

G. H. Elphinstone

March 31. 1707

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Edin^r March 31st 1707

May it Please Your Royal Highness

I am this instant honored with your Commands signified to me by Coll Lake at the same time enclosing a letter from Prince William on the subject of a dispute with Lt^o Schomberg and Hope of the Pegasus. I am extremely sorry for this on every account but particularly because (from the Princes letter) it gives him deep concern and which as he feels himself perfectly right it ought not to do by reason that H. R. H. will in time be convinced that he who has charge and command over many must at times give offence to some

With respect to the present instance I have no difficulty in advising His R. H. to avoid trying His Officers

if their offence is of such a Nature as will admit of forgiveness and they being sensible of their errors solicit indulgence: at the same time as His R: H: imagines Lt Hope to be the Cause, or promoter of this discord I would advise the Prince to get rid of him at least if not both which can be done by applying to the Commanding officer on the Station to exchange those officers for any other two in the Squadron unless when your Royal Highness may mention this affair to Lord Howe, the Admiralty, may think proper to send two officers from home of the Princes election to serve in His Ship —

My reasons for the above advice are, with due submission as follows first Courts Martial altho' absolutely necessary are at all times disagreeable and admitting a Sentence against the officers, many there are in a Country like this, and at this

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time, who would pretend that such sentence
was in compliment to the High Rank of
the Prosecutor - secondly it would be
very mortifying to Prince William if
they should be acquitted, or perhaps slightly
reprimanded; thirdly His R. H. should re-
collect that being moved from His Ship
and protection is a very severe punish-
ment of itself, besides one of that Great
Consideration should rarely lose an
opportunity of doing a gracious thing towards
Men who are ready to acknowledge their
faults, but Sir should things have gone so
far as to render a Court Martial unavoidable
let the Prince prosecute with firmness,
without heat, upon as few articles as
possible so that the Court, and the World
may be convinced that he is
not

influenced by rancour, or ill humour
but does it merely as a duty for the sole
purpose of preserving good Order, and
supporting proper discipline

With respect to
the last letter I had the Honor to send
Your Royal Highness on the Subject of
Prince Williams finances I am most
ready as is my duty to take any step Your
R: H: may approve of or consider for the
advantage, I wrote to Lord Hotham by Com:
Williams directions begging to know an
exact State of the Allowance and telling
what I thought it should be, in answer
I received a stiff letter saying the whole
sum was 3000 a Year, that he had
a letter from the Prince before him

which did not mention any intended application to the King and therefore he could not presume to offer any advice but naturally supposed I would be guided by Your Royal Highness's directions —

Upon the whole the method System that has been pursued all along with regard to Prince is astonishing! that He to whom this Nation looks up to in His line should be suffered to tumble up and down the Sea from Station ^{to Station} upon three thousand pounds a Year without any establishment, or even a person of Rank and experience about him with whom he might advise or communicate His Sentiments to when at a loss. It is really surprising at His time of life that His con-

duct has been so well as it is

I have only to
add that whenever Your Royal Highness or
Prince Williams Affairs require my Assis-
tance I am ready to set out on a Mon-
days morning to attend my duty and
to return sincere thanks for the
indulgence that has already been shown
to Your Royal Highness

Most Obedient

Most Obedient

faithful Humble Servant

G. R. Polkington

Your R. Highness Vote in favor of Lord Kinair
had the effect of making a Peer in
the Kings Life