

"nearly a duplicate of what I yesterday finished Apr. 6
sealed up for you"

April 3. 1782

My Dear General

Private

Three of Admiral Drake's Division having crippled their
masts in the night of the 31st. past - the whole are now
called in, which I very much rejoice at, and
hope we shall all be in good condition for service
before the Enemy quits Port Royal. What Sir George
proposes to do, I cannot say, but from what I hear
from those who have the goodness to come to me
I for I have been confined to my cabin some
days, but am getting better, he seems to have
no plan. He told Admiral Drake yesterday, he
would go to windward, and others almost in the
same breath, that he would push directly to Jamaica
— well but Sir George says a shrewd Captain of
my Division, then present, suppose De Grasse should
think the force already in the neighbourhood of
Jamaica, equal to the conquest of the Island, assisted
by a body of Troops, he has sent, or may send, and
remains in force at Port Royal, what will become
of all these Islands? His answer was in his accustomed
A

off hand strain; Oh damn these Islands, Jamaica is ten
times of more consequence than all of them put
together: His manner of talking is to be sure very
extravagant & extraordinary, but without much
meaning. What occurs to my mind, as most advisable
to be done, in the present situation of things here, is
to send away the 14th Regt. Transports &c &c to Jamaica
I would to god they had not had one hours detention here /
with five or six sail of the Line in addition to the
Princess Caroline — go with the rest off Fort Royal —
offer the Count De Saxe battle, and block him up,
if he does not feel sufficiently bold to come out.
Sir George calls the force there, thirty six of the Line,
but I reckon upon no more than thirty three, serviceable
ships; but admitting it to be 36, I should be very
happy to meet the gallant Count, with a Line of Battle
of 33, had I the honor of commanding His Majesty's
Fleet. I have had daily apologies from Sir
George, for his not coming to see me, says, he will

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by his respects the first leisure half hour he has, when he comes, I will very openly and candidly express, my sentiments to him, if he gives me an opportunity

Since writing the above Sir George has been with me above two hours; I never found him more rational, and he gave me very great satisfaction, by his manner of receiving what I said, and if he does not depart, from what he seems now, to be perfectly satisfied, is right, and proper to be done, in our present circumstances he will soon be off with Royal with 23 or 24 of the and dispatch the rest at the same time to Jamaica as convoy to the 14th Reg^t. Storeships, Victuallers & Trade destined to that Island - But there is I confess no great reliance to be placed upon a man who is so very much governed by whim & caprice even in matters of the highest importance

April 6th - A Ship of my Division returned from before Fort Royal last night, and in her way back picked up a Conoe, in which were some negroe Deserters, captured in the men of war in the

Chattel

Cheesecake, one a very sensible fellow, who has been a servant to several Captains in America; this man, who was a servant to a French Colonel at Martinique says; The Count de Grape is certainly to sail on the 8th with 32 of the Line, and nine thousand Troops to join the Spaniards - If the Convoy was at Jamaica, I should feel very comfortable; as by a good look out, I trust we cannot fail of bringing the Enemy to battle - This is nearly a duplicate of what I yesterday scalded up for you, which I mean shall take a different conveyance.

Adieu my dear General - should Providence be disposed to assist us a little now; I think we shall recover our misfortunes.

most affectionately yours

Jam: Arth