

Barbours at Sea 22 Novemb^r 1782.
Off Sandy Hook. —

Sir /

I am extremely happy to tell you that
His Majestys Squadron under my Command is safe
over the Bar.

Upon talking with some Officers who
have served many Years upon the Jamaica Station, I
find the French always go out into the Sea through the
Cayes passage, though seldom or ever return that
Way back, but go to Windward of the Silver Key and
make Cape Sanna on the East end of Hispaniola,
and Captain Nelson of the Albemarle who has been
Cruizing about the Cayes Channel for ten or twelve
Weeks at a time, does not remember to have seen a Ship
of any Power here, coming to Hispaniola by that Passage.

The reason against the Channel inward is doubtless
strong and good as the making it from the Northward
must depend upon the Longitude being exact, and
the French I believe are not adepts in that Knowledge
and if they fall but a few Leagues to Leeward, they will not be
able to fetch to windward of Cape Nicola Mole from

Admiral Pigot

Commander in Chief V V V.

which.

which they may be some time in getting to Cape Francois

Upon this account as you are pleased to Submit the Fringe Squadron to my discretion and judgement, I think the chance will be far better for intercepting Vaudreuil's Squadron off the Old Cape a little to the westward of Cape Samama, than off the Caycos Island, and I shall then be in a fair way of meeting with any reinforcements coming from Europe or Martinique which may be expected, and also of joining you should you judge it necessary to come to Leeward, for these reasons I flatter myself you will approve my changing my Rendezvous to the East end of Hispaniola, and trust you will do me the Justice to believe that I am actuated only in doing so, from thinking it most advisable for the good of the Fringe Service.

Small Merchant Vessels as well as privateers often pass the Caycos passage from America, but it appears to me hazardous for a Squadron to attempt to hit it, bound to a Port rather to Windward for fear of falling to Leeward, and they will be less likely to be correct in their Longitude by having Merchant Ships under Convoy.

I shall dispatch a Frigate to Cruise off the Caycos Island, to inform any Captain of a Ship that may come there to look out for me, where I am, and in case of falling in with the Enemy's Squadron

to.

Ad. Hood to Adm. Hugh Pigot ? Enc.

(737)

to push forward to me as fast as possible through the
Cape passage.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient and
most humble servant

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Copy of a Letter from
Rear Adm^l L^d Hood

to

Admiral Pigot -

22 November 1782