

New York Oct. 16th 1752

Dear Sir

I take the liberty of sending you the result of the Enquiries I have been able to make since I came to the West Indies, of the track Ships in general take in going to Cape Francois from the coast of North America; and as you have done me the honor, to ask my opinion in your present situation, I will very candidly say, what I should do, was the Kings fleet, under my command

I would as expeditiously as possible proceed to Caribbee Bay Barbadoes, with half the Line of battle Ships now here, and so soon as they had completed their water go to St Lucia for 24 hours, and from thence to St Johns road Antigua, and not finding any reason to suspect any Design from the Enemy against His Majestys Islands to windward, I should stretch away to the Northward, and cruise from 20 to 30 Leagues to the Northward of the Caycos Island, until I received intelligence of the situation of Things at Cape Francois and the Havanna, which intelligence would guide my further conduct; and as I went to the Southward, I should detach the Jupiter, with the German or Sively off the Havanna, the former to return & cruise at the above mentioned bearings and distance from the Caycos Island, as long as her water would last, and the latter to make all the dispatch possible to Barbadoes, calling off Antigua in her way, and leaving with Commodore Laforey whatever intelligence her Commander may have to communicate — The other half of the Line of battle Ships, left upon this coast to watch the motions of Vandermits Squadron, should put to sea, at the same time with you, and proceed into Boston Bay, to take a look at the enemy and not finding the French ships in a condition for sea to go to Balifax for a few days, in order to keep their water up, then return again into Boston Bay, for another view of the Enemy, and from thence proceed off New York

and

and upon sending a frigate in, and receiving no intelligence
to occasion a longer stay of His Majesty's Squadron; and the
Season being then such, as to make any attempt from the enemy
by sea, at this port, impracticable; The Squadron should make
the best of its way, to the above mentioned Station of the Cayes
Island, and not meeting with any frigate there, to communicate
intelligence, it must be sought for, by sending a frigate or
two, off Cape Francois, and from the information the
commanding officer receives, the conduct of the Squadron
must be guided.

I always wish, & mean to be perfectly explicit and
unreserved, in any opinion, I might be asked for, and
never to shrink from it, and am therefore willing upon
every occasion to give it from under my hand; and as
I cannot see any possible advantage to the King's Service to
arise from my remaining in this harbour, and a
great deal may by my going to sea as it will give a
Chance, not only for intercepting the enemy's ships
from Portsmouth, but such as may be coming from Europe,
to Boston; I cannot help repeating my wish, to follow
you from hence, as soon as possible, but if you
think otherwise, I beg to submit to your consideration
whether it would not be advisable, for the ships
you intend to leave under my command, to remain
at Staten Island, untill within two or three days of the
time you propose I shall sail, in order to keep their
water complete, with the greater ease & convenience
which is a material circumstance.

Admiral Pigot

I am Dear Sir &c
A. S. G.

Innomitable Oct. 17th 1782

My dear Lord

I am much oblig'd to you for your very friendly letter and opinion, and altho' I may differ in one point, be assur'd it only proceeds from my Idea of the situation of things at this place, I mean that if your following to sea, a day or two after me, therefore wish you to stay, untill the next spring tide, and agree with you, that it will be quite as well, your keeping the ships at Staten Island untill two or three days before the new moon spring tide — another reason for my wishing your not going to sea immediately with me is, that of my orders, which are positive to keep a fleet equal if not superior to the enemy, as long as they continue upon the coast, the words of the part of the order, as far as relates to staying here, are as follows.

"You are to remain in North America, untill the first full moon in October, or so long as the Enemy's fleet continues in those seas, and when you return to the Leeward Islands, you are to leave a superiority to the naval force of the enemy remaining in North America. Upon considering this it goes to almost a positive order not to quit this coast * whilst the enemy is upon it, and nothing but the want of proper places to shelter ourselves, can justify us in it. I know you have the order, but as you might not recollect every particular, is my reason for sending you this, not from my disagreeing with you in opinion. For my own Idea is, that ships of our magnitude should not be trust'd to the last moment, & thereby be brought into difficulties

I perfectly agree with you in every other part of your letter, as to cruising, and sending out ships for intelligence unless something particular arises to make it necessary we change it. you shall have your orders tomorrow

I am &c

Hugh Pigot

A. Hon^{ble} Lord Hood

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* I admit we should not quit the coast leaving the enemy behind, which the season will allow their ships to do, but I think it would be more creditable to go & look at the enemy than to remain useless at New York; another strong reason is, we can get no intelligence to be relied on, and before we may know, that the french ships are gone from Boston, they may be half way to the West Indies. The intercepting them in their passage, is what I think we should look to.

Hood

Hood

Dear Sir

New York Oct^r 17th 1782

I take the liberty of sending you the result of the enquiries, I have been able to make, since I came to the West Indies, of the track Ships in general take in going to Cape Francois from the coast of North America; and as you have done me the honor to ask my opinion in your present situation, I will very candidly say, what I should do, was the Kings Fleet under my command

I would as expeditiously as possible proceed to Carlisle Bay Barbadoes, with half the Line of battle Ships now here, and so soon as they had completed their water, go to S^t. Lucia for 24 hours, and from thence to S^t. Johns Road Antigua; and not finding any reason to suspect a design from the Enemy, against His Majesty's Islands to windward, I should stretch away to the Northward, and cruise from 20 to 30 Leagues to the Northward of the Caycos Island, till I received intelligence of the situation of Things at Cape Francois and the Havana, which intelligence would guide my further conduct; and as I went to the Southward I should detach the Jupiter with the Germania or Lively off the Havana, the former to return and cruise at the above mentioned bearings and distance from the Caycos Island, as long as her water would last, and the latter to make all the dispatch possible to Barbadoes, calling off Antigua in her way, and leaving with Commissioner Laforey, whatever intelligence her Commander may have to communicate - The other half of the Line of battle Ships, left upon this coast to watch the motions of Vandrenil's Squadron, should put to sea at the same time, and proceed into Boston Bay to take a view of the Enemy's Ships, and not finding them in a condition for sea, to go to Halifax for a few days, in order to keep their water up, then return again into Boston Bay for another look at the Enemy and from thence proceed off New York, and upon sending a private in, and receiving no intelligence to occasion a longer stay of His Majesty's Squadron, and the season being then such, as to make any attempt from the Enemy by sea, at this port, impracticable; The Squadron should make the best of its way to the above mentioned Station off the Caycos Island, and not finding any private there to communicate

intelligence

intelligence, it must be sought for, by sending a frigate, or two off Cape Francois, and from the information, the commanding officer receives, the conduct of the Squadron must be guided.

I always wish and mean to be perfectly explicit and unreserved, in any opinion I might be asked for, and never to shrink from it, and am therefore willing upon every occasion, to give it from under my hand; and as I cannot see any real advantage can arise to the Kings service, from my remaining in this Post, and a great deal may by my going to sea, as it will give a chance not only for intercepting the enemys ships from Portsmouth, but such as may be coming from Europe to Boston I cannot help repeating my wish, to follow you from hence as soon as possible. But should you conclude otherwise I beg to submit to your consideration, whether it would not be advisable for the ships you intend to leave, under my command, to remain at Staten Island, not till within two or three of the time, you propose I shall sail, in order to keep their water complete, with the greater ease & convenience, which is a material circumstance to be attended to.

I am

Dear Sir

Admiral Pigot

Yours
H. B. P.

My dear Lord

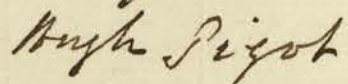
Formidable Oct^r. 17th. 1782

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I am my dear Lord


 Hugh Pigot

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Hoody