

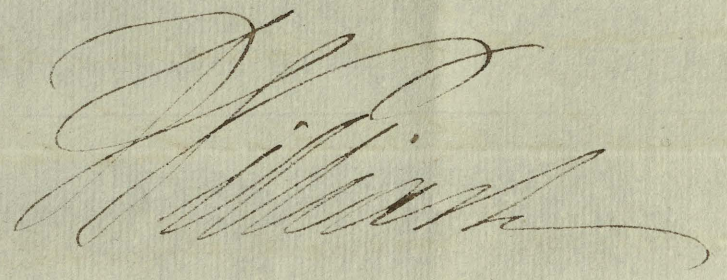
As it has turned out it was lucky I did not sail for the West
 Indies when I first intended: my original plan was to have
 remained at Halifax a week, but engagements and pleasure
 detained me till a packet came in with orders from the Admiralty
 by force to proceed to Cork and wait there for further orders: I
 had a private letter from Lord Howe signifying to me that it
 was the King's pleasure I should return as the fleet was in
 -ing: by this I was disappointed: I was in my
 -turn I could have wished had been deferred for two or three years
 to come: my situation was pleasant in every thing but my
 finances, and I was present at Bally in the Archduke's ship
 because of me: I was in great esteem and much of my man
 delin's sailing, wherever I went, if it may be my lot to receive
 the part of the word I do not like and under those I shall
 not be so particular: and I do not think I could wish to have
 under his command in the channel of the fleet, should I go to
 the Mediterranean. I do not think I could wish to command but I suppose
 every thing is already settled and I must acquiesce in the plan.

...sant situation I am afraid I should be in London I shall not
as to your leave of absence and have signified in my letter to the King
that unless he requires my presence I should feel myself happy
in attending to my duty: should he insist on my going to London
I shall, it rather will be before or after the fitting of the ship I am
A command for so long as I am a Captain, I will not
not leaving the fitting of my ship. Enquire and find out
where I am to be supposed I am to be in town: the Duke of
York resides at St. James's, probably I shall be wherever I am
live either at Portsmouth or Plymouth with regard to the
immediately, and the other should know something about the
single by the packet. I have had a letter from the King, in
which he seems satisfied with my conduct as an officer and
has objected to my refusing Mr. Hope his visitation and has
ordered me to give him one which I must do. I do not know
plainly as that he would have approved of the other but I am
I do not know I have wished to find faults every day since
we more and more reason to be partial to black Dick: his

well aware I have a mortal aversion for him: so I have and
shall ever remain: in whatever situation he may be, me,
it will be my universal study to be true, as a friend and
gentleman and worthy our friend's self. I have long been con-
-fident of your particular favour and regard for me: so
more than thank you: as things are at present I shall
defer saying any thing about my own matter till I
- am in England.

I am this instant surrounded in a Barber's and have not
time to say more than God bless you.

Dec: 3: 07.



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Duke of Clarence
Dec 31. 1707.

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