

my dear General

Barbours Post Royal Jamaica
Feb^y 28th 1783

I had the pleasure of writing you very fully the beginning of this month, respecting Prince William and Captain Napier, who are not now scarce upon speaking terms: I at the same time wrote to the King, and as it is possible the Paquet may not have reached England, I now send a duplicate

Captain Napier came to me this morning to say he should go home in the Paquet, as he found his situation with Prince William not pleasant to him. I desired he would remember, that his going was his own spontaneous act, which I should not oppose - that I was sorry to find Prince William was so dissatisfied with him, but that I was not surpris'd at it, from what I had been told of their disputes, by indifferent persons who had heard them: he said his instructions from Admiral Digby appointed him a director to His Royal Highness, that they were marked Secret

or

or he would shew them to me, and as he found
he had no authority over the Prince, he would remain
no longer with him - to which with some degree of
astonishment - I answered secret sir, is it possible
for me to imagine, that admiral Digby could give
you instructions respecting Prince William improper
for me to know? but whether they are secret or
otherwise, I have not a wish to see them, and I
beg to ask you, whether you have ever in one
instance made me acquainted, with any part
of Prince William's conduct you thought wrong?
He answered no - why then I must ask you
another question. do you think you have done
your duty by Prince William, or me, not to have
reported to me, anything you had seen wrong
in His Royal Highnesses conduct? his answer was,
their disputes were of too trifling a nature,
to trouble me with them - This was the whole of our
conversation, except my telling him, that I had
neither seen or heard anything that was amiss

in

in Prince William's conduct. I have not only been very attentive to Captain Napier, as far as I was able, but have been guarded not to have a cross word with him - but I am free to own, I never before met with a man of such disagreeable manners; he has been remarked upon, as such, not only by the Captains of the Squadron who live in friendship with me, but even by the Governour's family, with whom we have been ten or twelve days, by way of shewing His Royal Highness a little of this valuable Island; and nothing could have led me to have carried him thither, but the desire I had of shewing him attention.

We went to the Kings House in Spanish Town, on the 11th from whence we made some excursions and in the first. His Royal Highness had the misfortune to sprain his ankle, as he was walking arm in arm with General Cooke; Doctor Hunter was immediately sent for, and by keeping his leg up for three days, he entirely gott the better of it, and
is

is now in every respect perfectly well

I am unable to express to you my dear General the effusion of Joy Prince William gave to all rank and degrees of people - addresses full of Duty & Loyalty to the King, and affection to His Royal Highness were presented, and I hope the answers the Prince gave will be approved by our Royal master.

There was a subscription on foot, for the relief of the distressed inhabitants driven from Honduras, and for the Loyalists lately arrived from North America, under the same description; I thought these unhappy suffering people, were proper objects of His Royal Highnesses attention, and he gave to each fifty pounds currency - a Troop of militia Horse voluntarily came many miles from the country, to attend Prince William on his landing, as well as in his excursions, out of Duty to the King, and respect to His Royal Highness,

and

and as they were all men of some property
I consulted General Campbell, how His Royal
Highness should notice their attention in a way
most acceptable, and it was agreed that a
Standard would be highly gratifying to them,
which the General undertook to have made, it
will cost about forty pounds currency, which with
the two fifty pounds subscriptions, will amount
to 100 pounds sterling - If what I have advised
Prince William to do, should meet His Majesty's
approbation, it will make me extremely happy.

The things Squadron under my command
will be ready for service the end of next week
I wait now only, for the Alcide & Bedford
as each requires a new lower mast, but I
hope to sail tomorrow senright, if I hear nothing
from home, or from Admiral Pijot, to stop me;
I propose going off Cape Francois, from thence off
St. Johns Antiois, and then through the Mona
channel

channel off Curacao - but my motions must be
guided by those of Solano & Vandrenil, if I can
hear anything of them; for although I have reason
to believe if reports are to be credited, that the latter
has taken shelter at Curacao, it is by no means
certain, nor can I learn that the former has
left the Havana - a frigate and small vessel are
gone to reconnoiter each port, which I hope will
be back, before I put to sea, if not, I shall keep a
look out for them as I work to windward - I have
inquired much for instructions from Admiral
Pilot, but he will give me none, I am therefore
left to the exercise of my own judgement, which
will lead me to prevent a junction between Solano
and Vandrenil if I possibly can. It would delight
you to see the eagerness of Prince William, for
our meeting with either the French Spanish Squadron
a small schooner came in today from St. Thomas's

The

The Spanish Squadron from the Havana was not
arrived at Portorico on the 22^d. - This vessel left
St. Kitts on the 15th. The master of which says, that
three English Line of battle Ships, came off there
after a French fifty gun ship and a brigate, which
shipped their cables; The brigate (the *Phizene*) was
taken, but the fifty gun ship took shelter at St.
Eustatius - This man also says, that he heard at
St. Kitts that Vandrenil's Squadron was at Curacao

I must not omit to tell you, that Cap^t. Knight
who was a Brother Lieutenant with Cap^t. Napier in
this ship, before I came to her, has told me lately,
for there is only a waize curtain between the
Prince's apartment and his, that Cap^t. Napier
has spumed abundantly too much authority,
and that reason has always been on the side
of Prince William, in the disputes he has heard

I am my dear General, with every sentiment
of regard & esteem
your very faithfull and
affectionate humble servant

Hoody