

My dear General

Bastleur New York Oct^r 31. 1782

I give you a thousand thanks for your very obliging letters by the August & Sept^r. Paquets, and feel myself most honorably distinguished by the mark of confidence and favour, the King is graciously pleased to give me, in placing Prince William on board the Bastleur

I am well aware how very important the charge is, as well as of my being unequal to it, but of this my dear General you may be assured, that I will be diligent and attentive to His Royal Highnesses well doing in every respect, to supply in the best manner I am able the want of ability, and what I receive from Admiral Digby and M^r. Majendie, will be a great guide to me

I agree most perfectly with you, that it would be highly usefull to Prince William, to have a Lieutenant of character, judgement, and skill in his profession, and not greatly beyond His Royal Highnesses years, as an associate, friend & adviser, but if Admiral Digby could not find one to his mind, it would not I think have been amiss, for the Admiral to have left the naming of such an officer to me; indeed I am free to confess, that from the observations I have been able to make and which I have done with a very attentive eye, that it would have been rather better.

Admiral Digby's sending a Captain with the Prince does not fully meet my approbation, and I candidly said so, both to the Admiral & M^r. Majendie, but at the same time told the former, I should readily receive whomsoever he should think proper to send, though wished him to consider well before he took his final resolution

Captain Napier is the officer, I believe the Admiral has pitched upon, he is I am perswaded a man of much integrity & honor, and one I may safely confide in; but I am anxious, that in the officer of integrity should be added a strong and lively understanding with some knowledge of the world; such a person is

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I think here in a Captain Creeke; both him and Captⁿ Napier I know very little of, but from what I am told there is no comparison between the two men, and I the more readily believe it, from a conversation I have had with Captain Elphinston. Captⁿ Creeke has a very fine & improved understanding, is a man of discretion and judgement, a good officer, with a knowledge of the world. I have mentioned to Admiral Digby what I have heard respecting Captain Creeke and desired to submit to the Admiral's consideration whether he was not a more eligible person to place about Prince William, than Captain Napier, but I do not yet know which Admiral Digby will determine on, I have said a syllable to Cap^t Creeke, or even seen him, since the arrival of the two last packets, I mentioned his name to Mr. Majendie, and what he said, determined me to speak to the Admiral about him.

I have as yet received no instruction of any sort, from Admiral Digby, but have requested, that with the King's instructions, he will favour me with his thoughts and observations committed to writing. Mr. Majendie has written me a long letter, which does honor to his head & heart, and proves him a most worthy man, and I shall find his observations, usefull to me very much, and I trust no less so to His Royal Highness. Indeed my dear General I cannot be too explicit in asking every degree of information; The trust is of the most important nature, I feel it as such, and will endeavour to acquit myself in the discharge of it, with fidelity and zeal, and I hope to the Kings satisfaction and to the interest and advantage of His Majesty's most amiable & truly beloved son. The Prince is now of an age the most critical, and very much will depend on the turn His Royal Highness takes, for a year or two

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to come; and should any example or precept of mine lead Prince William to the Path of Glory and Greatness it will be the pride and boast of my remaining days.

In my last I told you of Admiral Pijot's having been alarmed at an account brought here, that an Enemy's Squadron had been early in the month seen upon this coast, but that he was soon made easy in his mind about it.

As the time of the Admiral's departure from hence drew near, and being very sensible, I had no wish but for the good of the King's Service, and of course for his honor & character, he asked my opinion what was best to be done; upon which I wrote him the letter, you will herewith receive, and I also send you his answer; The orders he gave me corresponded with his letter - They are dated the 18th and on the 23rd three days after the August Packet arrived, that part respecting my proceeding off Boston, & afterwards to Halifax was annull'd, and I was directed to wait here, so long as it was proper for His Majesty's Squadron under my command to remain upon the coast of North America.

This correspondence between the Commander in Chief & me, will I flatter myself prove to you, that all I have done has been consonant to your wishes, which I well know arise from Zeal for our Royal Master's Service; and that circumstance will most strictly guide my actions as well as words, upon every occasion - Admiral Pijot and I have lived upon the best terms possible - I have ever express'd my sentiments most clearly, and without reserve, having no private views to gratify, and I believe the Admiral is perfectly satisfied with my behaviour towards him; & however I may have differ'd in opinion with him in some points, I never lost sight of keeping up the most perfect harmony in His Majesty's Fleet, and you may rely upon it, greater unanimity & a right understanding, never prevailed in any Fleet,

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than that, which is now most clearly evident in the
one, under Admiral Pigot's command.

As my putting to sea, must for some little time become
depend upon the motions of the French fleet at Boston
it is impossible for me to say, when I shall sail,
and as the Carysfort proceeds for England tomorrow
shall only add more, than that of being, with real
regard & esteem

My dear General
Yours very faithful and
affectionate humble servant

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The force under my
command consists of
12 of the line & 3 frigates
and I may possibly be
joined by the magnificent
from Halifax before I quit
the coast