

Q. date of original

Q. name

15 rue de la Harpe Paris le 9 Mars 1782

my dear General

Since I had the honor to write you on the 2^d. I have had the very great & heartfelt pleasure of receiving two very affectionate letters from you of the 12th of Jan^r. & 8th of Feb^r. for which I return my most sincere thanks, and if you knew how much I think myself flattered & obliged by your friendly attention to me, you will not omit writing me by every packet through the admiralty conveyance; I will omit no opportunity, that I know of, of troubling you with a letter, and if (as I have before observed) any dispatch vessel should arrive, and you do not hear from me, I entreat you will be assured, that it has not proceeded from any omission in me. something was to have sailed several days ago, but I do not find any ship is yet fixed upon, or any determination when one is to go.

The weather has been unusually bad, ever since our arrival here, The ships in Choque Bay, have had a very unpleasant time of it, rolling their
tower

Lower deck both under water constantly, have lost most of their Boats, and after all obliged to go to my watering place the Cue de Lac. I went there with my Division on the 2^d, and returned to this Bay complete on the 6th. Thirty one sail of the Line were seen in Fort Royal Bay yesterday, in a state of refitting, and three or four appeared in a distress one, what is become of the other five, I cannot say, probably they are gone to the Cape; and I think it not unlikely / which I have taken the liberty very humbly to suggest to Sir George / the Enemy's Ships will steal away to Leeward, by two's & three's at a time - They will however be daily watched

Sir George has talked for two days past, of my going off Fort Royal, as he also has, of my going to windward to look out for a Convoy expected, and likewise of my going to retake Moutserat

He tells me St. Marks has been talked of to be attempted, but that General Matthews says he
has

has no troops to garrison Brimstone Hill, could it be
retaken, which in my humble opinion is impossible
without a considerable body of troops, well furnished
with all proper materials for a siege

While the Barfleur lay at the Cue de Sac, I had the
honor of breakfasting with General Matthews, at General
St. Lezers, upon Moore Fortness, and yesterday I met
both the Generals on board the formidable, but nothing
in my hearing passed upon business of any sort
and I had but a few minutes private conversation
with General Matthews, who returned to the Moore
with Gen^l St. Lezer in the evening, and as I expect to
be at sea soon, shall not probably have an
opportunity of seeing General Matthews again for
some time, but as often as one offers, I shall
eagerly cultivate his confidence & friendship, and
study to merit it

I rejoice most exceedingly ~~you~~
that you have received such pleasant accounts
from Prince William, God grant you may
continue to receive them; a more amiable and

engaging

engaging youth never was born, that His Royal Highness
most truly is. I imagine the French will be now sending
both ships and troops to North America; if therefore we
do not send in proportion, I dread what may further
happen in that quarter - what has not my much
loved country suffered, from a want of unanimity
at home! It is truly lamentable to think of, and
could the nation be yet brought, to act with heart
and hand, I have not a doubt of its recovering
every misfortune, and again shining with its
wonted splendor & glory, nothing more is requisite
by God's blessing I am perfectly confident, to accomplish
so great, and desirable an end - for I can assure
you my dear General from experience, that the
French have not either more courage or more
skill in the smallest degree, than they had last war.

Continue to honor me with your friendly correspondence
and you will contribute most essentially to my happiness

I am with very unfeigned regard & esteem

My dear General

your most affectionate and
very faithful humble servant

J. M. H. H.