dark. Herewith you have duplicates of papers
I troubled you with by the Ranger Brig.

I write to you with all freedom, conscious
that my actions, are guided by the purest
Love & Zeal for the honor & interest of
our Royal & most gracious Master's Service
I will not close my Letter, till I have heard
from Antigua

1780 } June
1781 } Feb.
Mars

Porte de St. Domingue
Operations navales
depuis l'arrivée de
Sami. Rodney