

Duplicate  
My dear General

but last par. + P.S. miss Sup

Batleur Staten Island New York Oct. 31. 1742

I give you a thousand thanks for your very obliging letters by the August and Sept. Packets, and feel myself most highly and honorably distinguished, by the mark of confidence and favour the King is graciously pleased to give me, by placing Prince William under my care, on board the Batleur, but am well aware, how very important a charge it is, as well as of my being unequal to it, however, of this you may be assured, that I will be diligent and attentive to His Royal Highness in every respect, in order to make up, in the best manner I am able the want of abilities, and what I receive from Rear Admiral Digby & Mr. Majendie, will be a great guide to me. I agree most perfectly with you, that it would be highly advantageous to Prince William, to have a Lieutenant of character, judgement, and skill in his profession, and not greatly beyond His Royal Highnesses age, as a constant associate; but if Admiral Digby could not find one, 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, it would have been rather better.

Admiral Digby's sending a Captain with Prince William does not fully meet my approbation, and I very frankly told him so, and I said the same to Mr. Majendie, but told the former at the same time, I should readily receive, whomsoever he should think proper to send. Capt<sup>m</sup> Napier I understand is the officer pitched upon, I believe he is a man of much integrity and honor, and to be confided in, but I am desirous that in the officer of integrity, should be joined a lively understanding, with some knowledge of the world, such a person was I think to be found in Captain Cryke, of whom as well as of Captain Napier, I have but little knowledge



knowledge, but from what I hear, there is no comparison between the two men, and I am convinced of this more particularly by a conversation I have had with Captain Elphinston. Captain Croke has a very fine and improved mind, is a man of sound judgement, a good officer, and has seen much of the world - I have mentioned to Admiral Digby, what I have heard respecting Captain Croke, and desired to submit to his 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 received a long letter from M<sup>r</sup>. Napendie, which does honor to his head & heart, and I shall find it not only useful to me, but I trust, to His Royal Highness also. I have as yet received not a syllable of instruction of any sort from Admiral Digby, but have requested that with the things instructions, he will favour me with his thoughts, and observations, committed to writing; indeed my dear General, I cannot be too strong & explicit in asking every degree of information, the trust is of the most important nature, I feel it as such, and nothing shall be wanting on my part, to acquit myself in the discharge of it, to the satisfaction of our Royal Master, and to the interest & advantage of His Majesty's most amiable and 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 to come; and should any example or precept of mine, happily lead the Prince 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 Pigot's having been alarmed at an account brought here, that a squadron of men of war had been seen upon this coast, but that his mind was soon made easy about it - as the time of <sup>the</sup> Admiral's departure



departure from hence drew near, and being thoroughly convinced I had no wish but for the good of the King's Service, and of course for his honour and character, he asked my opinion, what was best to be done in his present situation, upon which I wrote him the letter you will herewith receive, and I also send you his answer

The orders he gave me exactly corresponded with his letter: they are dated the 18<sup>th</sup>, and on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, three days after the August packet arrived, that part respecting my proceeding off Boston was annulled and I was directed to wait here as long as it was proper for His Majesty's Squadron to remain upon the Coast of North America

This correspondence between the <sup>in chief</sup> Commander & me, will I flatter myself full prove, that all I have done, has been exactly consonant to your wishes which I well know arise, from zeal for our Royal Master's Service; and that motive, will strictly guide my actions upon every occasion. Admiral Pijot and I have lived upon the best terms possible; my sentiments have ever been delivered, without reserve, having no private views to gratify, and I believe the Admiral to be perfectly satisfied with me; for however I may have differed in opinion from him in some material points, I am constantly upon my guard to speak of him in a manner to keep up the <sup>most</sup> perfect harmony in the Fleet, and you may rely upon it, more cordial unanimity and good humour never existed in any fleet, than that in the one under Admiral Pijot's command

Ever my dear General & most affectionately  
Yours  
A. S. P.